# 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**


## September 13 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: 8:15am Holy Communion**
**Maleny: 9:45 am Worship Service**
**Palmwoods: 15 pm Garden Fellowship**

**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 13th September**
**Prayers and Readings**
RCL: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

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**Next Sunday 20th September**
**Prayers and Readings**
RCL: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

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**The Week Ahead**

**Tuesday September 15th**
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

**Wednesday Meditation at 9:00 am** is now running subject to the public safety regulations.

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

**Thursday September 17th**
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995
9.30am Ladies Friendship Group
12pm Men's Group

**Friday September 18th**
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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# The Game of Life

**Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35**

How many referees control a rugby league game? One or two? Or, with the video ref, is it three? But to listen to the broadcast commentaries it sounds as though there are at least six or seven. Sometimes it seems that every spectator at the game is a self-appointed referee. But how many referees are there in the game of life? The way people criticize and condemn one another, one might think that everyone has the right to referee everyone else's life.

The administration of this game called life is clearly in the hands of God who not only wrote the rules but also referees the game. Accept it. It is not for you or me to send a player off to the sin-bin. That is God's prerogative.

And if you are a player in the game and another player hurts you, it is not for you to seek revenge; it's for you to get on with the game. Grudge matches or revenge attacks are not in the spirit of the game. Translated into inter-personal relations, that means forgiving the person who asks for your forgiveness and refraining from condemning the person who thinks differently from you. If you are in Christ's team, let him decide who is in or out – not you. And if you have been hurt by another, remember whose side you are on – God who has forgiven you.

- Holding grudges is bad for your health. Is that true?
- Can one forgive another if the other person shows no remorse?
- When Paul wrote Romans, the issue was the eating of meat slaughtered in sacrifice to pagan gods. On what issues today are people condemned by their fellow Christians?
- Where lies the key to Christian unity?

***Rev Ron Potter*** ***Piula Publications***

**THE NEW VINE**
The Spring Edition of The New Vine is ready for harvest. So make sure to get your copy – hard or soft copy. Thank you to Graham and his team for getting it ready for picking!

## HARVEST FESTIVAL MONTH

"The earth is the Lord's,
And everything in it."
(Psalm 24 vs 1)
**Leviticus 25 and Luke 4**

We do not live in ancient Israel. And our culture is very different, yet there are a number of theological perspectives we need to deduce form the Jubilee year, the year of the Lord's favour:

**Ownership:**
If the earth, and the land belongs to God it means we are only strangers/immigrants and sojourners/tenants and have no absolute title, no ownership of the land.
God is also the provider, especially in the year the land is rested.

**Rest:**
The land needs to be rested. The rhythm of rest was established with creation. On the 7th day God rested. Every 7th year, the Sabbath year, the land is to be rested, culminating in the Jubilee year, the 50th yea, the year of the Lord's favour.

**Restoration:**
Land could not be permanently sold, so it was on lease and had to be returned, to the original owners.

**Freedom:**
Persons who were bonded and had to work in lieu of their debt had to be freed. The debt was written off.

**Today:**
What do these theological perspectives ask of us today as a community of faith in Australia and elsewhere?
Shalom Liena

## HARVEST FESTIVAL: GATHERING OF THE HARVEST 4 OCTOBER 2020

On this day we want to bring our personal harvest – garden produce (flowers, veges, fruit); preservatives (jams, curried beans); needlework (knitted, crocheted, sewn); crafts (woodwork, painting. photography). So please start gathering.

## MEN'S GROUP

Repeat event but different venue. A return to the **amphitheatre** (with a smokey fire) for a casual BBQ (BYO) and the chance to reconnect. From **midday next Thursday** (17th Sept.) All men welcome. Suggestions for future outings will be welcomed.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

For those interested in the updated COVID-safe version of the Christmas Tree Festival please stay behind for a short while after the morning service at Maleny.

## LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

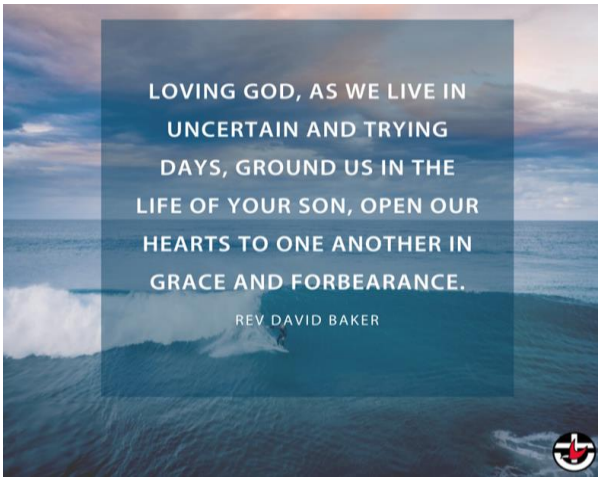
You are warmly invited to the next Ladies' Friendship Group at Maleny U.C. on **Thursday 17th September**, **9.30am to 11.30am.**

It will be a time of chatting with friends, learning a new skill (how to solve cryptic crosswords), stimulating your brain and having some fun.

COVID safe. All welcome.

## REFLECTION GALLERY

The gallery in the Montville Uniting Church now displays a series of photographs by Rev. Graham Warne illustrating the song by Julie Perrin, *For You Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland*, a song that draws on the Australian Inland for its images in its prayer for peace. With extra cleaning and the usual distancing requirement, the church remains open daily from 10 till 3. Please feel free to visit and to tell others about it.

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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
Friday off-day.

**Church Office**: Jing Wang 07 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:** Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864

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

**Notice Sheet:** Contributions requested before 10 am Wed. admin@ ourcommonlife.org.au

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