

December Birthdays

1st Ada Haak
2nd Robert Taylor
5th Desley Broad, Jonah Bohan
10th Peter Meyers
16th Poppy Vosper, Don Gemmell
23rd Carolyn Nugent
31st Roz Staveley, Hugh Sweetman

Do you have something you would like to share with the Church?

The Bulletin may be an avenue to share a thought or idea that will enrich the lives of our members.

Just send an email to the editor and where space permits your insight can be shared.

To give electronically:

Bendigo Bank

Reference: OFFERING

BSB: 633 000 Account: 183102011

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Quick Reference Diary Dates

December Dates

Sunday 1st - Choir practice
Saturday 7th Blokes Breakfast
Saturday 7th Church Council meeting from 9.30am
Sunday 8th Sunday Space Awards
Sunday 15th Choir practice
Monday 16th - Sunday Space Leaders and Helpers Lunch
Sunday 22nd Choir practice?
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve - 6.15pm food & for 7pm Carols
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day

Deadline: for the January 2025 Bulletin is 21 December 2024 or earlier if possible. Please forward your articles to Joy Salmond.

Uniting Church in Australia

Dayboro Congregation

Bulletin December 2024



The people of Uniting Church Dayboro are warm, inclusive and welcoming who LOVE Jesus, LOVE each other and LOVE our Dayboro community giving HOPE for the future.

Our worship, our communion table and fellowship is open to all. We simply offer you a place where you will be accepted and loved, and where you can learn about the grace of God.

Worship: 9am every Sunday

22 William Street Dayboro

<https://www.dayborouca.com.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dayborouniting>

Pastor's Christmas Ponderings

You don't have to listen to me in the Advent & Christmas seasons to recognize how Christmas has become culturally relevant - just watch the television specials and Netflix Christmas movies, listen to the Christmas mixes on music streaming platforms, as well as the media reports of compassion and kindness toward the marginalised and underprivileged that are more plentiful at this time of year to know that the spirit of Christmas can float everyone's boat - regardless of belief.

It's believed that the observance of Christmas as we know it in the developed world was expanded by Charles Dickens' story, "A Christmas Carol," a personal favourite read of mine, & my favourite Christmas movie. In all his novels, Dickens promoted social justice and equality while casting a critical eye on the treatment of the poor. As a child, he himself had spent time in a poorhouse that incarcerated those without resources, and it was his writing of "A Christmas Carol" that prevented him and his family from sharing a similar fate.

Yet every Christmas season there are some Christians who gnash their teeth at the "commercialism" of Christmas. "Put Christ back in Christmas," they say, verbally and on their social statuses, without stopping to think the success of Christmas marketing has made the spirit of Christmas so universal. "Good will to men and women", "peace on earth" and "joy to the world" speaks to people of almost every faith and of those of no religion at all. Christmas has become about more than the baby in manger. It's about the lifting of the human spirit. It's about kindness and compassion and the glory of being alive! It's about the ways of the Kingdom of God coming to earth.

Years ago, the late sociologist, and Catholic priest Andrew Greeley reported from his scientific surveys that the reason Christians are more likely to attend church in this season is simply because they love the nativity story, not because they hold to the theological assertions of the church about who Jesus was. This is a very important point - even Christians themselves are not necessarily drawn by theological propositions, but by how the Christmas narrative touches their hearts: an unwed pregnant Mary threatened with scandal, a reluctant Joseph, a sweet baby in a manger whose life is threatened by the government and whose family has been displaced by governmental policies, a star of hope overhead drawing sages from afar, and more angels and dreams per cubic metre of any biblical story, influencing Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men, and still others.

There are parts of the Christmas tale that are for many fanciful, unbelievable, or at best unverifiable. The few stories of Jesus' birth are found in only two of the four gospels. Notably, the first gospel about Jesus written, Mark, included none of these stories, either because they were already well known or, more likely, because they were unknown to Mark and unnecessary to Mark's story.

Lectionary and Rosters - November 2024

Date	1 December 2024	8 December 2024	15 December 2024	22 December 2024	24-25 December 2024	29 December 2024
Season	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Nativity 1	Christmas 1
First Reading	Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16	Malachi 5: 1-4	Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20	Micah 5: 2 - 5a	Isaiah 9: 2 - 7	1 Samuel 2: 18 - 20, 26
Psalms	Psalms 25: 1 - 10	Luke 1: 68 - 79	Isaiah 12: 2 - 6	Luke 1: 46b - 55 or Psalm 80: 1 - 7	Psalms 96	Psalms 148
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13	Philippians 1: 3-11	Philippians 4: 4 - 7	Hebrews 10: 5 - 10	Titus 2: 11 - 14	Colossians 3: 12 - 17
Gospel	Luke 21: 25 - 36	Luke 3: 1 - 6	Luke 3: 7 - 16	Luke 1: 39 - 45 (46 - 55)	Luke 2: 1 - 14 (15 - 20)	Luke 2: 41 - 52
Reader	Margaret Ann	Vicki	John	Andris		Christina
Message	Danny	Danny	Danny	Danny	(24) Danny (25) Shirley	Joy
Young at Heart	Danny	Joy	Danny	Danny		Danny
Prayers	Joy	Danny	Carolyn	Margaret Ann		Paul
Singer	Carolyn & Lorraine	Maria & David	Carolyn & Tim	Carolyn & Mike	(24) Choir (25) Cards & Lessons	Maria & David
Keyboard	Coral	Judy	Coral	Judy	(24) Coral	Judy
Sunday Space	Fiona & Paul	Carolyn & Robyn	School Holidays	Communion	School Holidays	School Holidays
Cleaning Crew	Andris & Marion	Mark & Maria	Robyn & Surgit	Joy & John		Andris & Marion
Welcome & Offering	Andris & Marion	Christina & David	Judy & Robert	Mark & Maria		Surgit & Brian
Notes						

Uniting Church Dayboro - Who are we?

We are a group of ordinary and diverse people trying to follow the teachings and example of Jesus. You will find a wide variety of views and opinions here, but we are truly one family.

As a community of faith, we love to share what we have through worship, our fellowship and acts of loving kindness. In this family of faith, God matters and all people matter. Therefore, we are intentionally inclusive. This is a place where all people can know that they are accepted just as they are. We are open to all. This isn't the type of church that will tell you how you should live as a "good Christian", we won't tell you how a "good Christian" should think, but we will tell you that you should think. We simply want to offer you love, acceptance and hope all in the person of Jesus Christ.

Blokes Breakfast

“Christmas get together”

Saturday 7th December 7:30 am - 9:00 am

The Church Hall

A fabulous (if not entirely festive) breakfast together.

Followed by a round table where we'll share;

* What is your favourite Christmas tradition.

* If you could wind back the clock,
what is a tradition you would like to
establish for your family?

* What is your favourite Christmas movie or TV show (if you watch them).



Cost \$10

“Blokes Breakfast” is about building deep & lasting friendships.

Sunday Space Leaders and Helpers Lunch Monday 16th December

Starting at 12noon at Danny and Carolyn's place.

This is the time we reflect on the year gone and prepare for the next year. If you are interested in helping with Sunday Space in 2025 you are very welcome to attend .

See Carolyn if this is you .

A word from the Editor.

This will be my last Bulletin and I want to thank all contributors for making the production of the Bulletin so seamless by meeting deadlines. Joy Salmond has offered to become the editor in 2025. My thanks go to Joy for taking the role as editor of the UCAD Bulletin.

Warren Rose

The last gospel written, that of John, also contains none of these stories. John is the most mystical of the four gospels, and the author's interest is in explaining the cosmic purpose and nature of Jesus. He grandly describes Jesus as God's Word made flesh, an embodiment of God's hope for the world.

It is the gospel writers of Matthew and Luke who give us the nativity stories of how Jesus was born. So rather than focus on and rail against what some “desperate to consider themselves persecuted” do each season; let's (to quote an old song) accentuate the positives. People in our communities are open to the message of the Kingdom; peace on earth, and goodwill to all humanity. As Tiny Tim, the most vulnerable and marginalised character in Charles Dickens' story, “A Christmas Carol,” might say in the spirit of Christmas, “Bless us, everyone!”

Danny

Sunday Space

A ministry to young people

The last Sunday Space for 2024 will be Sunday December 8th

Invite all children. parents. grandparents to join for this exciting morning as we wrap up another very successful year.

The children will also take part in the Worship Service and then go out to the hall for some games and party food.

Sunday Space will then have a break and resume once the children start school in 2025. The first Sunday Space for 2025 will be on Sunday 2nd February.

We are always looking for more people to help with this very important and rewarding part of our church life.

Please see Carolyn for more information.

Dayboro Explorers - 2025

Explorers is a **safe place** to talk about differing views or ask questions about what it really means to be a pilgrim people trying to follow the way of Jesus.

Explorers will meet on the fourth Sunday from February. If you have topics you would like to suggest, please contact Warren Rose.

