

WEST EPPING UNITING CHURCH

Our Vision

We are people sent to share the love,
hope and compassion of Jesus Christ with
all the world



Sunday 17 September 2017

Welcome 환영합니다

സമാഗതം 欢迎

Ki ora Malo elelei

THE 'BLAME GAME'

Energy Minister, Josh Frydenberg, and Opposition front bench, Joel Fitzgibbon's awkward stoush in the halls of Parliament House last Tuesday morning delighted the media pack who are always on the prowl for a controversial story.

But the finger-pointing and an eagerness to play the "blame game" on the issue of national energy policy troubled me.

For those of you who missed the story, each side of the house (Government and Opposition) is blaming the other for high energy prices here in Australia and for what is becoming an unpredictable future regarding emission reduction commitments and future energy demands.

The two parliamentarians concerned clashed openly on this issue in front of a host of television cameras. It was rather peculiar viewing as I munched on my corn flakes.

We like to point the finger at others when it comes to dealing with difficult issues that deeply concern us. Conversations around immigration policy and asylum seekers constantly worry me while rhetoric surrounding North Korea involving Donald Trump, on the one side, and Kim Jong-un, on the other, just adds to the intractable nature of the conflict.

Pointing the finger may be a natural reaction. But playing the "blame game" means nobody wins. It takes us nowhere. Here Gandhi's famous quote "an eye for an eye leaves us all blind" comes into play. Here, solutions have to be found. Ways forward must be deciphered.

It takes courage and a great deal of effort to deal with issues that demand our attention today. Pointing the finger, getting angry, laying the blame and even vilifying the other is a rather pointless way of acting.

In the letter to the Colossians, Paul exhorts the community to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12). I don't think Paul is saying we have to lay down and roll over. Rather, Paul is saying we must take Jesus as our example. Here the basis to real living is unconditional love where the "other" is vitally important and where everyone, and everything, matters.

Next time someone upsets you, gets in your way and or appears to short-circuit what's important or sacred to you, don't play the "blame game". Rather, be Christ to them. Be Christ to others. Seek real solutions. Embrace directions that come in following the one who is the "way, the truth and the life."

Rev John Barr

PRAYER POINTS

- ✚ Pray for peace and reconciliation around the world. May warring parties sit down and listen, may enemies negotiate.
- ✚ Pray for those impacted by natural disasters and for those who remain caught up in a vicious cycle of poverty. May all people who suffer receive care and compassion.
- ✚ Pray for those caught up in manipulative or abusive relationships. May people who feel dominated or oppressed find freedom and encounter opportunities to reach their full potential.
- ✚ Pray for those who are marginalised, forgotten or over-looked. May we learn to be a more inclusive, loving people where everyone is valued.
- ✚ Pray for a world where the message of Christ is no longer being heard. May we respond to the call to share the Good News of Jesus with all those we meet.
- ✚ Pray for West Epping Uniting Church and the ministry to which we are all called to participate. May we be strong in faith and courageous in action as we live as God's people in this community.
- ✚ Pray for people who are ill, grieving the loss of loved ones, are fearful or uncertain about the future or simply find it hard to cope. May God's love embrace us all as we face the many trials of life.
- ✚ Pray that we will always be willing to give thanks to God for the gift of life. May we share that joy with one another and with all those we meet.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear God,
Thank you for loving me,
Thank you for forgiving me.
Thank you for showing me my worthiness
and for pursuing me.
I am in awe of you Lord!
I give my heart to you.
May your Holy Spirit transform me
and make me like you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we gather, the Wallumedegal people of the Eora nation and give thanks for their care of the land over many generations.

September is Bible Study Month

Over September during morning worship Rev Radhika Sukumar-White and Rev John Barr will take us through the Letter to the Colossians. Written around 60 CE, this work is attributed to Paul while he was in prison. The letter is addressed to the Christian community in Colossae, a small city in Asia Minor.

The purpose of Bible Study Month is to draw our attention to the Bible and to highlight the need to study it regularly. We believe the Bible is a vital way God speaks to us. Our knowledge and understanding of the Bible is never complete. It's imperative that we go back to the text regularly to encounter what God is saying to us today.

In your devotional life or in your small groups with friends, set aside time to study God's word. Bible Study helps are available on the table in the church foyer.



Community News

PRAYER TIME ~ You are invited to join us each Thursday between 12:15pm—12:45pm as we bring the needs of our Church and community to God in prayer. For more information speak to Rev John Barr or Helen Campbell.



MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HC

Tuesday 19 September at 10am in the church.

This will be a relaxed service with a focus on singing our favourite hymns and offering worship especially for those who may find it hard to get to church early on Sundays.



ALL WELCOME

LADIES FELLOWSHIP ~ Tuesday 19 September at 7.45pm. All ladies are welcome to join us for our meeting. This month will be a 'bit of a surprise', so come and join us and have some fun and fellowship followed by a nice supper. Enquiries: Lyn MacGregor 9871 5701

LAMINGTON DRIVE ~ Wednesday 27 September
Cost: plain or cream filled \$12 per dozen
Order forms now available.
Helpers needed on the day!
Enquiries: Joan Ross 9873 3713



GOSPEL GEMS HYMN SING

Sunday 22 October 2.30—3.45pm
Central Baptist Church, 619 George St Sydney
All welcome!

PIANOS

West Epping currently has three pianos (two upright, one electric) which are in relatively good condition, but are surplus to our needs. As such, they are free to a good home! If you are interested, please contact the office.



STAFF NEWS

- Rev John Barr will be on leave from 25 September to 22 October
- Rev Radhika will be attending the Ordinand's Retreat in Kincumber, from Sunday 24 September (afternoon) to Wednesday 27 September
- Rev Radhika, Sun and Tessa will be attending Synod from the 30 September to the 3 October.



QWEST:

next Sunday 24 September
@ 5pm in the Cottage

Join us for informal worship,
good discussion and a relaxed meal.

Topic: 'HOW TO BLESS ONE ANOTHER' by Lois Rees

WEST EPPING WOMEN



warmly invite you
to join us at

Leura Uniting Church

on

**Saturday
28th October 2017**

10:00am – 3:30pm

Cost: \$30

(includes morning tea, lunch and craft material)

Join us for a special day where we can connect with other women, grow in our faith, and share with others in a safe place – loving, learning and laughing together.

Facilitator: Rev. Ellie Elia

Mary and Martha: For & Against Us

(Registration forms available on the table)



Colossians 3:18- 4:1

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
19 Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

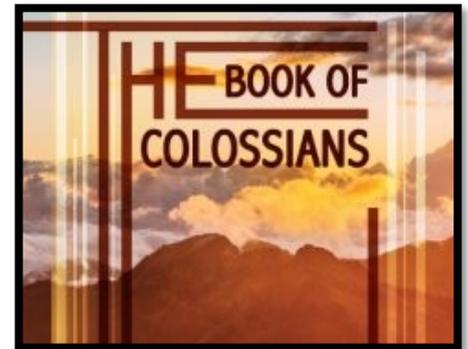
20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only while being watched and in order to please them, but wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, 24 since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality. 4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, for you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Colossians 3:18- 4:1

골로새서 3:18-4:1

3:18 아내들아 남편에게 복종하라 이는 주 안에서 마땅하니라 19 남편들아 아내를 사랑하며 괴롭게 하지 말라 20 자녀들아 모든 일에 부모에게 순종하라 이는 주 안에서 기쁘게 하는 것이니라 21 아버지들아 너희 자녀를 노엽게 하지 말지니 낙심할까 함이라 22 종들아 모든 일에 육신의 상전들에게 순종하되 사람을 기쁘게 하는 자와 같이 눈가림만 하지 말고 오직 주를 두려워하여 성실한 마음으로 하라 23 무슨 일을 하든지 마음을 다하여 주께 하듯 하고 사람에게 하듯 하지 말라 24 이는 기업의 상을 주께 받을 줄 아니 너희는 주 그리스도를 섬기느니라 25 불의를 행하는 자는 불의의 보응을 받으리니 주는 사람을 외모로 취하심이 없느니라

4:1 상전들아 의와 공평을 종들에게 베풀지니 너희에게도 하늘에 상전이 계심을 알지이다

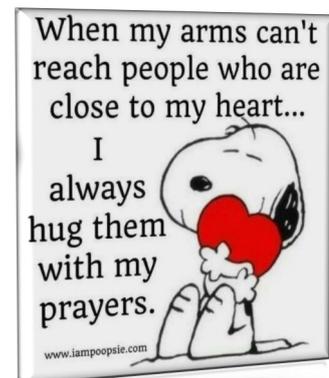


Celebrating our connections with the community!

For some time now we have been intentionally serving our community through English Language Classes, mainly music, and our Playgroup. Each week we welcome people who are struggling with language, people who are wanting their children to learn, and are trying to find community through their children's activities. We are wanting to share with you now, some of the comments that have been made to us. When a student was thanking us for running the ESL classes, she indicated that she had been to other language classes but she felt ours was different. The difference that she expressed was that we offer the classes because we love and care for people with no hidden agendas. It was as simple as that.

The parents/grandparents/carers of the children at mainly music and Playgroup are so grateful for our hospitality. Over and over people are thanking us and understand that we are going out of our way to serve them. We could be off doing other things with our time, and skills, but it is recognised that we choose to serve the community. Some of our new found friends come with problems to be shared and they value the help they gain on a range of issues. It takes time, but a lot of trust has been built up through our activities. The simple joy for us is to find a group of mothers chatting together, and children playing happily with each other, when the program itself is finished! They just don't want to go home. They have found community with us and with each other. This is a wonderful service to our neighbours.

So let's continue to serve in this way. It is very much appreciated, and through this we trust that they will catch a glimpse of the kingdom of God.





Diary Dates

- ◆ **September ~ Bible Study Month** focusing on Paul's Letter to the Colossians
- ◆ **Tuesday 19 September** ~ Mid-week Communion Service, 10am
- ◆ **Saturday 23 September** ~ Mystery Bus Tour
- ◆ **Wednesday 27 September** ~ Lamington Drive
- ◆ **Tuesday 17 October** ~ Mid-week Communion Service, 10am
- ◆ **Sunday 22 October** ~ Spring into Action
- ◆ **Saturday 28 October** ~ West Epping Women's Spring Retreat at Leura
- ◆ **Sunday 29 October** ~ Christmas Boxes dedication
- ◆ **Sunday 19 November** ~ Community BBQ
- ◆ **Sunday 26 November** ~ Together Service, 9am & AGM
- ◆ **Tuesday 12 December** ~ Thanksgiving & Remembrance Service, 7.30pm
- ◆ **Sunday 17 December** ~ Advent 3, Service of Lessons & Carols
- ◆ **Sunday 24 December** ~ **Christmas Eve** Worship 8am, 7pm & 9pm
- ◆ **Monday 25 December** ~ **Christmas Day** Worship 7.30am & 9am
- ◆ **Sunday 31 December** ~ Worship 9am

What's on this week!

Monday 18 Sep	10.00am	English Conversation Classes
Tuesday 19 Sep	9.30am 10.00am 7.45pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Mid-week Communion Ladies Fellowship
Wednesday 20 Sep	9.30am 9.45am 1.00pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Mainly music Mainly music
Thursday 21 Sep	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Playgroup Thursday Craft Prayer Time
Saturday 23 Sep		Mystery Coach Tour
Sunday 24 Sept	8.00am 10.00am 4.00pm	Worship Worship ~ JAM for children CSI

Serving Next Sunday 24 September 2017

	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomers	Jan Watson Adele Booth	Elva Harris Elaine Ferris
Stewards	David MacGregor Ivan Drury	Helen Davey, John Ferris Wes Gibbons
Ministers Assistant	Brian Walton	Jean Chapple
Reader	Betty Taylor	Peter Brown
Prayer Ministry	John Planner	Sue Elliott
Sound		
Computer	Glennis Endicott	Phil Chapple
Flowers	Carolyn Button	

For Pastoral Care needs

please contact:
Rev John Barr 0457 879 099 or
Rev Radhika Sukumar-White
0423 823 363



Sunday Morning Worship
8am and 10am



West Epping Uniting Church
is a member of an Ecumenical Covenant
with the Anglican Parish of Epping,
the Catholic Parish of Epping and
Carlingford, Epping Baptist Church and
Epping Uniting Church.



The West Epping Uniting Church uses information and news provided by its members, adherents and officers for the purposes of conducting its pastoral ministry. In the course of that ministry, material published in this bulletin may reach an audience wider than the membership of the congregation.

Ministry Team

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