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 30 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

9:45 am Combined Service at Maleny
11:00 am AGM meeting at Maleny
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 30th August
Prayers and Readings
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,45b
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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Next Sunday 6th September HC
Prayers and Readings
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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The Week Ahead

Tuesday September 1st
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday Meditation at 9:00 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 September 3rd
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday September 4th
1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

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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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September: Harvest Festival

We are going to be celebrating September as *Harvest Festival* month when we celebrate the gathering of harvest and focus on the joy of harvesting, the enjoyment of nature and commemoration of our own stewardship. For several years now, in the Uniting Church and other denominations it has been practice to celebrate the season of creation during September, so we are joining this tradition (see https://seasonofcreation.com/).

We are starting the series this Sunday with the well-known text of John 15, where Jesus says: "I am the true vine, my Father is the gardener, and you are the branches". Emphasis will be on the command: "remain in me, and I will remain in you" – highlighting that "remain" is NOT a passive verb, but an *active* verb in the *present* tense.

And we bear fruit for the purposes of:

- Christ's joy and our joy;
- God's glory
- God's generosity

September 6: Forest Sunday and our texts will be Genesis 2:4b-25; Psalm 96, Revelation 22:1-5;
September 13: Land Sunday and our texts will be Genesis 3:8-24; Leviticus 25:8-24; Revelation 21:1-8;
September 20: Wilderness/Outback Sunday: and the texts will be Joel 1:1-29 and Mark 1:1-15;
September 27: River Sunday and our text will be Gen 8:1, 15-22, 9:8-17 and Revelation 22: 1-5
October 4: Harvest Sunday is the grand celebration of harvesting. Out texts will be Deuteronomy 26 and Luke 3: 1-22

So please join us as we pause and ponder on the wonder of creation, including us human-creatures – meaning we are stunned in awe before the mighty and gracious Creator

AGM: Blackall Range Uniting Church

Today is of-course our AGM at 11am. Please uphold the business of the AGM up in prayer. May it be a blessed occasion.

Integrity

Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Counterfeit bank notes have no value in the eyes of the law: fake love has no value in genuine relationships. While the passing of counterfeit bank notes is rare in our country, attempts to pass counterfeit love are all too common. So, just as everyone needs to be alert to the possibility of being landed with a fake fifty-dollar bill, we all need to beware of those who profess love but are not sincere. But what is more important than that is that we take note of Paul's injunction in Romans 12:9, to make sure that our own love is genuine.

Whether it be our love for God or for other people, make sure it is sincere, that it goes beyond mere words, that it is given without expecting something back in return. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul elaborates for his readers what that means, but one thing we can say about genuine love is that it is always costly. It involves time and effort, the surrender of our selfishness, concern for the wellbeing of the other.

The cross stands before us as a constant reminder of God's deep, sacrificial love for us all, and Jesus calls his disciples of every time and place to take up their own cross in following him (Matthew16:24). What gain is there if we should win the whole world but lose our soul's integrity?

- What are some examples of fake love?
- What differentiates genuine love from false love?
- What examples of sincere love does Paul give in Romans 12:9-21?
- Why should integrity be so basic for the Christian life

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.

THE NEW VINE

Contributions for *The New Vine* are due **TODAY! Sunday, 30 August.** On this occasion, late entries will be accepted for a little while. So please get those stories of your involvement in the community in.

 # CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV)

Nancy and Liena attended the Combined Service Clubs of Maleny and the Blackall Range Domestic and Family Violence Focus Group this past Wednesday. **Let us join the conversation**!!

BRUC COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Our last BRUC Council meeting was conducted on August 10th.

Each Ministry location representative reported on the impact of COVID on the gradual return to usual activity. We heard some good stories about what's happening in the Reflections Gallery and the Community Garden together with the return of Ministry Task Groups and developments in the Visioning Group that have been meeting to discuss future directions.

A proposal for Ministry Task Groups and the report from the Visioning Group will be discussed at the upcoming AGM.

Rev Liena has been quite active too. Liena reported on ministry location meetings at Montville and Palmwoods; the pastoral work; continuation of on-line services; Presbytery weekly e- meetings etc.

Peter Callaghan is the COVID Warden and also attends a weekly zoom meeting of congregational representatives to ensure we are up-to-date with the latest advices and plans.

Finance matters were discussed. JobKeeper wage subsidies have been in place since March and will conclude at the end of September this year. The subsidy has eased pressure on the congregation's financial situation and we are thankful to God for this provision and another provision we are expecting to be finalised in the coming months.

Douglas McGubbin has been our voluntary, financial Auditor for many years. This year, Doug has resigned effective from 2021. The Council is very appreciative of Douglas's years of service to the BRUC.

The outgoing Chair thanks council members for their wisdom, dedication and commitment to the Blackall Range congregation and our communities.

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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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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

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 10 am Wed. admin@ ourcommonlife.org.au

Maleny Uniting Church,
Montville Uniting Church,
Palmwoods Uniting Church