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

August 16 2020+

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Our Common Life is our weekly Notices
Please stay connected with us.
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Services: Service, Prayers and Readings

Montville: 8:15 am
Maleny: 9:45 am
Palmwoods: 10 am

Prayer meeting at Maleny at 9:00am at the church

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

This Sunday 16th August
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 45:1-5; Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15(10-20) 21-28
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Next Sunday 23rd August
Prayers and Readings
Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
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The Week Ahead

Tuesday August 18th
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

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

Cuppa Conversation Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa Conversations

Thursday August 20th
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995
9.30-11.30am Ladies Friendship Group

Friday August 21st
1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

Matthew 28 vs 19
"And baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"

"And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father (and the Son),
and with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified.

The Holy Trinity remains a mystery.
But it is not a mystery to be uncomfortable with,
but one to celebrate.

Gregory of Nanzianus once wrote:
"I cannot think on the one
without quickly being encircled
by the splendour of the three;
nor can I discern the three
without being straightway carried back to the one"

And Herman Bavinck wrote:
"I believe in the mysterious someone
who is close to me,
who is within me,
who sees my pitiful struggling and wrestling, and
who then quietly holds me and unseeingly
renews me again with inner strength.

I experienced it many times in my life
when I sink and get swept away
by the streams of life
which draw me under.

But I have also in definitive moments in my life
experienced that I am picked up
and carried high above the water.

There were times when I opened my Bible
and each word sounded dull and boring.
But I also experienced moments
when the words jumped out to me,
glistening and filling my life.

And every time I am convinced again
that Someone must be inside me
Someone that holds me,
Someone who enfolds me, softly yet firmly
I believe in the Holy Spirit."
(JH Bavinck – loosely translated)

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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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God the Healer

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

At a time of pandemic when health and healing is given priority in public policy, let's be reminded that God is not only the Creator but also the Restorer of creation. The healing activity of Jesus point us to God as the great healer. The Book of Ecclesiasticus in the Apocrypha of the Old Testament has a section in chapter 38 where this is clearly expressed, and the doctor is seen as a servant of God. This theme of God as healer is relevant to us on both a personal and on a world-wide level.

When the gospels say that the people whom Jesus healed were victims of demonic forces, don't just dismiss this as the mistaken view of a pre-scientific age. It indicates that illness and disability are opposed to God's good ordering of things, and that God wants healing. God works toward wholeness whether it be physical, mental, spiritual – or communal.

Through Jesus, God initiated a process of healing for the human race. Humanity is sick. It suffers from sin sickness. It does not flourish with the health that God wants for it. However, the joyful message is that, through Jesus, God brings healing. The message is for all people everywhere. It is open to all who in faith open themselves to God's healing and restorative activity. As the last chapter of the Bible puts it, the leaves on the tree of life are for the healing of the nations.

- Faith is an important part of the story in Matthew 15:21-28. Whose faith? Why was it important?
- What is the relationship between God's healing activity and medical services?
- How is humanity's ill-health made evident?
- How is God's healing activity made evident?

Rev Ron Potter ***Piula Publicat***

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.

LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Thursday 20th August 2020 9.30-11.30am

Come one come all for a morning of fun & inspiration led by Jing and her friend. They will encourage us to learn simple Tai Chi movements to incorporate into our daily schedules.

Attendees will be invited to reminisce about sport and / or exercise in our past or present lives.

MEN'S GROUP

It is time to come out of hibernation, so we propose to restart next **Thursday (20th August)** from noon at Baroon Pocket Dam, via Nth Maleny Road. All men are welcome. Casual BBQ (BYO) but please also bring you own chair to ensure the required physical distancing.

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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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NEW VINE

It's that time again and I am calling for articles for the next edition of *The New Vine.* We will not look specifically at the virus this time round, but if there is something you'd like to share about it, that will be fine. This edition will focus on our responses to the questionnaire on the future of our church. Many responses identified community involvement as important, so, it would be great if we could identify all the things we are currently involved with in our various communities. So, please start writing. It doesn't have to be long, just about what we are each doing - membership of this club/organisation or that; it may be driving for someone; a garden club etc - whatever you do - so please a couple of sentences will do. But, importantly, it will help shape our future.

The deadline is c.o.b. Sunday, 30 August - grandar@bigpond.net.au or by handing them to me sometime. Many thanks in advance of an avalanche. Graham.

FRONTLINE WORKERS DURING COVID-19

Our frontline workers are, in many senses, the backbone of the wellbeing of our community. They provide care in times of emergency, support to the elderly and the disadvantaged and pastoral support in times of grief. But during COVID-19, the role of the frontline worker is more important than ever.

I have heard and read stories over the course of the past week of workers being abused by members of the public, simply for trying to do their job. While it is unfortunate that members of the public might have to wait hours to get a test or see a doctor, this is the environment in which we live. I can come up with a number of adjectives for this abuse, but let's call it "unproductive".

We have also seen the impact that COVID-19 is having upon the aged care industry in southern states like Victoria. Community transmission has meant that many of these facilities have been forced to shut down, with some facing terrible situations which have involved deaths of residents. We had a situation in Queensland last week which could have ended disastrously, had it not been for the vigilance and hard work of the frontline workers.

Know that the entire church is praying for you.

We thank you for continuing to make sacrifices every day to protect the broader community.

God bless,

Rev David Baker ---- Uniting News

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Ministry Contacts:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874 minister@ourcommonlife.org.au

Church Office: Jing Wang 5429 6995

Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9 am to 12 noon

Email: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

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Siale Lolohea 0436 463 538

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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Montville Uniting Church,
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