



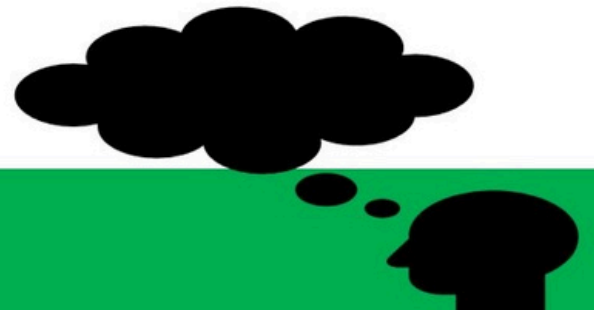
ILLAWARRA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A CHURCH ANYONE
CAN COME TO**

www.illawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au

February 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



Our focus recently has been the command that Jesus left the church in Matthew 28:19 'to go and make disciples'. To commit our time & resources to 'making disciples' we have to (1) believe it is important, (2) understand how it makes a positive difference in our lives and in the world, (3) be committed to our own personal discipleship journey, and (4) have some strategies to make it happen.

I encourage you to check out the various resources in this newsletter that can help you assess your own discipleship journey and develop some action steps to move forward.

Pastor Peter Watson

To subscribe to monthly email or get past copies of newsletter go to www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/newsletter/ or scan QR code



Soup Sunday

Stay after church this Sunday and join us for ***Soup Sunday***.

Our plan is to have Soup Sunday on the *1st Sunday in each month*.



Knit & Knatter



We are a group who get together to knit squares (to make warm wraps) for a not-for-profit called 'Wrap with Love'. Their wraps are distributed around the world to people in need, who have suffered trauma and live in extreme cold. Please come join us for a friendly catchup over morning tea even if you don't knit.

When & Where: Wednesday fortnights 10am-12 noon starting 5th February at Balgownie Hall in the CWA Room (where we have morning tea after church.)

Contact: Robyn 0402 460 795

ASSESS YOUR DISCIPLESHIP

In the language of our church we see 'discipleship' as faithfully growing in your relationship with Jesus in 5 areas.

Check out this video called 'Meaning of our Logo'.

Meaning of our logo

<https://youtu.be/WaqBI3QLiF4>



Below you will find a simple checklist for these 5 areas and suggested resources for areas you want to work on.

Grace-filled Welcome - our need to be unconditionally loved

You know what it means to have been accepted by Jesus because of what he has done for you.

- *Check out what the bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38-41.*
- *Talk with a church leader or your small group leader.*

You have fulfilled God's call to follow him in baptism.

- *Check out the following resources on baptism.*

Baptism



Scan or pick up a paper copy at the Resources Table or checkout

<https://www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/grow/>

You are connecting with others in the church in a way that you are forming close welcoming relationships.

- *Attend a bible study. See list later in newsletter.*

You are a person that is perceived as extending grace-filled welcome to others.

- *Read 'Love Languages' by Gary Chapman for ideas about how to love people more.*

Awe-struck Worship - our need for something greater than us

You have had experiences of being in awe of God. You have had deep encounters with God.

- *Do the 1:1 'Experiencing God' course with Pastor Pete.*

You know how God has wired you to worship him and regularly practice those pathways.

- *Reflect on passages that speak of worship such as Psalm 95:6.*

- *Read 'Sacred Pathways' by Gary Thomas.*

- *'Sacred Pathways' self-assessment via QR code or download at*

<https://www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Sacred-Pathways.pdf>



- *Sermon on 'Spiritual Pathways' via QR code or www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/sermons and look for 28th August 2022 Peter, Pathways to Worship, Connecting with God*



Joy-filled Wonder - our need to see God at work

You tell others about the good things God has done and is doing in your life and in your church family.

You ask others at church about what God has been doing in their life.

You keep a spiritual journal or record of your prayers so that you can see when God has answered a prayer.

You are part of a small group that shares how God is active in each others lives.

Life-transforming Word - our need for guidance

You have a regular bible reading or bible listening practice.

- Go to www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/grow/ and check out these videos:

How do I pray?

How do I read the bible in One Year?

How I study the bible?

- Find a bible reading plan at www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans/

If you are just starting I recommend the 5x5x5 New Testament Reading Plan.



To read the bible on your phone or to **listen** to your bible check out the **YouVersion Bible App** at <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>



You are part of a weekly bible study.

You are seeking to understand the bible in a deeper way.

- Check out the **Cover the Bible** course available at www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/grow/ or go straight to the playlist on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/33x72w95>



Kingdom-building Works - our need to make a difference

You are regularly praying for those who don't know Jesus to be open to experiencing Him.

- Check out the 'How and why to share the message of Jesus with others' at www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/grow/



You are serving in the church in a way consistent with your gifts and skills.

- Complete a **Church Task Survey** to indicate areas you would be willing to serve in. <https://tinyurl.com/5n94t43z>



You are seeking to deepen your capacity to love or serve others.

- Read or listen to one of these key books available from www.koorong.com and/or audible.com.au:
 1. Conspiracy of Kindness by Steve Sjogren
 2. The Kingdom of God is a Party by Tony Campolo
 3. How to Talk About Jesus by Sam Chan

GROUPS

DISCUSSION & GATHERING

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/activities



- **Experiencing God:** This is a one-to-one foundational course working Pastor Peter Watson, 0407278175.
- **Conversations.** Venues and times vary. Catherine Green 0427038640.
- **Monday 5pm:** Online women's study. Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- **Tuesday 2.00pm:** Bible Study. 9 Pendleton Close, Tarrawanna. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- **Tuesday 5pm:** Book discussion. Online. Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- **Wednesday:** Monthly Social Event. Venue and times vary. Brian Healy 0417296983
- **Wednesday 10am:** 'Knit & Knatter' fortnightly at Balgownie Village Community Centre, 113 Balgownie Rd. Robyn James 0402460795.
- **Wednesday 7.30pm:** Bible Study. 9 Pendleton Close, Tarrawanna. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- **Thursday 10am:** Women's Bible Study. Venue varies. Narelle Blue 0402032547.
- **Friday evenings:** Youth Group. Times and venue varies. Contact: Catherine Green 0427038640.
- **Friday / Saturday Evenings:** Visiting Tribute Bands in the area. Stephen Corry 0402892552
- **Sunday 10am:** Sunday Service. Venue: Balgownie Village Community Centre, 113 Balgownie Rd, Balgownie.
- **Sunday 12pm:** Sunday lunch at Corrimal Bowling Club, 43-47 Francis St, Corrimal.
- **Sunday 12pm:** Monthly Youth Pizza & Bible Study. Catherine Green 0427038640.

Groups may not meet every week or may change venues so check with the designated contact for current details. (Many have a break over Christmas.)

ROSTERS



Date	Speaker	Bible Reader	Communion	Prayer	Morning Tea	SUNDAY SCHOOL	Service Pickup Team
02/02/2025	Peter Watson	John Piper	Brian Healy	Stephen Corry	Robyn James	Bronwyn & Robyn	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies
09/02/2025	Peter Watson	Robyn James	Terry Blue	Steve Caskey	Raka / Tully	Sue & Raka	Pack-up Team 1: Youth
16/02/2025	Linda Watson	John Bilboe	Bruce Wilson	Peter Watson	Wilma Barker and Linda Watson	Anne & Narelle	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies
23/02/2025	Peter Watson	Catherine Green	Peter Watson	Terry Blue	Gillian Morgan & Joyce Jones	Sue & TBC	Pack-up Team 1: Youth
02/03/2025	Peter Watson	Gillian Morgan	John Bilboe	Youth video prayer	Margaret & John Bilboe	Helen & John	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies
09/03/2025	Peter Watson	Iwan Jones	Robyn James	Catherine Green	Dianne Kavanagh / Lorraine Graham	Sue & Bronwyn	Pack-up Team 1: Youth
16/03/2025	GUEST To be confirmed		Anne Trezise	John Piper	Robyn James	Robyn & Raka	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies
23/03/2025	Peter Watson	Dave Morton	Iwan Jones	John Bilboe	Sue & John Piper	Sue & Anne	Pack-up Team 1: Youth
30/03/2025	Peter Watson	Pat Langlands	Stephen Corry	Brian Healy	Raka / Tully	Narelle & TBC	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/about-rosters

LAUGHTER

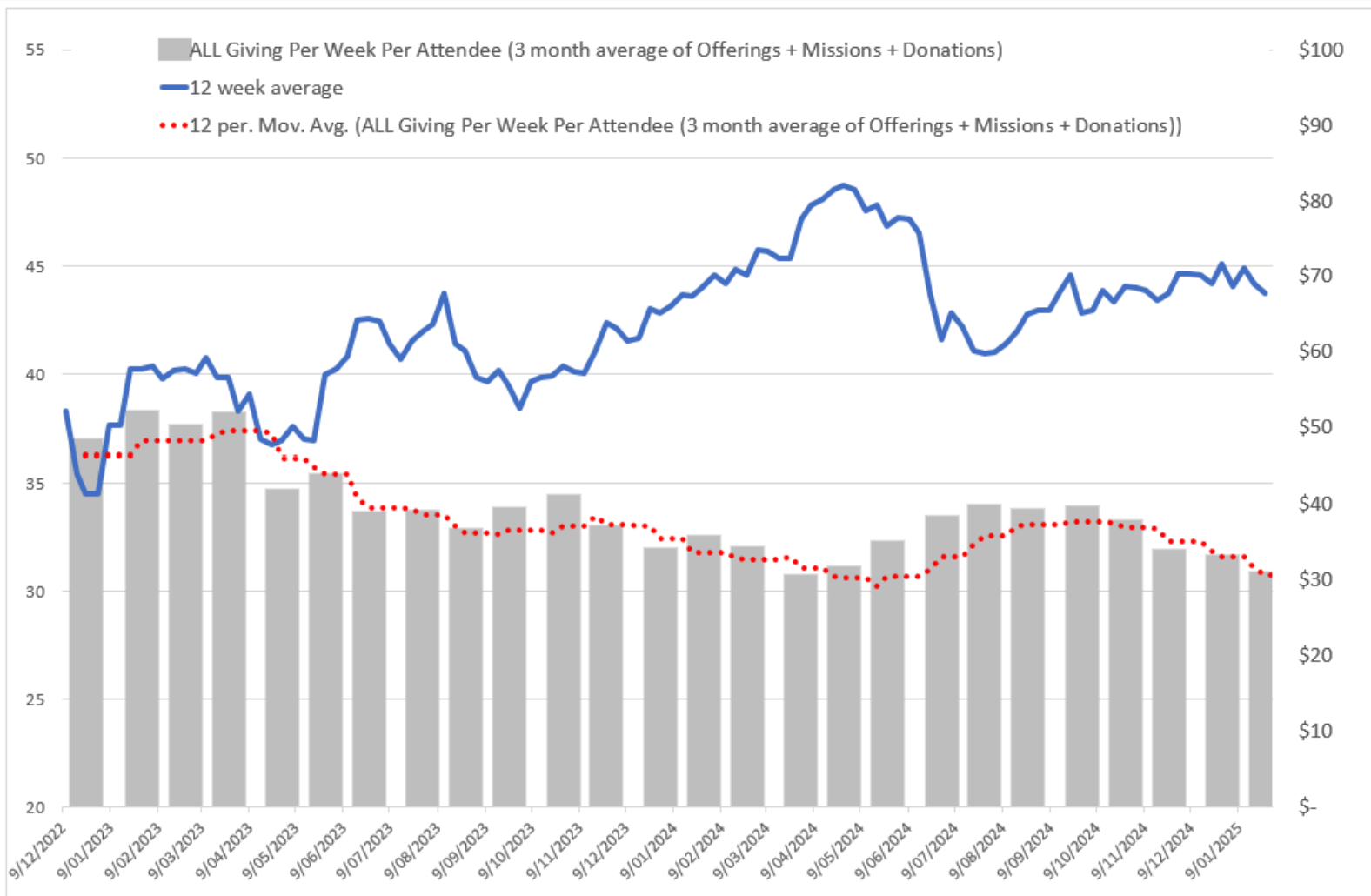


This month we have some more Prognosis Puns:

- Why did the window go to the doctor? It had a lot of pane.
- How did the cat know it was sick? It wasn't feline well.
- What do you call an alligator's nurse? Gator-aid.
- Why did I keep losing at hide and seek in the hospital? I always hid in the ICU.
- Why is everyone so sick of optometry puns? They keep getting cornea.

Jokes from <https://www.rd.com/article/doctor-jokes/>

CHURCH STATISTICS



RECENT SERMONS



Messages are available at

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/sermons.

If you'd like to listen on your phone then the
Podbean app by the QR code.

In the app search for 'Illawarra Church of Christ'
in the player.



PRAYER



PRAYER CHAIN

To be added to the church prayer chain send your name and mobile to Peter on 0407-278-175. The prayer chain is a list of people willing to be sent a text about important prayer issues.

LOCAL PRAYER

We are committed to working with and praying for other churches and ministries in the Illawarra:

This month we are praying for St John Vianney Co-Cathedral at 1 Cabbage Street, Fairy Meadow.

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

This month we are praying for Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Australia, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain & The Bahamas

From <https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar>



To learn and pray about the needs of Christians in persecution around the world you might like to check out:

Open Doors at www.opendoors.org.au

The Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com

Financial Support



One of the ways that regular church attendees support the work of the church is through their financial contributions. You can do this by:

- Giving cash during the offering time in the Worship Service.
- Giving online contributions via our bank account. The details are as follows: Bank Account Name: 'Northern Beaches Church of Christ'*; BSB: 112879; Account Number: 477353233

* Our bank account is still under our old church name.

Meaning of our logo

Our logo represents key ideas behind what we believe and are committed to as a church.

The colours represent that we are 'a church anyone can come to' because we are not all the same and accept people with different backgrounds, experiences and ideas.

Each triangle represents one of the 5 key practices we invite everyone into.

Grace-filled **Welcome** (Romans 15:7)

Awe-struck **Worship** (Psalm 95:6)

Joy-filled **Wonder** (Psalm 145:5-7)

Life-transforming **Word** (Romans 12:2)

Kingdom-building **Works** (Matthew 16:18)



ILLAWARRA

CHURCH OF CHRIST



Watch the 5W Explanation Video by scanning QR code or going to

<https://youtu.be/WaqBl3QLiF4>

Becoming a Church Member



Membership is open to all who have openly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9), and who support the church and regularly attend. We recommend that all follow the Bible's teaching and follow Christ in the waters of Believer's Baptism by immersion. (Information below.) Membership requires that you indicate you wish to be a member which can be done by completing the paper or electronic contact details form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqpPCI23gLrkPtnoDaQ24IhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

Contact details or updating contact details



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqpPCI23gLrkPtnoDaQ24IhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

There is also a paper version on the resources table. If you complete the paper version please give it to Pastor Peter Watson or John Piper.

Suicide & Mental Health Support Services



www.suicidepreventioncollaborative.org.au/assets/Suicide-Prevention/Where-to-go-for-Support-resource-portrait-2024-v1.jpg

KEY CONTACTS:



Pastor Peter Watson: 0407-278-175,

peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

Board Chairperson: Anne Trezise, 0434-350-913, anne@planningplus.net.au

Board Secretary & Treasurer:

John Piper, 0409-808-119, john@piperpiper.com.au

Board Members: Robyn James, 0402-460-795; Bronwyn Halpin, 0402-460-795

Mercy Ministries Coordinator: Catherine Green, 0427-038-640,
shimmerc1@hotmail.com