Our Common Life

Blackall Range Uniting Churches

Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods

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

June 21 2020+

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are continuing to publish our weekly Notices.
Please stay connected with us.
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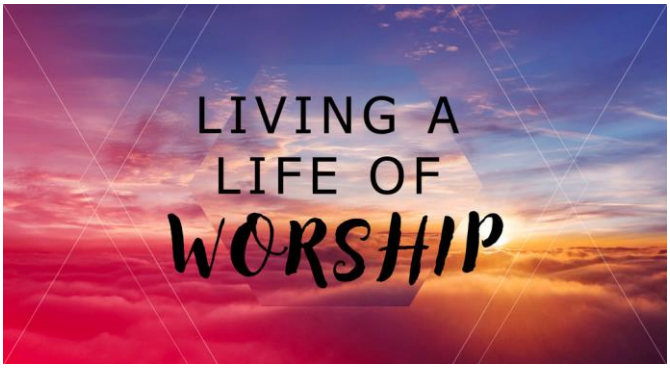

Services: Service, Prayers and Readings

Catch up on our E-Services under E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page: www.ourcommonlife.org.au

This Sunday 21st June
we will be joining thousands
of other members and follow the
Moderator's UCA Anniversary message
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-17; John 15:1-8;
Genesis 12:1-921:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10,16-17;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
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Next Sunday 28thJune
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
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The Week Ahead

Wednesday Meditation at 8:30 am is now running again subject to the public safety regulations.

Wednesday June 24th – Cuppa Conversation
Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa Conversations

Thursday June 25th
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995
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Blackall Range Uniting Churches acknowledge the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi / Gubbi Gubbi peoples who are the traditional owners of this land.
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UCA Anniversary Service
Our life together, blessed to be a blessing
Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-17; John 15:1-8.
The youtube link for the service is:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPIwEdc-SGg&feature=youtu.be.
The website pages is:
https://ucaqld.com.au/coronavirus/video-worship-services/

(Note: I am not summarising the moderator's message, but merely noting the readings and theme to help orientate ourselves)

However, I do invite you ponder and reflect upon what does it means to *you* personally to be a member or friend of the UCA, and to BRUC to be a congregation within the UCA. Every word *Uniting Church of Australia*, has meaning and significance.

The Basis if Union, between the Congregationalists the Methodists and Presbyterians, was agreed upon in 1977, 43 years ago. This decision was of-course preceded by decades of theological discussions and debates between the churches on many issues, but "the basic question on each issue was to be: *what belongs to the true and full life and faith of the church?"*(*Theology of Pilgrims* p 8).

I invite you to ponder this question with regard to two issues: W*orship* and *Witness* .

Worship: *What* do we understand by worship? For example, glorifying and praising God; prayer; sharing of sacraments; fellowship of the believers. *How* do we worship, can we worship differently? For example, worship services, meditation, KYB, connect groups, prayer meetings, etc.

Witness*: What* do we understand by witness? What is our identity, purpose and role as witnesses of Christ and the Gospel? *How* do we enact that, become that? In other words, what is it that we as the UCA should be doing? What should we be keeping ourselves busy with, spending our time and money on?

Conversation: We have been encouraging one another the past few months to talk about our future, about a possible "new normal". Let us continue the conversation.

Our life together, blessed to be a blessing! Shalom
Liena

Our Absolute Priority

Matthew 10:24-39

Mark Twain is reported to have said that it's not the parts of the Bible that I don't understand that worry me; it's the parts that I do understand. There are passages that make us squirm, and we try to deflect their sharp point away from us. Like this passage. It was addressed to the disciples as Jesus sent them out to visit towns and villages all around the country, but within it lies a clear demand for us all.

It is that the reign of God on earth has an absolute claim upon us. No quibbling, no watering down the message. God must have first place in our loyalties. Jesus brings this out by saying that God's reign must take precedence even over the most sacred of family ties and obligations. There are times when this might bring sharp division. There are times when this might find us standing alone against even those that we are close to.

It takes courage to stand up for the oppressed in the midst of a red-neck society. It takes guts to stand in solidarity with indigenous people when big business is promising more jobs and economic prosperity for the country. But don't be afraid. God is with you all the way. God cares deeply for you.

That is the message. It might mean walking humbly with God in the midst of a careless or atheistic community. It might mean being misunderstood or maligned, making sacrifices, being shunned or isolated. But Jesus speaks to us as to those disciples about to set out on their mission. He says not to fear those who kill the body, rather fear those who can destroy the whole purpose and intention for life.

- How reasonable is it for God to demand absolute priority?
- What stops us doing this? Putting God's will first.
- It has been said that only if we put God above family, do we have anything special to contribute to the family. What do you think of this?
- Can you think of people who have stood up for God's ways of peace, justice and righteousness against popular opinion?

Rev Ron Potter ***Piula Publications***

STAGE 2 REOPENING

- Small Groups, up to 20 people, recommence (in public places and places of Worship)
- Communion gathering (up to 20 only) at the Church building on the first Sunday of the month
- Small Groups in a home (up to 20 visitors + household)
- Pastoral visiting, Visiting one and other within the 150 km travel restriction
- Funerals (up to 50 mourners), Weddings (up to 20 people)
- Re-establish Hall hire for groups up to 20

REFLECTION GALLERY

The Cross is central to our Gospel. The new display in the Montville Church by Laura McDade, entitled Cross Closeups, presents photographic images featuring the cross.
Open each day 10 till 3. A place for quiet prayer and reflection.

SMALL GATHERING FOR REFLECTION

10 am Palmwoods Uniting Church, Sunday 21st June
Please RSVP to Kay as we have limited numbers.
(Social distancing required & there will be No Morning Tea) Contact No. 0412 539 020

Memorise our Corona-Cs; there are now 10!.

Calm – be calm.
Cautious – be cautious.
Common sense – use your common sense.
Care – take care of yourselves and others.
Commit – commit the COvid-19 pandemic to prayer.
Candle – Light the COVID-19 prayer-candle at 7pm (19:00) in your window every night as a symbol of hope.
Connect – remember to connect with one another.
Communicate – talk to someone.
Cuppa Conversations - follow our Cuppa Conversations on-line, or have one of your own.
Community – reach out to someone in the community

STUDY ON HOLY SPIRIT

All are invited to join, individually or in groups the 7 week study on the Holy Spirit based on the Nicene Creed. Resources are available on the website and BRUC FB page. Please contact the church office if you cannot access the resources.

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OFFERINGS Kindly remember to continue to give make your weekly/monthly offerings. They can be Direct Debited through the ANZ Bank, BSB 014-507 A/c 3762 29735.

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<u>Ministry Contacts</u>:

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BRUC Chair: Peter Callaghan 0458 263 322
Internet: http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au
Notice Sheet: Contributions requested before 10 am Wed. admin@ ourcommonlife.org.au

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