



PITTWATER UNITING CHURCH

pittwaterchurch.org



What we

BELIEVE

Our vision

Pittwater Uniting Church is a community of people being so transformed by Jesus Christ that we are compelled to share the loving, saving power of God.

**Engage,
Grow, Go.**

What sets Pittwater Uniting Church apart?

Pittwater Uniting Church is built on a foundation of faithful witness to the gospel established by the Uniting Churches of Mona Vale, Narrabeen and Elanora Heights. Out of their passion for Christ, and inspired creativity, a vision was born to create one, new church on the Northern beaches, one that would be home to a biblical community situated in an inspiring multi-purpose facility dedicated to “leading people to maturity in Jesus Christ”.

While Pittwater Uniting Church (PUC) is formed under the Uniting Church and that denomination’s *Basis of Union*, we possess a distinct voice and character within our denomination. Because many of our members were formed in other denominations, PUC has been influenced and nourished by many great traditions, particularly the Evangelical tradition, the Pentecostal tradition and the Justice tradition. Each tradition is a faithful expression of biblical truth and you will find their influence throughout the life of PUC. For this reason we are a people committed to the biblical cause of Christ, passionately trusting in the power and gifting of God’s Holy Spirit, believing that authentic love and justice must characterise all that we do.

Finally we recognise that our mission takes place in a dynamic and changing world. For that reason we seek to be a dynamic and changing church. We continually evaluate our areas and methods of ministry and seek to discover more effective ways to communicate and live out our faith. In all of this we believe that the head of our church is Jesus Christ who is actively transforming people and nations through His love and saving power.

What are our values?

We believe that God has called our church to three simple, yet profound, imperatives; to **engage** with our creator God and His creation, to **grow** in our life in Christ and to **go** into the world in love and service.



Worship driven

We are a church with a high priority on worshipping God.

We are a community which exists because of God (1 John 4:19). God's Son, Jesus Christ, is the head of our church (Ephesians 4:15) and everything we do is for his Glory. For this reason we place a priority on meeting together to worship God (1 Peter 2:4-5). We believe that worship is a response to all of life (Romans 12:1-2).

We are a church that values worship through music. We value excellence in music as a sign of our desire to honour God with the best that we have to offer (Psalm 33:3). Through music we aim to create an atmosphere in which the Holy Spirit is invited to move with power in our lives.

We are a church that values excellence in preaching. We believe the preached word changes lives, and we expect our preachers to be anointed by God and diligent in their preparation of sermons which are engaging, creative and biblically based.

Christ centred

We believe that Jesus is the unique Son of God and the Saviour of the world.

We believe that Jesus, through His death and resurrection, deals not only with the sin problem in our lives, but also empowers us to live a different quality of life NOW. We believe that, as followers of Christ, we are called to live lives that honour Him in our words and actions.

As part of the Uniting Church in Australia, we welcome the tension between charismatic (Spirit-empowered) and evangelical (Word-centred) theologies. Both are grounded in Scripture and both are vulnerable to temptations of excess. We live in this tension with grace and openness to God's truth, recognising that the Word of God is a living Word and that, while it can "master" us, none of us will ever exhaust, or fully understand, its teachings and implications. We seek, in humility, to submit ourselves to its authority.



Discipleship based

We are a church committed to making disciples.

We seek to provide opportunities to train and equip ourselves better as disciples of Jesus Christ. To this end, we are a church that encourages all members to grow in Bible knowledge through personal study and small group involvement, and to develop their gifts of service through programs designed for that purpose.

We are a church strongly committed to building an evangelising culture. We urge one another to be ready to share the good news with all people, as part of our call to witness and fulfil the Great Commission (1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 28:19-20). We seek to provide training to enable members to do this with increasing confidence.

Community focused

We are called to be a Kingdom community characterised by the love of Christ for the world.

Following the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, a new community was born that was committed to meeting one another's needs and breaking bread together in deep fellowship (Acts 2:47, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13). We believe welcoming newcomers, integrating them into the life of our church through friendship and hospitality is God's plan and call for every member of our church. We believe that spiritual growth and caring for one another happens best in small groups that meet regularly.

We are committed to the biblical principle that the ultimate work of the church is done by the whole people of God, not by the professional clergy or a few select lay people. Spiritual gifts exist to equip God's people for ministry, for the building up of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

We affirm that the task of the church staff includes exercising leadership by seeking God's direction for our church, maintaining a "big picture" view, keeping these core values before the people, casting the vision and encouraging the church to rise up and meet the challenge of its calling, giving regular attention to strategic planning for the future, investing in the development of new leaders for the future ministry of the church, and exercising pastoral care towards those in voluntary leadership positions.

While considerable decision-making power is given to individual leaders, all decisions of significance are over-sighted by the Church Council and, ultimately, the congregation. The Church Council exists to oversee the whole mission of the church, including the pastoral care and nurture of members.

Purpose driven

We are a church that believes each and every believer has a contribution to make to the cause of Christ.

Membership is not viewed as an end in itself, but as a pilgrimage that leads towards unreserved discipleship and higher levels of Christian maturity.

We expect members to fulfil the biblical call and to:

- meet together regularly at church services to encourage one another (Hebrews 10.25);
- give diligent attention to developing a personal spiritual life by Scripture reading, prayer and other spiritual disciplines;
- know their spiritual gifts and exercise them on behalf of the Body of Christ;
- make a difference in the world through Christ-like service; and
- give generously to support the work of the church.

We encourage all members to belong to a small group for encouragement and accountability, and to seek guidance in finding areas of ministry in which they can participate.





Compassion filled

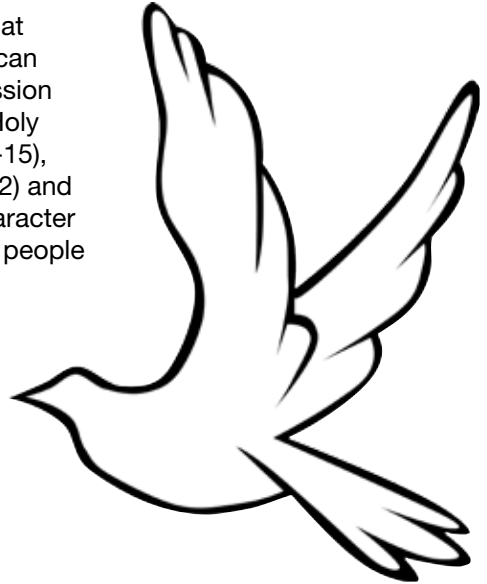
We are a church called to love our neighbour.

Love and compassion towards the people of this world are key characteristics of Jesus' life (John 13:1, Matthew 9:36) and Christians are commanded to relate to people with that same love and compassion (Mark 12:31). We believe God calls us to love regardless of race, creed, class, colour or geography (Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 10:25-37). However, we also recognise that such powerful, world-changing love only comes from God (1 John 4:7) and will only be a consistent characteristic of our church as we open up our lives to the love and compassion of Christ (1 John 4:12).

Holy Spirit led

We are a church that is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We are a church that seeks the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We believe that without the power of the Holy Spirit we can never be effective in our service and mission in the world (Acts 1: 8). We believe the Holy Spirit leads people into truth (John 16:5-15), gifts people for ministry (1 Corinthians 12) and develops in people the fruit of God's character (Galatians 5:22,23). We will seek to help people discern and affirm their gifts for ministry.



Reaching out

We are a church that seeks to have a real influence in the wider church and the wider world of human need.

As transformed followers of Jesus, we will resist the temptation to focus only on ourselves. We believe Christ has blessed us in order to be a blessing to others. The struggles of congregations in our land and overseas are our struggles as well. We need to be informed about local and world events, and will seek to address them prayerfully and with whatever resources are available to us. We recognise, and affirm, that the gospel is shared, not just by our words but by our actions, and to this end we encourage our people to minister to others sacrificially in the name of Jesus, and to be active in the pursuit of justice and peace for all.

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