

Blackall Range Uniting Churches



Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods
Uniting in Christ | Acting with love | Living with hope | Witnessing in faith | Working for justice

March 22 2020+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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.



Today: Services, Prayers and Readings

Montville 8.15am Maleny

9.00am 9.45am

Palmwoods 10.00am 1.00pm

Revs R Potter & G Woodward Prayers in prayer room Rev Bruce Johnson Pastor Kav Nixon Tongan Service

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Mark 9:2-10

Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41 >>>>>>>>>>>>

Next Sunday: Prayers and Readings

There will be a fellowship of reading, reflection & prayers at 3pm in Maleny UC Garden Ampi-theatre

> Ezra 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Mark 10:32-45 Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

>>>>>>>>>>>>> The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over) Tuesday March 24th

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661 9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday March 25th

Christian Meditation 5435 8152 8.30am

Thursday March 26th

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday March 27th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

Blackall Range Uniting Churches acknowledge the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi / Gubbi Gubbi peoples who are the traditional owners of this land.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Light of the World

Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1 -7, 35-41, Mark 9:2-10

Seeing is more than a function of the eyes and brain. What we see and how we see it involves our past experience, our upbringing, our hopes and desires, attitudes acquired from the surrounding culture in which we live, our imagination and expectation. But one thing that seeing does require is light.

When we are called "children of the light" (Ephesians 5:8), it is because the light of God that shines in everyone (John 1:4-5), the light that was in the world and through whom creation came into existence (John 1:10), has shone into our lives through Jesus who is the light of the world (John 9:5). And who is Jesus? How do we view him? How we view him depends upon all those things that are involved in any act of seeing.

For some, this means that they only see him as a threat, as a fake or as a joke. Others see him as founder of a religion, great teacher, miracle-worker or moral example. But children of the light see him as God's Son, the light of the world. As with Peter, James and John (Mark 9:2-10), something has to give them a radically different way of seeing him. For those three on the mountain, it was a visionary experience, but however it happens it is by the power of God's own Spirit that our eyes are opened to see him as truly human, yet truly divine.

As the sun gives physical light and life to planet Earth, the Son gives spiritual or eternal light and life to those who are open to it. By faith we see what others cannot see and by faith we respond, as plants respond to sunlight, to the light of God shining out through Jesus.

- Take for example some object say a stick of celery or a wheelchair - and reflect on what influences come to bear upon the way you see those objects.
- What influences your view of Jesus?
- What does the 'light of the world' image say to you about Jesus?
- What of Christ does faith enable us to see that others cannot see?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

COVID-19. Confusion. Uncertainty. Panic. Anxiety. Fear. Unknown waters. As we charter unknown waters, may Martin Luther's meditation "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague", bring encouragement to us:

I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbour needs me however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a Godfearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.

Also Paul's prayer in 2 Thessalonians: "¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."

Because He lives we can face today and tomorrow!! Shalom Liena

MNC Women's' House

We have in the past supported the *Maleny Neighbourhood Centre Women's House*. A booklet of their work the past 18 months is available in pdf @MB). Please contact Jing should you wish to receive a copy. 14 women and 11 children have been assisted in the past 15 months and they continue to look for support.

Thursdays in Black

The Thursdays in Black badges have arrived. If you wish to participate in this public witness please get your badges at the church office. \$5 donation towards MNC Women's House.

COVID-19 Letter & Protocol

Please read the accompanying letter and protocol regarding our way forward.

Easter 2020+ Services

Opportunities for fellowship for Good Friday & Easter Sunday will be advised.

The Tenebrae Service is cancelled.

REFLECTION GALLERY

The current display features pictures of women in the Bible painted by Rev. Geraldine Wheeler.

The Montville Church is open daily 10 till 3 for prayer and meditation aided by these paintings. **Open 10 to 3.00 each day**.

PRAYER & MEDITATION

'SOIL & SOUL' – (Palmwoods Community Garden) on Friday mornings at 7.45 – 8.15 am. All welcome. **Guided Gardening** at 7.00 am each Saturday morning (weather permitting). Will be 8.00 am when the weather cools down.

CALLING CLEANERS

Calling people who wish to help cleanintg the churches at Maleny, Montville & Palmwoods during this time. Please contact Rev Liena.

OFFERING ONLINE BANKING

Due to health advice about avoid to using cash. Blackall Range Churches recommend to our church members stop handling cash altogether, and use online banking instead. Our banking is with ANZ Beerwah. Account name: Blackall Range Uniting Church, BSB No. 014-507, Account No. 3762 29735.

PILATES

Mat Pilates with Pilates Platform every Friday morning 9.15am. Take the stress out of health with this gentle on the joints, breath and posture focussed strengthening exercise program. Please contact Bec for bookings and information; bec@pilatesplatform.com.au or 0421983321.

>>>>>>>>> OFFERINGS can be Direct Debited through the ANZ Bank. BSB 014-507 A/c 3762 29735.

Ministry Contacts:

Minister Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874

minister@ourcommonlife.org.au

(Friday is her off day)

Church Office: Jing Wang 5429 6995

Hours: Tuesday 9 am to 12 noon

Thursday 9 am to 12 noon

Email: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

Palmwoods Pastor Kay Nixon

kaynxn43@gmail.com

0412 539 020 Siale Lolohea 0436 463 538

BRUC Chair: Peter Callaghan 0458 263 322

Internet: http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au/

Notice Sheet: Contributions requested before

10am Wed:

admin@ourcommonlife.org.au



Maleny Uniting Church, Montville Uniting Church, Palmwoods Uniting Church



Blackall Range UC - COVID-19 Statement

Dear members,

Peace be with you! We are overwhelmed with information about the Coronavirus. In this topsy-turvy time we need to ensure that we pause, daily, to take a deep breath, gain perspective and commit the pandemic to God.

By now you may have heard that the QLD Synod has made a decision to cease all Worship Services from this weekend. We would like to inform you of what will happen within BRUC.

A gathering will be conducted this coming Sunday 22 March, at the usual times at all three Worship Centre's: Maleny (led by Rev Bruce Johnson); Montville (led by Rev Liena) and Palmwoods (led by Pastor Kay).

The purpose of these meetings is to explain 'where to from here' in terms of future communications, small groups (eg. Connect Groups, Meditation, Easter Services and other regular meetings) and COVID-19 protocols for future activities.

We are in unprecedented times and other countries like Italy, Spain and China represent the significance of the impact this virus has when left unchecked.

Our approach continues to –

- Be Calm
- Be Cautious
- Use Common Sense,
- Care for others, and
- Commit to Prayer.

Look forward to seeing you on the weekend.

Shalom Rev Liena & Peter Callaghan

March 19th 2020

BRUC COVID-19 PROTOCOL

The Blackall Range Uniting Church will continue to support members, small groups and gatherings in the Maleny, Montville and Palmwoods Churches. That said, we would like to ensure that with any gathering of people we take all necessary precautions with personal hygiene and safety of yourself and other.

Our approach continues to be – Calm, Caution, Common Sense, Care for others, and Commit to Prayer.

The following guidance provides some hints do this:

Exclusions: If you are not well or feel uncomfortable to participate, please exclude yourself from the activity. Should you be involved and showing symptoms of illness, you may be asked to 'go home'. Pease don't be offended as the person asking is only looking after the members of the group.

Social Distance: This term has become known during this pandemic. Social distance means keeping a reasonable distance from others when participating in a group activity. The usual 'rule of thumb' is 1.5 metre's between people.

Personal hygiene: Given the nature of the coronavirus, there are additional measures that our congregation members should take.

Greeting and farewelling people: We often shake hands or even hug and kiss. These instances provide an opportunity for transmission of the virus. It is recommended that handshaking and hugging be suspended at this time to minimise the possibility of infection.

People should be reassured that it is alright to refuse this kind of contact, and that a smile, nod and a friendly greeting and especially the use of the other's name are sufficient.

Handling of money: Those involved in collecting and counting money should wear gloves to protect themselves from infection.

Giving: Where possible, we encourage members of our congregation to make offerings and tithes by direct debit deductions or cheque. If you need assistance, ask a family member or church council member to assist.

Sharing of food: Seek to limit risk for those who may be vulnerable to the virus. Before serving food wash hands thoroughly with hand detergent.

Sanitising: We will endeavour to provide hand sanitiser. However, products are in limited supply. The advice is that soap and water is best to use.

Cleaning: We encourage people to ensure that cleaning at home (when hosting a small group) and when using Church facilities is undertaken with health and hygiene as a focus.

We provide the following advice:

- Use disposable cleaning cloths or regularly washing/changing micro-fibre cloths after use,
- Ensure tea towels are washed after use,
- Don't re-use cloths across multiple surfaces,
- Use a general cleaner with a disinfectant,
- Use a diluted bleach solution on high touch point surfaces such as door handles, light switches, desks, toilets, taps and sinks etc. or where appropriate,
- Allow rooms to be exposed to sunlight and be well ventilated.

Care for others: Because our congregation has an ageing demographic, the potential risks are very serious, and while there will be lockdowns in nursing homes, we need to ensure that those at home are well supported.

Phone calls (texts and emails where appropriate) are to be encouraged. Pastoral carers may be required to make regular phone calls to those who are either self-isolating or who are infected or those who are isolated. Please look after the well-being of the members of your congregation.

Connection with your community: More than anything else, now is the time to look after one another, neighbourhood and wider family especially though phone, message and social media contact. If you or a member of our congregation is struggling, contact Rev Liena (M:0490421874) or contact Lifeline on 13 43 57.

Prayer: Continue to pray for each other, and widen your prayers to include other congregations, health workers, personal carers, our aged-care communities and civic leaders. Remember also other nations especially those where health care resources are thin on the ground. Give thanks for those who have identified the virus and those who are researching and developing a vaccine for this virus.

Shalom Rev Liena & Peter Callaghan

20 March 2020+.