

People, Participation and Prayer: a church isn't a building of brick and wood. It's a group of people gathered by God who are building their lives around Jesus. That's why belonging to church means more than just Sunday services. In this **Newsweek** are some of the things we are doing, events and activities we think are worthwhile, and people and things to pray for. Pray regularly for our Church family.

Please pray for our world, our community, and each other

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Philippians 4:6, 7

Staying at home doesn't mean we can't keep connected. Take opportunities to phone around our church family to say hi.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:-
Healing, Strength & Comfort for:**

- * those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and for those who are vulnerable to infection; missing the embrace of family and grieving the loss of loved ones
- * local businesses & their staff
- * those who have lost their jobs
- * our health care service personnel
- * our Governments & those in leadership

Want to "worship at home"? Look out for live Services on the internet such as:

FF Baptist Church Sundays 9.30 am
www.ffbc.org.au

St Faiths Anglican Narrabeen Sundays 9 am & 6 pm <https://stfaiths.church>

Pittwater UC 9.30 am & 6 pm Sundays:
<https://pittwater.online.church>

Wesley Mission 10.00 am Sundays:
www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online

St Matthews Anglican Manly Sundays 10am & 6pm www.stmattsmanly.org.au

**June Mission of the Month:
The Bush Church Aid Society**



The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia has a heart for people living in remote and regional Australia.

"We are committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ. Since 1919, BCA has been reaching outback Australians with the good news of Jesus."

Under God, the BCA does this by
* proclaiming Christ so that people may respond to Him;
* nurturing Christians in their faith and ministry;
* strengthening local Christian communities in their mission.

Pastor Jack Harradine, a UAICC/UCA minister, works with BCA in the Broken Hill Congregation - *we supported Jack with his Christmas Party for disadvantaged families.*

By supporting Bush Church Aid, you are reaching people in rural, remote and regional Australia with the saving word of Christ.

Check out the BCA web-site
<https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/>

Please keep giving! I encourage you to make use of the electronic funds transfer option from your bank account to the Uniting Financial Services Congregation account using the following information:

Belrose UC Property Committee
BSB 634-634 Acc Number 10000-1487

Belrose Uniting Church

Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

GOOD NEWSWEEK

21st June 2020 CV-19/13

The Season of Pentecost



Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ from Frenchs Forest to Terrey Hills; from the beaches to the bush, since 1916.

Community: "Where two or three .."

The Coronavirus pandemic has reminded us that we live in communities, not economies. People are important. We need each other and, from our experience of the lockdown and isolation, we have seen how vital relationships are. We miss the personal contact of worship, prayer, and fellowship. Meeting together in virtual space (eg Zoom) has been helpful, but it's not the same. We were made for community.

It was by being a new community that the early church made such a significant impact on its world. The Book of Acts is filled with examples of how the new followers of Jesus met together and supported each other, spiritually and physically.

The early Church took seriously the commands of Jesus to love one another. In times of death, pandemic, famine and poverty, the Church in Acts showed the Gospel in action as they cared for the widows, the orphans, the poor and sick.

Community also reflects the nature of God – Three Persons in perfect fellowship. So when we meet in community, we experience a sense of "God with us" – as Jesus said: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matt 18:20). We look forward to getting together in community again – but until then, virtual community is better than no community at all. Grace and peace,

Ian Weeks

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.

For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4:32 - 35

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Church Website: <http://www.belrose.unitingchurch.org.au>
Prayer Requests: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



Coronavirus Conversations

(What have you been doing during the “Coronavirus Confinement?”)

We have had another wedding!! On Friday 3rd June **Jackson Pengilly and Erryn McLatchie** were married at BUC. What a joyous occasion it was (only dampened by the Covid-19 restrictions on numbers allowed to attend) as Jackson & Erryn made their commitment to each other, and also to God, as husband and wife, with the reading from **Colossians 3:12 – 17**.



Jackson and Erryn will be moving to Canberra at the end of this month as Jackson begins his work in IT for a Government Department.



We pray God's richest blessings on them as they share their new life together serving God in a new place.



Coronavirus Update

State Government restrictions are being somewhat relaxed to allow gatherings in churches of up to 50 people. However the Presbytery has given the Church Council an extensive list of requirements that need to be put in place if Sunday Services are to resume. The Church Council is responsible for drawing up a **Covid-19 Safety Plan** to submit to the Presbytery to show how we can meet these requirements for the safety and well-being of our Church members and the wider community before we can resume Sunday Services – **we will keep you posted!!**

However, the weekly Prayer Meetings at Church have resumed in the Worship Space with appropriate health safeguards, and so the next Prayer Meeting at the Church will be on Thursday 25th June 11.00 am
If you are unwell or vulnerable to infection, please do not attend the Prayer Meetings – join us from your home in “Spirit”.

Because of Pentecost, We Have A New Community Acts 2

The Genesis account of creation teaches us that we were made for community – to be in harmonious relationship with God, each other and the world around us (Gen Ch 2). Unfortunately, human pride and rebellion (the essence of sin) broke those harmonious relationships (Gen Ch 3), and the rest of the Bible is the story of God's gracious act of redemption, ultimately in Christ, culminating in the new heavens and earth where, once again we are in perfect communion with God, each other, and the new creation. But we are not there yet! Pentecost marks a significant milestone on the way to that end – the creation of a new community of broken, but redeemed people in fellowship with God and one another.

Read: Acts 2:36 – 47

Prayer: *Gracious God, we rejoice that You are faithful to Your plans to rescue us and gather us into a new community. By Your Holy Spirit, continue to mould us into the people You want us to be, to the glory of Your risen Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus. Amen.*

Pentecost: A New Community

Acts 2:36 – 27

The Holy Spirit creates a new community of God's people – the Church – a community that is characterised by:

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| i) repentance & faith, saved by God's grace | vv 37, 38 |
| ii) devotion to the Word of God | v 42 |
| iii) a commitment to fellowship | vv 42, 46 |
| iv) thankfulness for Christ's death (The Lord's Supper) | v 42 |
| v) personal & corporate prayer | vv 42 |
| vi) active witness to the Gospel using the gifts God gives | v 43 |
| vii) generous care of one another | vv 44, 45 |
| viii) a desire to meet for regular corporate worship | v 46 |
| ix) gladness and joy in praising God | v 47 |
| x) a positive impact on their neighbours | v 47 |
| xi) welcoming those whom God redeems | v 47 |

*All praise to our Redeeming Lord
Who joins us by His grace
And bids us, each to each restored,
together seek His face*

*He bids us build each other up and
gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope,
we hand in hand go on.*

*And if our fellowship below in Jesus
be so sweet, What heights of
rapture we shall know when round
His throne we meet.*

The Bible's pictures the Church as a gathering of imperfect but forgiven people, rescued by God's grace and mercy into new community that lives out the purposes of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection:

How might the Church display the nature of God as we gather?

Of these characteristics of the Church, what do you think:

- * We do well?
- * We need to do more work on?