Our Common Life

Blackall Range Uniting Churches

Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods

Sepember 1 2019

We extend a sincere welcome to everyone. If you are visiting with us, please let us get to know you after the service. Morning tea is served in the Hall.

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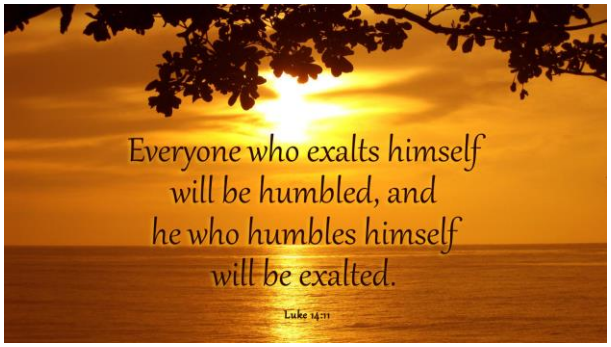

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Services Today

COMBINED SERVICE AT PALMWOODS 10.00am IN COMMUNITY GARDEN.

Rev Bruce Johnson & Postor Kay Nixon & Rev George Woodward

Note: No services at Maleny or Montville

Readings (Pentecost 22)

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1 10-16,

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1,7-14

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Services Next Week September 8

Montville	8.15am	Rev Ron Potter **HC**
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Graham Dempster **HC**
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Ron Potter **HC**

Readings (Pentecost 23)

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6,13-18,

Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

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The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Tuesday September 3rd

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday September 4th

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday September 5th

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday September 6th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486
8.30am MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

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Uniting in Christ | acting with love | living with hope| witnessing in faith | working for justice

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Self-addiction

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Luke 14:1, 7-14;

You know the story of Narcissus? It comes from ancient Greek mythology and involves a young man who rejects the love of others and falls in love with his own self-image. It gives rise to the term narcissism, an unhealthy form of self-love. As with all mythological stories, it touches on something deeper than mere story. It points to something endemic in human life, something that we are aware of today just as people were two and a half thousand years ago.

As a race and as individuals, we are capable of falling in love with ourselves, with our abilities and achievements. We think that we can do whatever we want to do; we have no need of God for direction. In our arrogance, we push God aside and centre everything on ourselves, our wants, our desires. The most pervasive and persistent addiction in a world full of addictions is this addiction to Self.

Over and over again the Old Testament tells us of God's chosen people substituting their own self-centred decision-making for God's will and purpose. Instead of trusting God fully and completely, they went after other gods. As Jeremiah 2:13 says, they abandoned the plentiful source of life-giving water to rely on tanks that leaked. A temptation that is with us still.

We think that we know better than God does; a destructive form of self-love, an addiction to the glorification of Self. But the way of Jesus is not like this. Instead of thinking of ourselves more highly that we ought to think, we, as his followers, are to live humbly, recognizing always God's superior wisdom and ordering. It's God's world; not ours. And basic to this is love.

Humility is not our own achievement, something to pride ourselves for. The way of humility is the way of love, love that cares about others in reflection of the care and concern that God has for every one of us. This leaves no room for feelings of superiority such as Jesus criticized in the Pharisees of his time.

- What are some ways in which people push God aside in favour of Self?
- Instead of trusting God, the ancient Israelites turned to Baal, the god of fertility and prosperity. What gods or pseudo-gods do people today turn to?
- "The way of humility is the way of love": what other ways to humility do people try?
- What is 'spiritual superiority' and how does it show itself?

Rev Ron Potter **Piula Publications**

TODAY WORSHIP SERVICE, 10am at PALMWOODS COMMUNITY GARDEN.
(Note: No services on 1st September at Maleny or Montville)

MEN'S GROUP
Our next gathering is at **lunchtime** (from noon) on **Thursday 12th September at the Amphitheatre** when John Bock will give us a demonstration of Camp Oven Cooking. Hence, there is no need to bring any food as we will be dining on John's expertly cooked provisions. Come along for lunch and to socialise in good company. All men are welcome, so spread the word.

THE GIFT OF A BOOKMARK
Would you like to donate a bookmark(s) of your choice to be given to our Indian girls? The group soon to be visiting North India will personally deliver the bookmarks. There are collection boxes in Maleny and Montville churches.
Opportunity ends Sunday **15th September**.
Some suggestions: Australian places, animals, birds, plants, Blackall Range places, something cute or with a "meaningful message" that would appeal to girls approximately 5 to 15 years old.
Any enquiries to 5494 2238, Barbara (on behalf of Maleny Ladies Friendship Group)

VOLUNTEER IN THE OUTBACK
Frontier Services has 19 volunteer opportunities available supporting those living in rural and remote Queensland. Can you help?
Case study 1: This young family have called out for help. Their youngest child is too young to go out mustering with the rest of the family. Can you help with child-minding for a couple of weeks in January 2020?
Case study 2: Two sisters, both almost 90, need help with some gardening, cooking or cleaning.
Please give us a call on 1300 787 247 and speak with either Barry or Michelle!

LADIES FRIENDSHIP
For the October Ladies Friendship morning, we will be doing a craft activity using old Christmas and Birthday Cards. Could you please bring some old cards for us to use and drop them into the shoebox in the hall? Thank you in anticipation.

LINDY CHAMBERLAIN-CREIGHTON EVENT
As an outreach initiative, we have secured Lindy Chamberlain for a speaking event at 2pm on Sun Oct 6th . All are welcome - spread the word to friends & family ! Volunteers are also sought to assist the organisers with baking for tea beforehand, and seating setup / parking marshalling on the day – contact either Annie (0438123306) or Jan (0418115933)
There is no charge for tickets (other than a small ticketing fee) however bookings are essential via https://www.trybooking.com/BEXTQ

PRAYER & MEDITATION
'SOIL & SOUL' – (Palmwoods Community Garden) on Friday mornings at 8am. All welcome.
Guided Gardening at 7am each Saturday morning (weather permitting). Will be 8am when weather cools down.

REFLECTION GALLERY
The display of paintings by indigenous artist, Jasmine Davies, are now in place in the Montville Church, and you are invited to call in any day between 10 and 3 to view them. Twelve pieces present themes such as The Ten Commandments, The Death of Christ, Jonah and the Whale together with Blessing of Family (No matter how big or small, how close or how far away, we will always be there for each other), Sweet Yams (Don't forget to share) and One Mob (We are all God's children). Take time to let the paintings speak. Let God speak through the paintings.

WALK ON COUNTRY - The Queensland Synod will host a series of Walk on Country events on North Stradbroke Island during Oct. This experience represents a fantastic opportunity to build relationships with First People communities and provide a doorway into developing and introducing Indigenous theology.
The first event will run **7–8 Oct**, the **second will run 20–21 Oct**, with a maximum of 20 attendees for each event. The total cost for each event is $575 per person, significantly reduced compared to other visitations throughout Queensland. To register or for more information, contact Natalie Lewis or Erin Mawhinney, Project Officer via email. natalie.lewis@ucaqld.com.au

LITTLE LIGHTS MUSIC-- Every **Monday mornings** from **9.15am – 11.15am** Little Lights Music has small group music instruction class at Maleny Church. Contact: Belinda McEachern bel@littlelightsmusic.com.au Mob: 0420 788 173

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