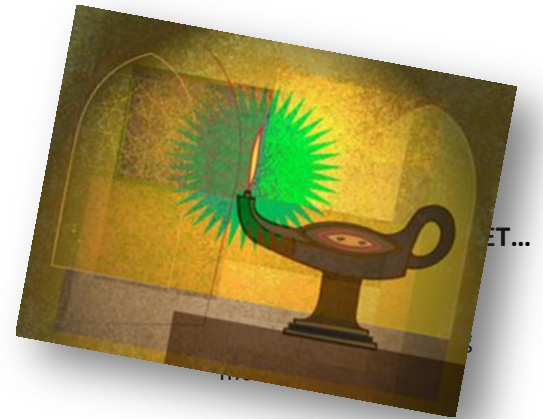


Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

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

Thursday 9 November 2017



Dear Pitt Street People,

Last Sunday we had a disturbance in worship. Two people had come to say that our stance on marriage equality was not compatible with Christian faith. One spoke during the prayers of thanksgiving and solidarity. When I asked him to finish (when it became clear that he was not praying but intending to read bible passages which he thought were applicable), his companion stood up and began shouting denunciation.

Pitt Street people responded beautifully. A group who had done Safe Space training moved into place to intervene in ways that did not escalate the tension. Both people were escorted out. As they continued to shout, John our organist began to play "For everyone born, a place at the table" and the congregation sang enthusiastically. It was a powerful act of resistance in the face of disrespect. Afterwards people cared for and supported each other.

People who had been part of the intervention debriefed. We decided to make sure everyone knows that people have been trained, and to have another training opportunity on Sunday week (more details in the notices). Organists for the coming weeks have been asked to be ready to respond as John did if it happens again.

Our marriage equality banner draws attention to our stance. Life would be easier if we didn't have it, but it is making a positive difference for many people. When it was posted on the Australian Christians for Marriage Equality Facebook page, it received 2000 'likes' and just last week I received an email from a woman who had seen it passing by. She wrote about her gay brother being rejected by their church and said, "Your sign showed me a beacon of light and hope that the church can be a place of love and acceptance for all who enter." The banner is there as gospel.

Meanwhile 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.

Tuesday 14 November
5pm Sydney Sings Choir

Sunday 19 November
10 am Sunday Gathering
morning tea/coffee
11.30am Safe Space Training

Notices and Coming Events



WORKING BEE - SUNDAY 11 NOV

This coming Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. It's time for Spring Cleaning! If you can make it, even for a short time, we would love to have your company and enthusiasm!



MARGARET ON LEAVE

Margaret will be on leave from 13-26 November. For urgent pastoral matters please contact Church Council Chairperson, Allison Forrest, in the first instance.



UNITING EARTHWEB

Everyone is welcome to attend the final meeting for 2017 of the Pitt Street Uniting Earthweb Team on Wednesday 15 November at 5 pm. We will review our activities from this year, make plans for 2018, receive reports from Pitt Street people involved in community action to "Stop Adani" and review progress on Pitt Street's own use of energy. Inquiries: Warren, 0458 852 882.



SAFE SPACE TRAINING

Sunday 19 November, 11:30-noon. For people willing to respond to a distressed or angry disrupter, or multiple protestors, at Pitt Street. Several roles: responder, liaison, supporter, singers. Led by Geoff Maddox.



CHRIST ... and CREATION e-CONFERENCE

Monday 20 November from 11.30 am – 5 pm, Uniting Earth Ministry will conduct an e-conference at Pitt Street Uniting Church. Hear speakers from around Australia engage with "Christ in Creation". Engage in workshops and plenaries. Gold coin donation for hubs or log in for free from home.



QUARTERLY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Our next Quarterly Celebration will be on Sunday 26 November immediately after church. Bring a picnic lunch and join us in Hyde Park. Should the weather be inclement, we will stay in the church. The Saturday Seekers neighbourhood group will be organising this luncheon.



PITT STREET IN THE MEDIA

"Two People Crashed A Church Service To Campaign Against Same-Sex Marriage." BuzzFeed article [here](#)

Notices and Coming Events



REFUGEE ACTION COALITION PROTEST

This Friday 10 November at 6 pm. Evacuate Manus now. Join the protest outside the Australian Technology Park, Redfern, where Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton are holding a fundraiser.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/516250188711384>



HONEY BEES SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 9 December at 6.45pm at Sydney Boys High School. More info and ticket booking link here: <https://goo.gl/RFGlBj> . Proceeds to Twenty10



AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY - POSTAL SURVEY
An umbrella group for Australian Christians who support civil marriage equality. Our Facebook page posts have reached 2.5 million Australians in the last six weeks!

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



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD – CREATION

“With Love to the World” reflections on the weekly Bible readings now available from Patricia Curthoys, for a donation of \$5. Contributions include Rev Mary Pearson reflections on Exodus, Paul’s imprisonment and refugees. 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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Notices and Coming Events

'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

Ministry	This Week – 12 November Pentecost 23	Next week – 19 November Pentecost 24
1 st Reading	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Judges 4:1-7
2 nd Reading	Contemporary Reading	Contemporary Reading
Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30
Liturgist	Sue Gehrig	Paul Cotterell
Reflection	Margaret Mayman	Warren Talbot
Reader 1	Alison Wishart	Lynne Lancaster
Reader 2	Albert Morris	Mae Cotterell
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Elizabeth Watson
Children's story	Margaret Mayman	TBA
Welcomers	Rebecca Bishop Abdul Quyaum	Phil Ryan Angela Williams
Sound Operator	Robyn Floyd	Sharon Welfare
Organist	Gavin Ward	John Aitchison
Flowers	Elaine Telford	Ruth Lambert
Recycler	Warren Talbot	Elizabeth Maddox
Morning Tea, Set up, put away	Naseer Ahmed Jimmy Ahmed Jolyon Bromley Liz Groves Carol & Ros Leal Albert Morris Bill Thomas John Thorpe	Mae Cotterell Trina Hodgson Marianne Kaspar Stephen Langford Vivien Langford Elizabeth Maddox Abdul Quyaum Horst Thiele
Worship Coordinators	Patricia Curthoys Sharon Welfare	Cynthia Coghill Meredith Knight

Office: 264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000.
2pm

Church open: Tues – Thurs 10 am-4 pm, Fri 10 am-

Office Manager: Cynthia Coghill
office@pittstreetuniting.org.au

Mon – Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Tel: 02 9267 3614

Minister in Placement: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman
minister@pittstreetuniting.org.au

0408 690 800
(day off Friday)

Church Council Chair: Allison Forrest
chairperson@pittstreetuniting.org.au

0425 231 412

Deputy Chair: Robyn Floyd
deputy.chairperson@pittstreetuniting.org.au

Minister Emerita: Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon