



**Hornsby
Uniting Church
News for
September 6, 2026**

***Our Vision: To grow together in
Christ and share His grace with
the Hornsby Community***

Reflections from Edwina O'Brien - a student minister at HUC

Rev Minh has kindly asked me to share some reflections about my journey so far as a student minister in placement at Hornsby Uniting Church.

It has now been about 4 months since I have connected in with the HUC community, including the Sau Faupula congregation and the Senal congregation.

I am very grateful to God and to my Formation Panel (the latter led by the Holy Spirit) for placing me here in this church community. I needed to learn about the behind-the-scenes workings of a church and a Church Council. I needed to learn about the challenges and joys a congregation faces when they have been surviving a long time without a Minister. I needed to learn about the ways in which God works in people's hearts, all the time, over and over again, in the most unexpected ways. I needed to learn that I can't fix everything all the time. I needed to see the reality of life in a nominally cross-cultural Christian community with three separate congregations.

God is teaching me about all these things, and more.

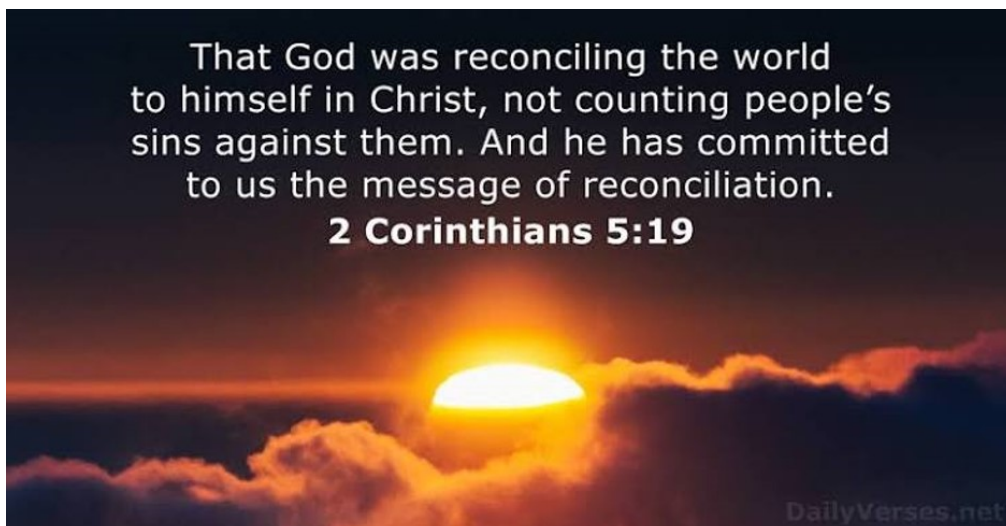
I have learned so much, already, from Rev Minh and from the experience of participating in worship with members of the church, especially on Sunday mornings at 9.30, where the majority of my time has been spent so far.

I have learned a lot also by sitting in on and observing meetings, and through my conversations with congregation members. I have seen how precious this church community is to the people of HUC.

One of the things that God has been teaching me is that God uses all of us as part of the Divine mission in the world. All people in the world are God's people. And we, as part of the body of Christ; the Church, have accepted God's invitation to participate in the Divine mission. What an honour! To somehow participate in the life of God, through Christ! >>>

That God was reconciling the world
to himself in Christ, not counting people's
sins against them. And he has committed
to us the message of reconciliation.

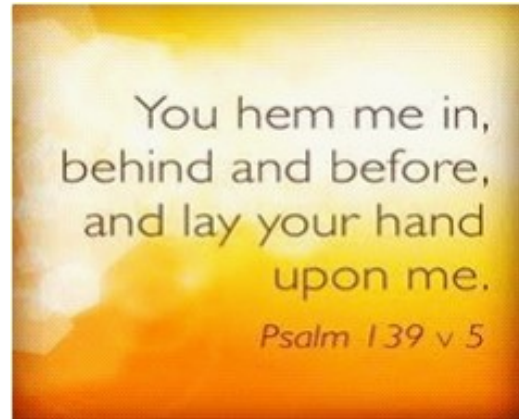
2 Corinthians 5:19



We don't have to figure out the way. Jesus is the way. If we look to Christ, we see the way.

God has taught me over and over again that the Holy Spirit is always ahead of us. *Always* one (or more) step ahead!

**"You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head".**
Or, in another translation ...



*It is God's will that
we
capture joy along
the journey.*



*And in capturing
joy,
we discover
God's will.*

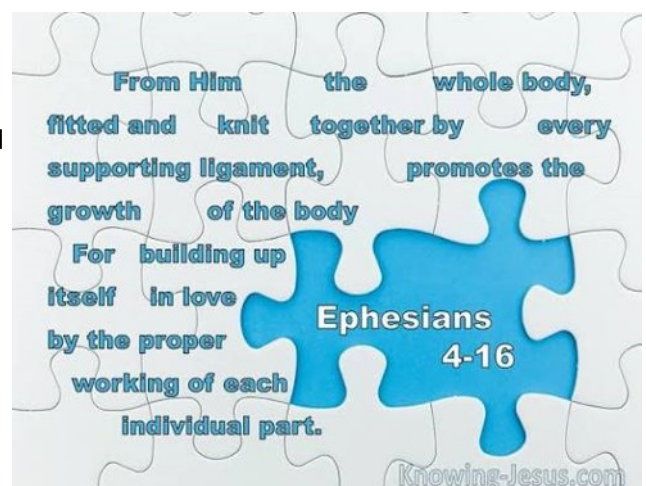
www.RearReleaseRegroup.com

At HUC, I am seeing how God uses humble, gentle people to encourage others. I have seen how God uses practical and hardworking people to get things done, like baking and doing the washing up. I have seen how God uses creative people to bring joy to others. I have seen how faithful people turn up to church on Sunday morning, even after a long shift at work or when they are feeling frail or unwell. All of this is participating in God's mission in the world.

As Paul writes to the Ephesians: “When we continue to serve and love one another in a Christ-like way, God makes the whole body fit perfectly together! How wonderful!”

I look forward to seeing what else God has in store for me, and for all of us, as members of Christ's body who need one another, and as a pilgrim people on the way.

Edwina.



From the desk of Rev. Minh Towner

Father's Day: A Time for Gratitude, Grace and Hope

*“The righteous **man** walks in his integrity;
His children **are** blessed after him.” - Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)*

Father's Day can stir many different feelings. For some, it is a day of joy and gratitude as they remember fathers who were steady, gentle, and wise. For others, it brings grief, regret, or the pain of relationships that were distant, complicated, or hurtful. Some carry the quiet ache of never becoming a father, while others remember fathers who have been gone for many years.

In all these experiences, Scripture offers comfort: *“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit”* (Psalm 34:18). God does not ask us to hide our joy or our sorrow; He gathers every story into His compassion.

I think of a woman who lost her father fifty years ago. She was only a child, too young to understand why the world suddenly felt colder or to name the ache that would follow her into adulthood. Over time, she learned that grief does not disappear; it changes. It grows quieter, but it never loses meaning. In each milestone—graduations, birthdays, weddings—there was still a shadow of longing. Yet she also discovered that love can outlive loss. Her father's memory became a blessing she carried, and a reminder of God's promise in Psalm 68:5: *“A father to the fatherless... is God in His holy dwelling.”*

I think also of a man who struggled with fatherhood. He loved his children deeply, yet often felt he was failing them—too tired, too unsure, too shaped by wounds he had inherited. He feared repeating old patterns. But grace met him in ordinary ways: in small apologies, in learning to listen, and in the courage to try again. He came to see that fatherhood is not measured by perfection but by presence. As Psalm 103:13 reminds us: *“As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him.”*

We also remember those who have not become fathers—some by choice, some by circumstance, and some through heartbreak. Their lives still carry tenderness, wisdom, and care that bless others. Scripture reminds us that our identity is never limited to the roles we have or have not held. God sees longing, honours it, and can expand it into spiritual fatherhood through mentoring, guiding, loving, and shaping lives in meaningful ways.

And for those who long to be fathers, whose prayers rise from both hope and ache, may you know that your waiting is seen by God. Your longing is not forgotten, and your desire for life, love, and new beginnings is held tenderly in His care.

This Father's Day, may we make room for every story—joyful, painful, complicated, and unfinished. May we give thanks for fathers and father figures who have reflected God's

love, and may we offer gentleness to those for whom this day is tender. Above all, may we rest in God's promise: *"I will be your God, and you will be my people"* (Leviticus 26:12). In Him, we all find belonging, healing, and hope.

My prayer on this Father's Day is that our loving God's presence will draw close to all who rejoice, all who grieve, and all whose hearts carry longing. May God heal what is wounded, bless what is good, and remind us that in God we are always loved, known, and held.

Grace & Peace to all on this Father's Day.

What is in the news?

As you are all aware, The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of New South Wales and the ACT, is transitioning from 12 previous presbyteries to three new regional presbyteries (Northern, Central, and Southern). They are: **Northern Presbytery**, **Central Presbytery**, and **Southern Presbytery**

A transition leader is appointed to each of the three regions to assist the transition process, taking their place accordingly.

1. Northern Presbytery

- **Region & Coverage:** Formed by merging the Far North Coast, Mid North Coast, New England North West, Hunter, and Sydney Central Coast regions. It spans from the Central Coast all the way up to the Queensland border.
- **Transition Leader:** Rev Graham Ghavalas Perry

2. Central Presbytery

- **Region & Coverage:** Formed by merging the previous Macquarie Darling, Parramatta Nepean, and Sydney presbyteries. It covers a massive area from Sydney's inner metropolitan suburbs out through the Greater West and deep into Western NSW (including Dubbo and Broken Hill).
- **Transition Leader:** Rev Ann Perrin

3. Southern Presbytery

- **Region & Coverage:** Formed by merging the Canberra Region, Georges River, Illawarra, and Riverina presbyteries. This covers southern Sydney, the South Coast, the Snowy Mountains, the ACT, and south-western agricultural hubs like Wagga Wagga and Griffith.
- **Transition Leader:** Rev Amy Junor

For Hornsby Uniting Church, we belong to **The Northern Presbytery**. A team of Northern Presbytery leaders will be announced once it is finalised. Meanwhile, a lot of mobilising work on the ground is underway for ministers, through workshops and meetings, to bring them up to speed on the Three Ps as they take shape.

If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to contact me:
(M) 0410 885 632 - Email: minister.hornsbyuc@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Corporate Prayer - 1st Sunday of the month – 9.00 am to 9.20 am in the Chapel.

Come and join your minister to pray for our church, our congregation members, the wider church, and the world.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Tuesday Bible Conversation – 10.00 am to 12.00 pm in the Chapel

Come join us for a friendly conversation on a variety of topics. Our last week's discussion topic was on “**Why does God allow natural disasters**”

Next week, Tuesday 8th September – NO BIBLE STUDY – Our social time

Tuesday 15th September – Bible study resumes.

We will look at the book of **Obadiah**: this is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It has 440 words (1 chapter, 21 verses). What can we learn from the story of Obadiah? I look forward to learning and growing with you through this study.



No matter what season of your life you are in. If you need a debrief, a listening ear, counsel, or simply a prayer, your minister is here for you.

For booking arrangements to have a confidential conversation with the minister. Please contact:

Rev. Minh Towner

Tuesday to Sunday

(M) 0410 885 632

Email: minister.hornsbyuc@gmail.com

YOUR GUIDE TO REGULAR EVENTS at the Worship & Activity Centre

Blue Bin

The Blue Food Bin is in the foyer or the office, for donations of non-perishable foods to be distributed to those in need.



Tai Chi (Movement for Missions)

8:45 - 9:40am Thursdays

A short time of gentle exercise led by experienced helpers.



Lunch at Magpies

(opposite Waitara railway)

Every Sunday after the service.

Get together for lunch and chat at Magpies.



Ladies Fellowship

2:00-4:00pm, 3rd Monday of month, Jan - Nov.

Play Mahjong

1:00 - 5:00pm Fridays

Play Mahjong for fun; for experienced players or come and learn the game.



Thursday Club

10:00am to Noon Thursdays

Social group for everyone... not just church folk! Morning tea, slides, games, carpet bowls, talks and craft. Invite your friends or neighbours!



Asquith Markets

Monthly on the fourth Saturday, corner of Royston Pde and Baldwin Avenue. Community event hosted by Asquith and Hornsby members; bring your money! Enjoy a coffee.

Carpet Bowls

1:30 - 3:30pm, 3rd Tuesday

Carpet Bowls for fun and fellowship!

