

Diary Dates

Sun, 31	Lent Wk 4 9am Tamworth City Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School. Morning tea. <i>11:30am Korean Reborn</i>		6pm Meditation in Chapel 7pm Lenten Study
Mon, 1	9:30am Kairos Sewing JH 10am-4pm Op Shop M-F 10am UNITING in StAR 10am One Door Mental Health in Dunn Hall 11:30am Keech Funeral 5:30pm New Vogue in JHall	Thu, 4	8:30am Prayer in Wesley Rm 9:30am Stepping Stones DH 9:30am Yoga in St AR 6pm Emmaus Board Meeting in St Andrew's Rm
Tue, 2	9am-2pm Church Office T-F 9:30am Adult Fellowship in St Andrew's Room 9:30am LLine Dancers JH 10am-1pm Pres Bkeep 4:30pm Property Committee 7pm Friends of Nioka	Fri, 5	8:30am Social Craft DunnH 10am Craft Group in St Andrew's Room 12noon Lunch & DVD in St Andrew's Room
Wed, 3	9am Op Shop Sorting 10am Op Shop Morning Tea 2pm Lenten Study 4pm Young Families Support Group in Wesley Room 6pm New Vogue in JHall	Sat, 6	9am-12noon Op Shop 9am 'Rest' Retreat 10am Farming Ladies Morning Tea in St A's Room Changes clocks <1 hour
	Sun, 7		Lent Wk 5 9am Tamworth City Worship & HC Service with Rev Chris Wright. NO Sunday School. Morning T. 9:30am & 1:30pm Birth Beat First Aid in Dunn Hall <i>11:30am Korean Reborn</i> 3pm Bec's group in StARm

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 7 April—Lent Wk 5

9am	Tamworth City Service and HC with Rev Chris Wright, E: M Weick, J Carthew, L Johnston, W Standen, D: J Phillips, G Chaffey, B Mills, PP: N Willis, O: R Greer.
9:30am	Tamworth Southside Service
11am	West Tamworth. Lunch to follow.
5pm	Tamworth Southside Service



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Contact Details:

- **Minister:** Rev Chris Wright Ph 0427 633 657 Email chris@thewrights.com.au RDO Tuesday
- **Office:** 144 Marius St, PO Box 501, Tamworth 2340 Ph 02 6766 5311, Email tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com, Hrs 9am-2pm Tue-Fri

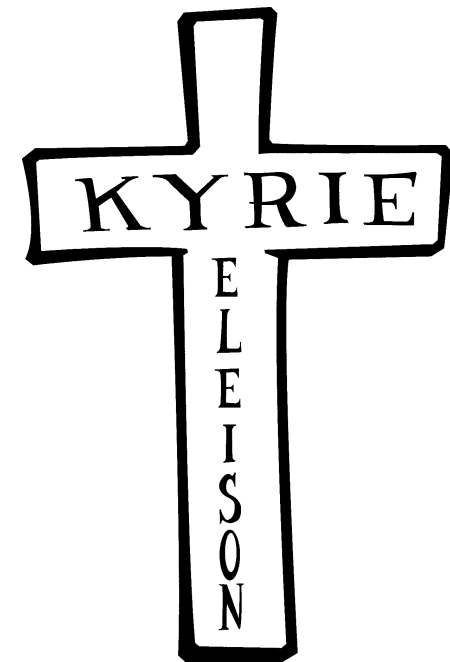
Other Useful Local

Contacts:

- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340, Email tsucoffice@gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **Southside Lay Ministry Worker:** Suzanne Holloway 0438 608 373 tsucminister@gmail.com
- **Young Family Worker:** Sarah Wright 0423 617 813 Email: sarah.familyworker.uca@gmail.com
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846 Chaplain Rev Henry Swindon 0466 445 632
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason "Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 1

Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today. Rev Chris Wright will be leading our service. Please stay for a chat and morning tea afterwards.



Lenten Studies

Study 4—Coming Home

The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and

Southside Scene

Worship: 9:30am & 5pm (Dinner Church 2nd) Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday.

Ladies Breakfast: 7:30am on 4th Tuesday each month.

Stepping Stones: 10am-12noon in Acacia Room on Tuesdays.

Tuesday Lunch: 12-1pm Tuesdays during school terms.

Prayer Team: 9:30am Thursdays.

Faith Art Group: 1pm Thursdays, alternate weeks, school terms.

Men’s Choir: 5:30pm on alternate Thursdays.

Bible Study: 2-3:30pm Thursdays.

Men’s Breakfast: 7:30am on 1st Saturday each month.

Easter Worship:

Sun, 14th—Palm Sunday 9:30am

Fri, 19th—Good Friday 8am

Sun, 21st—Easter Sunday 9:30am

Website: www.tsuc.org.au or

Facebook: *Tamworth Southside UC*



Peel Valley Congregations

Sun, 31 Mar—Peel Valley Combined Service will be held at Hallsville at 11am. Lunch to follow. \$10/head. Contact Meg if you need a lift.

Tue, 2 Apr—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth.

Fri, 5 Apr—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church with Jim Newton.

Sun, 7 Apr—11am West Tamworth Service with Jim Newton. Lunch to follow.

Sun, 14 Apr—8:30am Gowrie and 11am West Tamworth Service

Good Friday, 19 Apr—9am Hallsville with Rev Henry Swindon

Easter Sunday, 21 Apr—11am West Tamworth with Rev Chris Wright

GOWRIE, HALLSVILLE & WEST TAMWORTH CONGREGATIONS

Our Goal “To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus.”

Mission “Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve”



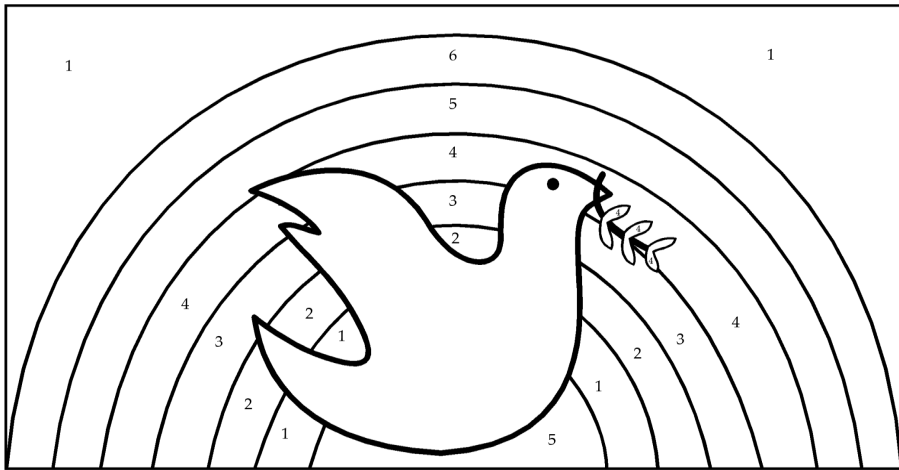
Rainbows and Promise

Read the story of Noah from a children's story Bible, or from Genesis 6:13—8:12 and Genesis 9:8–17.

- What part did the dove play in this story?
- What does the rainbow mean?

Follow the color key to finish the picture.

Color Key	
1 = Red	4 = Green
2 = Orange	5 = Blue
3 = Yellow	6 = Violet

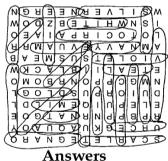


Colors of Promise

In Genesis 9:13, God tells Noah that the rainbow is a sign of promise. Hidden in this word find are all the colors of the rainbow, and many more! Circle each hidden word.

Word List

Apricot	Maize	Turquoise
Aqua	Mauve	Violet
Beige	Moss	White
Black	Navy	Yellow
Blue	Orange	
Brown	Pink	
Copper	Plum	
Ecu	Purple	
Gold	Red	
Green	Scarlet	
Indigo	Silver	
Lavender	Tan	
Lime	Teal	



S C A R L E T E G N A R O
 U R C E G K U A Q U A O Y
 R P B P P N R N A T G O E
 E L E P U I Q E M I L D L
 D U I O R P U S D L O G L
 N M G C P P O N R B O M O
 E T E A L I I B L A C K W
 V I O L E T S U S M E A B
 A M N A V Y E V U A M R R
 L O T O C I R P A I A E O
 I S N W H I T E B Z D O W
 W S I L V E R N E E R G N

Lectionary Readings

Sun	31	Psalm 32*	Fri	5	John 12:1-8*
Mon	1	Isaiah 43:16-21*	Sat	6	Philippians 3:4b-14*
Tue	2	John 8:1-11	Sun	7	Psalm 126*
Wed	3	John 8:12-20	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings		
Thu	4	John 8:21-32			

sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

A few thoughts

Technology has almost killed the art of getting lost. Almost all of us have a map of the whole world in minute detail sitting in our pocket. Our phones set our path to home and this passage is all about home, journeys away and how we find our way back.

Where is home for you? We travel more than ever, have seen more cities, met more people. We are always on the move, always learning, going, absorbing, it is the rhythm of our life, and it is hectic. Where is home through all those experiences? Wherever you go in the world, where is the place that you know has happy hormones coming through the floorboards, where you can rest, where you are known, loved, and safe? Where is the place your heart returns to easily, without the need to switch on your GPS?

The son in this passage takes his inheritance, leaves his Father's house and goes in search of fulfilment. Henri Nouwen wrote, "leaving home is living as though I do not yet have a home and must look far and wide to find one," and "leaving home is looking for unconditional love where it cannot be found."

The son looks for it in all the usual things we use to escape from ourselves, that distract us from aligning ourselves with who we truly are; okay parties, average friendships, relationships that have no future.

The other son also has not made peace with himself and with the Father. He is lost, in his own back garden, resentment holding him back from knowing where he was and who he has always been.

Unconditional love hits hard in this passage. No one's core identity changes throughout the story, just the fear, regret and bitterness that held

them back from being in harmony with it. Home was always home.

The son was always the son, always loved, at the parties, and at the pig farm. The older son was always just as loved; but caught on his own home territory in a web of bitterness.

The Father was always the Father, waiting.

Nouwen went on to write that “home is the centre of my being, where I can hear the voice that says, ‘You are my beloved. On you my favour rests’”. There is a tangible sense of relief when you feel the embrace of the Father as he takes his son home. “Return to your rest, my soul, because the Lord has been good to you.”

Today is a good day to go home. Repentance is the movement, the 180 degree turn towards home; it realigns our posture to where our soul finds rest, where the Father is always waiting. Your identity has never changed, you have been given a spirit of sonship, and by it we cry ‘Abba Father’.

Notes

15:15 - While pigs and pork are not problematic for Christians in the twenty-first century, the Torah prohibitions against eating pork and touching pig carcasses would have made Jesus’ audience cringe in discomfort at the idea of the younger son feeding pigs and tending to them.

15:20 - Running would have been considered undignified for a wealthy landowner in Jesus’ time. The act of running to embrace his son shows his lack of concern for how he would be perceived in comparison to his desire to embrace his son and welcome him home.

15:22 - The sandals, ring and robe that the father gives the son were all symbols of being a son rather than a servant. These gifts are a refuting of the son’s request to redefine their relationship on his return, and a visual representation of his redemption.

Questions

1. Which character in the story do you most identify with?

Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

We keep the activities of the Moonbi/Kootingal Anglican Church, Baptist Church, C3 Church, School Scripture, Oxley Vale Anglican Church and the Lutheran Church in our prayers.

Presbytery Prayer Points

We give thanks for the rain that fell last weekend and continue to pray for more rain; The National Emmaus Gathering in Tamworth on the weekend; PRC meeting in Manilla; Pulse meeting in Armidale and the Emmaus training days in Armidale.

Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who lead classes in our high schools this year— Andrew, Ross, Belinda and Darrel. Funding is solely from donations. If you would like to contribute: A/c name TSCEAI, BSB 032 621, A/c No. 372 372. Thank you. In recess now until 2019. Donations still gratefully received.

Prayer Chain

If you have a concern that you would particularly like prayer support for, please contact Judith Archbold 6766 6716 or Ted Woodhart 6766 1804 or Rev Chris Wright 0427 633 657.



Worship on Sunday, 21 April

Easter Sunday, Worship service and Holy Communion with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: W Standen, D: M Partridge, W Townend, J Crosling, PP J Carthew, O: R Cathcart. Morning Tea.

11am West Tamworth with Rev Chris Wright

Diary Dates to Note

- 24th Rainbow Cottage Committee Meeting
- 25th ANZAC Day

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on encouraging your individual commitment to prayer and service.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of the Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore in your prayers this week.



**Easter Greetings from the
Uniting Churches in Tamworth**

In the Easter Resurrection, God welcomes everyone, from everywhere, all of us invited to sit with Him in peace and friendship. The gospels really are Good News!
Come and share with us in worship at:

Peel Valley: 19th Good Friday: 9am Hallsville (Manilla Rd)
21st Easter Sunday: 11am West Tamworth (Denison Street, Lunch after)

Tamworth City (Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts)
18th Maundy Thursday: 7pm
19th Good Friday: 9am
21st Easter Sunday: 9am

Tamworth Southside (440 Goonoo Goonoo Rd, Op. The Big Golden Guitar)
19th Good Friday: 8am
21st Easter Sunday: 9:30am



2. Do you ever feel "still a long way off?"

3. Where and who is home for you? Imagine the place that is most home for you. What does it feel like? What does it look like? What does it feel like to be called home?

4. What is God calling you home to? What is he saying?

5. Is there a lie about God, or about yourself, that is keeping you from coming home?

Prayer

Take a few minutes in silence to ask yourself two questions:

When I pray, do I pray like a child of God or like a servant?

When I pray, do I pray like someone who is at home or someone who is still far off?

Spend some time praying for each other based on your answers to the discussion questions.

Conclude by praying together:

Father, thank you that you are always waiting;

you see us when we are still a long way off.

Thank you that you call us your children and you love us.

Thank you for that unconditional love that gives us our true immovable home.

Let us return to it, live in it, and be at rest there. Amen.



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 31 March

Lent Wk 4, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Sunday School. Morning Tea.

Korean Reborn Church

11:30am Sundays for worship. Jubilee Kitchen & Dunn Hall for lunch.

Emmaus Board

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Sunday, 31 March from 2pm.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended and Geoff & Judy Carthew following the death of their daughter, Felicity during the week. Also we keep in our prayers Noel Keech following the death of his wife, Helen-Funeral 11:30am on Monday. A time of deep sorrow for loved family members.

Thank You

Julie Bennett would like to extend a special thank you to everyone for their ongoing support and prayer over her recent difficulties. Slowly getting back on my feet. Thanks again, Julie.

Lent Event

Lent Event envelopes are available. Please return on the plate from Palm Sunday, 14 April. Courageous Service—Rev Albino is one of only a small number of pastors with our partner, the Protestant Church of Timor Leste (IPTL). During Indonesia's occupation he was torn between leaving his beloved homeland for the safety of the west, & staying to look after his flock where he could continue to give shelter to those who resisted. He is now head of the social services agency of IPTL, responsible for managing schools & health clinics, & has a passion to build the spiritual strength of his people. He believes that faith & forgiveness are key to the future of Timor Leste.

Farmer Care Packages

We continue to work with 'Doing it for our Farmers' and Rural Aid to bring support and assistance to farmers in need. *We've been invited to host a morning tea on 6 April 10am-12noon. If you can help out with cake, biscuits or slice for the morning, let Nicolette know in the office.*

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Senior's Communion

Monthly Senior's Communion at the Village from 10am on Friday, 12 April with Rev Henry Swindon. Contact Barb McLean 6766 4039.

School Term 1 Ends on Friday, 12 April.

Church Missionary Society of Australia

Invite you to their Autumn Encounter "Blessing all the Nations" 12-13 April at Calrossy Anglican School. Guest Speaker will be Andrew Lubbock, senior minister of Arundel Presbyterian Church and former CMS Missionary in Italy. Register at cms.org.au/event/autuymencounter or phone 07 3171 3020.

Kairos Outside for Women

Gathering and Meeting on Saturday, 13 April in St Andrew's Room from 9am

Worship on Sunday, 14 April

Palm Sunday, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: E Shepheard, D: C Shepheard, B Mills, H Fergus, PP J Phillips, O: R Richardson. Lent Event Stall. Sausage Sizzle Morning Tea.

Tamworth Choral Society 70th Anniversary Concert

You are invited to join the Tamworth Choral Society's 70th Anniversary Concert "Down Memory Lane" on Sunday, 14 April 2:30pm in the Carinya Performing Arts Centre, 25 Boronia Drive, Calala. Cost \$15 single or \$30 family. Tickets available from choir members or at the door. A lovely afternoon tea to follow.

Holy Week Services

Holy Monday 15th	8am in Chapel	Nicolette Willis
Holy Tuesday 16th	8am in Chapel	Judith Archbold
Holy Wednesday 17th	8am in Chapel	Margot Hobson
Maundy Thursday 18th	7pm in Church	Rev Chris Wright
Good Friday 19th	9am in Church	Rev Chris Wright
Easter Sunday 21st	9am in Church	Rev Chris Wright

Senior's Getting Together

Meeting at the Village Community Hall on Tuesday, 16 April from 2pm.

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Next Week & Beyond

Daylight Saving Ends

At long last summer has ended and we can get that hour back that we are craving. Don't forget to put your clock back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, 6 April.

Worship on Sunday, 7 April

Lent Wk 5, Worship service and Holy Communion with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Food Hamper Sunday. Elder: M Weick, J Carthew, L Johnston, W Standen, P Battle, D: J Phillips, G Chaffey, B Mills, PP M Miles, O: R Greer. NO Sunday School. Morning Tea.

Birth Beat First Aid

Stepping Stones are hosting two Birth Beat First Aid courses on Sunday, 7 April at 9:30am and 1:30pm. See the office if you are interested in attending. Limited numbers for each session.

Bec's Reunion Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Sunday, 7 April from 3pm.

Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

Our next rostered day will be Tuesday, 9th April from 8am.

Organ Tuning Wednesday, 10 April.

Compassionate Friends

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 10 April from 10am.

Nursing Home Service

Our next service at Cottage Homes will be on Thursday, 11 April from 9:30am led by Rev Chris Wright. All singers and helpers most welcome.

Fete Committee Meeting

Thursday, 11 April from 4pm.

Church Council Meeting

Our bi-monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 11 April from 7pm in the St Andrew's Room.

Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

Please save your bread tags—they can be recycled to fund wheelchairs in South Africa. Bread Tags for Wheelchairs has been recycling bread tags in Souths Africa since 2006. They currently collect about 500kg/month, which funds 2-3 wheelchairs. Now collecting in Australia too! Leave in the office.

This Week's Events

Kairos Outside Sewing Group

Kairos Outside Sewing Group will be meeting in the Jubilee Hall on Monday mornings from 9:30am-3pm each week during school terms.

Opportunity Shop

Our Opportunity Shop is located at 24 Darling Street. Normal hours 10am-4pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am-12noon on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine (0401 762 463) or Judy (0418 662 081).

UNITING Support Group

UNITING Support Group meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Mondays from 10am-2pm from Home & Community Care.

One Door Mental Health

Meeting in Dunn Hall on Monday, 1 April from 10am.

New Vogue Dance Group

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall from 5:30pm– 8pm Mondays and 6pm-9:30pm on Wednesdays.

Church Office

Regular office hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday. All hall bookings to be made via the office please. *Nicolette*.

Adult Fellowship

Our monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, 2 April from 9:30am for coffee followed by our meeting. Everyone is invited to join the fellowship group from 11am in the St Andrew's Room for our guest speaker, coming to talk to us about strokes. Following the talk we will provide alight luncheon. We would love to have to join us for this informative and friendly morning.

Locomotive Line Dancing

Hiring the Jubilee Hall from 9:30am-12:30pm on Tuesdays for Line Dancing and Occasional Social Dances on a Sunday afternoon. Using the hall on the next couple of Saturdays for extra classes.

Senior's Getting Together Fellowship

Our monthly getting together will be on Tuesday, 19 March from 2pm in the St Andrew's Village Community Hall. Contact Marie McClelland 6765 7220.

City Property Committee

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 2 April from 4:30pm.

Friends of Nioka

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 2 April from 7pm.

Op Shop Working Bee

Sorting each Wednesday in the Vestry. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work and then a cuppa! All helpers welcome. A very industrious morning.

Op Shop Morning Tea

We are having our annual Op Shop Morning tea in St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 3 April from 10am.

Lenten Studies

Rev Chris Wright will be hosting our Lenten Studies (Wk 4) on Wednesday 3 April at 2pm (Peter Battle) and 7pm (Suzanne Holloway) in the St Andrew's Room. The studies will be in the notice sheets so everyone can join in.

Young Families Worker Support Group

Meeting in Wesley Room on Wednesday, 3 April from 4pm.

Meditation Service

Weekly meditation service lead by Rev John Marsh on Wednesdays evenings from 6pm.

Early Risers Prayer Group

Weekly prayer group meeting in the Wesley Room (Rev Chris' office) each Thursday morning from 8:30am.

Stepping Stones Play Group

Stepping Stones is not just a play group where the kids can come and play. It's a chance for you to connect with others who are experiencing the same ups and downs as you, to be supported, encouraged and cared for. Join us at Tamworth City Uniting Church from 10am-12noon on Thursdays in the Dunn Hall. Or at Tamworth Southside on Tuesdays 10am-12noon.

Yoga Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday mornings from 10am.

Aikido Karate

In recess during April. Recommencing 9 May.

Emmaus Board

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 4 April from 6pm.

Social Craft Group

Meeting in the Dunn Hall on Friday mornings from 8:30am.

Craft Group

Our craft group meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of the month at 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Bring along some craft, have a chat and a cuppa. Our next get-together will be on Friday, 5 April.

Lunch and DVD

Monthly lunch and DVD will be held on Friday, 5 April from 12noon. Gold coin donation for lunch. Phone Jim & Lorraine 6761 7371.

Farming Morning Tea

We are hosting a morning tea on Saturday, 6 April from 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Help with catering and just being there on the day.

Retreats

Kate & Richard Penrose are hosting retreats throughout 2019. Flyers are available at the back of the church. The first on Saturday, 6 April for a half-day 9am-12noon. Is spiritual rest something more than just taking a day off on Sunday? Come along & enjoy a morning set aside to rest in God's presence, & perhaps experience some new ways of reflecting on the bible and connecting with God. More courses coming. Contact 0429 43 556 or rkpenrose@gmail.com website: www.retreatchristianministries.com.au