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

October 18 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 Worship Service
Maleny: 9:45 am Worship Service
15:30-17.00pm Family Fellowship
Palmwoods: 10:00 am Holy Communion

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 18th October
Prayers and Readings
RCL: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

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The gift of Joy

1 Thessalonians 1 vs 6

Joy is a short, yet spectacular word. It defies complete definition, full description and thorough understanding, yet is real. Very real.

Joy is a gift of God, from God. It is divine, sacred and irrevocable and indestructible. Yet it needs to be received. Embraced.

"Joy is a state of mind and an orientation of the heart. It is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It is something or someone that provides a source of happiness." (Theopedia.com).

Joy (*chara*) is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It comes from abiding in God. From journeying with God, with God journeying with us.

It is a state of mind and orientation of the heart, meaning that it is a perspective we have on life. Viktor Frankl, an Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and survivor of Auschwitz, wrote in his book *Man's Search for Meaning* "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—*to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way*."

Joy is a significant part of our witness. Of our faith in the Trinity: The Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is a gift, (*charis*) together with faith, hope and love (1 Thess 1-10).

It is an abundant gift. In 1 Thess 3 vs 9 Paul trips over double use of joy/rejoice – rhetorically asking: "How can we thank God concerning you for all the joy that we rejoice because of you, before God.

Joy is not only a noun. It is also a verb. Remarkable that Paul commands bluntly (1 Thess 5:16): "Always rejoice!"

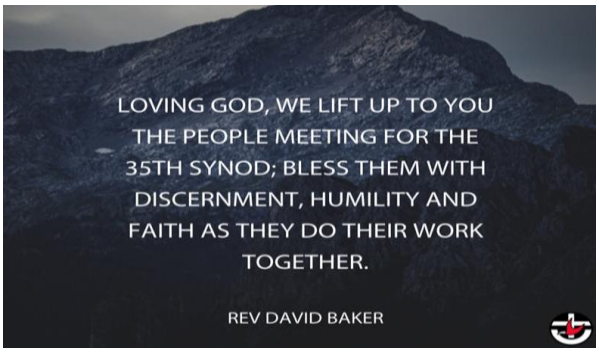
A timely reminder perhaps for us imitators of Christ. Would people trip over giving thanks for all the joy they experience concerning us? Shalom Liena

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.

35TH SYNOD 23-25 October 2020: GROW

Please pray for the coming Synod, which will be different in that it will be an e-synod.



PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS 2020

TODAY Sunday 18th: A brief meeting will be held **at Maleny** after the service. An update will be given about progress thus far. Clarification about activities leading up to 25 Dec. Volunteers will be sought. Thanks in Anticipation.

LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP CELEBRATION.

Lets say goodbye to this year by enjoying each other's company in a Relaxing Morning Tea.
Place: The Orangery, Cairncross Corner, Maleny.
Date: **Thursday, 19th November, 2020**.
Time: **9.30 – 11.30am**
Cost: $15.00 per person. (this will include savoury and sweet).
We look forward to sharing in a welcoming and COVID free setting. Trust you are able to come!
Then with 'Hope" we look ahead to a safer and happier 2021 for us and families and friends, our community and our world.
For numbers – Please reply to Marnie via list at church or Patricia
Phone: 54296196, E-mail: pstickley@bigpond.co,

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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
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Community Pastor Pastor Kay Nixon kaynxn43@gmail.com 0412 539020

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