

Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

A progressive faith community of justice-seeking friends in the heart of Sydney

Thursday 7 September 2017



Dear Pitt Street People,

Today at 2:15 pm we heard the disappointing news that the cases challenging the Postal Survey on marriage had failed and so it will go ahead.

Over the past couple of weeks there has been a rising tide of toxic, homophobic rhetoric directed at LGBTI people. Even though I have done this public work before, I find it very distressing. Through Australian Christians for Marriage Equality, I have heard from many LGBTI Christians and family members who feel isolated and vulnerable. I can't imagine how much worse it is for them. Equality before the law should not be the subject of majority vote, but here we are in a situation where LGBTI Australians are having to ask friends, relatives, neighbours, workmates and total strangers to support their right to benefit from the legal protection and social recognition that only marriage ensures (in Australia and internationally).

Pitt Street has been a community that has long celebrated the inclusion of LGBTI people. For many it is a non-issue. However, I want to say to you that it is an issue for LGBTI people in our community and that there is an unprecedented need for support and solidarity. The thought of two more months of hearing language that dehumanises and "others" LGBTI lives and relationships is devastating. To be strong and resilient through this, to get out the vote (which will be crucial), we will need the support of straight allies, especially those who will join us in proclaiming that the God of love embraces the lives and loves of God's LGBTI children.

On Sunday after the AGM, Pitt Street people are invited to join in the rally at Town Hall starting at 1 pm (leaving the church at 12:45 pm). I realise not everyone can physically manage to be present at a rally. What you can do is to encourage your friends and family to fill in the survey and put it in the mail box! And pledge your vote at <https://voteyes.org.au/> And let us remind each other of our strength and resilience and our faith that love is stronger than hate, that love wins.

Peace, Margaret



Pitt Street Uniting is a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia. The gathering at 10 am on Sunday is the heart of our community life but we are also a place of welcome and hospitality for the wider community of Sydney for spirituality, justice, ecology, arts, music, meetings and events.

COMING UP AT PITT STREET...

Sunday 10 September

10 am Sunday Gathering
Morning Tea/Coffee

11.30 am Congregational Meeting
Election of Church Council
and financial reports.

1pm Marriage Equality Rally
Town Hall Square

Tuesday 5 September

5 pm With One Voice Choir

Wednesday 13 September

7 - 9 pm Community Group

Sunday 17 September

10 am Sunday Gathering
Morning Tea/Coffee

11.30 am-1.00 pm Exploring Faith

From 11 July -10 October

Margaret is teaching
Theological Ethics at UTC on
Tuesday afternoons.

Notices and Coming Events

AGM AND CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – THIS SUNDAY



and Jolyon Bromley.

Our AGM (Financial reports and Church Council elections) will be held after church on Sunday. Nominees for Church Council are Margaret Whalen, David Robinson, Geoff Maddox, Meredith Knight, Gillian Hunt

At the meeting, each nominee will introduce themselves and speak about how they might contribute to the work of the Council.

Voting will be according to Uniting Church Regulations. To vote you must be a Member or Member in Association and be present at the meeting. There are 5 positions to be filled and nominees need to receive votes from more than 50% of those eligible to vote.



PITT STREET VOICES FOR JUSTICE - YES RALLY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY!

1 pm Sunday 10 September at the Sydney Town Hall. People of faith are joining in to show support for LGBTI Australians and call for a YES vote at the postal survey. Leaving from the church (carrying our Pitt Street and Christians for Marriage Equality signs) at 12:45 pm. Please contact Meredith Knight at meredithknight255@gmail.com or call 0488 775 519 if you wish to participate.



AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY - POSTAL SURVEY

A new umbrella group has been set up for Australian Christians who support civil marriage equality. Please add your support at www.christiansforequality.com.au. Helpful articles are being shared and support offered to people who feel isolated. Also on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianChristiansforMarriageEquality/>



COME AND SING - BEL-A-CAPELLA

At **12.30pm on Saturday 9 September at Pitt Street**, Bel a cappella Musical Director Anthony Pasquill will lead a rehearsal and informal performance of Duruflé's glorious Requiem alongside organist and regular Bel a cappella collaborator, David Drury. For further details, click here <http://www.belacappella.org.au/come-sing/>



FAREWELL AND THANKSGIVING

Rev Dr Stephanie Dowrick will conduct her final Interfaith in Sydney service on **Sunday 17 September at 3.00pm**. These services commenced in 2006 and have had a strong following since that time. Interfaith in Sydney warmly invites members of the Pitt Street congregation to join them as they celebrate Stephanie's lifegiving ministry.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Parramatta Mission invites you to join them in an Interfaith Prayer Service at **2.00pm, Thursday 21 September**. Occasional address will be given by Dr G K Harinath, OAM, Chairperson, Multicultural NSW and Current Chairman, Parramasala. For further information contact Rev Dr Manas Ghosh on 0429 892 548 or email Manas.Ghosh@parramattamission.org.au

Notices and Coming Events



CITIZEN JANE – BATTLE FOR THE CITY

On **Tuesday 26 September, 6.00-8.00pm** at Palace Cinema Norton Street, Leichhardt, the Stop WestCONnex will hold a fundraising screening of the movie *Citizen Jane*. The movie tells the story of how Jane Jacobs and active residents saved large parts of Manhattan from motorways and bulldozers in the 1960s. Tickets available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/citizen-jane-film-screening-and-fundraiser-tickets-37082062447>



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK - REFLECTION ON SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2017

Dr Michael Dudley will present a reflection on Sunday 1 October 2017. Michael will be using his life experience as a practicing psychiatrist to provide content for the reflection. If you have key questions about mental health, and your thoughts by way of response to these questions, please email him. Also, any insights that your religious or spiritual life has been able offer in answering them. Michael is undertaking to reflect upon the responses that he receives as he creates his reflection. Email: m.dudley@unsw.edu.au



FAITH FUTURES FESTIVAL AT PITT STREET

Part of Common Dreams on the Road 2017. Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Hal Taussig, plus workshops, music and art. **13-15 October 2017**.

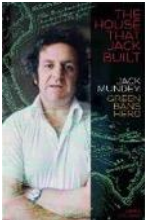
Mark your diaries now! **Registrations open next week.**



BLUE KNOT DAY 16 OCTOBER 2017

The theme for Blue Knot 2017 is *Unite in Support of Adult Survivors of Childhood Trauma*. Communities, families, workplaces and individuals are encouraged to support adult survivors of childhood trauma. A service will be held at Pitt Street

on Sunday 22 October.



THE JACK MUNDEY STORY

How did a communist trade union leader be the leader to fight to save some of Australia's most treasured heritage sites from the bulldozer? Pitt Street Uniting Church was one of those buildings. From **Thursday 19 October – Thursday 23 November**, WEA is conducting a course on Jack Munday's life and ongoing legacy. <https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/TJMS>



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD – CREATION

The latest issue of "With Love to the World" is now available from Patricia Curthoys, for a donation of \$5. Sixty-eight pages of reflections on the Revised Common Lectionary. Among contributors are the Rev Mary Pearson with reflections on exodus, Paul's imprisonment and refugees. And a delightful cover image from the Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler.

PITT STREET ONLINE

Sunday Reflections



Read the Reflection: www.pittstreetuniting.org.au

Watch the Reflection: <http://bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube>

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If you do not have email, pick up a printed copy in the church foyer.

Notices and Coming Events

'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

Ministry	10 September Pentecost 14	Next Week – 17 September Pentecost 15
1 st Reading	Interfaith Reading	Interfaith Reading
2 nd Reading	Contemporary Reading	Contemporary Reading
Gospel	Romans 13: 8-14	Matthew 18:21-35
Liturgist	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Reflection	Helen Sanderson	Margaret Mayman (interfaith voices)
Reader 1	Ron Brown	Bill Thomas
Reader 2	Lyn Corby	Margie Willis
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Children's story	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Welcomers	Jill Wright John Wright	Catherine Thompson Lucas Thompson
Sound Operator	Robyn Floyd	Geoff Maddox
Organist	Gavin Ward	John Aitchison
Flowers	Elaine Telford	Robyn Floyd
Recycler	Vivien Langford	Geoff Maddox
Morning Tea, Set up, put away	Carol Bamba Helen Boerma Mae Cotterell Trina Hodgson Marianne Kaspar Stephen Langford Vivien Langford Abdul Quyaum	Rachel Colliss Steve Colliss Patricia Curthoys John Floyd Andrew Muller Jonathan Rea Warren Talbot Sharon Wellfare
Worship Coordinators	Elizabeth Watson Ben Skerman	Mae Cotterell Paul Cotterell

Office:	264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Church open: Tues – Fri 10 am-4 pm	
Office Manager:	Cynthia Coghill. Mon - Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm office@pittstreetuniting.org.au Tel: 02 9267 3614	
Minister in Placement:	Rev Dr Margaret Mayman minister@pittstreetuniting.org.au	0408 690 800 (day off Friday)
Church Council Chair:	Paul Cotterell	0434 921 874
Deputy Chair:	Elizabeth Nash	0412 005 012
Minister Emerita:	Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon	