



# 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

## NOTICES:

### Face to Face Services Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Montville: 8.15am  
Maleny: 9.45am  
Palmwoods: 10:00 Holy Communion

### RCL Year A Readings (Epiphany 2)

Is 49:1-7  
Ps 40:1-11  
1 Cor 1:1-9  
Jn 1:29-42

### Face to Face Services Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Montville: 8.15am  
Maleny: 9.45am  
Palmwoods: ??

### RCL Year A Readings

Isaiah 9:1-4,  
Psalms 27:1,4-9,  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18,  
Matthew 4:12-23

### COMING UP NEXT WEEK

Tuesday – Cuppa Craft  
Wednesday – Meditation

### COMING UP IN JANUARY

29 January – Combined Service  
29 January – Future Directions Group Update

### Montville Reflection Gallery DISPLAY

The walls of the church have come alive with Wendy Jarrott-Smith's colourful, vibrant, abstract, acrylic paintings that, together with explanatory material, give eloquent expression to her rich faith experience.

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### Volunteers CARE Essentials Course Buderim 18<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March 9am-5pm each day

The Volunteer CARE Essentials Course is an introduction to Christian Pastoral Care for those who want to become equipped with the foundational skills to get you started on your pastoral care volunteer journey.

CARE essentials is delivered over two Saturdays at the Connections on King, 7 King Street, Buderim Uniting Church.

Cost: \$100 Cost can be waived if you can't afford

For more info: contact Liena or Theo Masselos on M: 0418 879 802 or E:

[theo.masselos@uhealth.com.au](mailto:theo.masselos@uhealth.com.au)

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Kindly remember to continue to give your weekly/monthly offerings.

They can be Direct Debited to Blackall Range Uniting Church.

ANZ Bank, BSB 014-507. A/C 3762 29735

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Christmas Bowl offering raised \$2,300 for Act of Peace

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### Letter from Marjorie McCubbin

*Thank you everyone for your love and support and prayers for Douglas and our family when he was in hospital and continuing onto his passing.*

*I know God was alongside us on the journey, guiding us in decision making and calming us in his peace.*

Marjorie

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### Ministry Contacts:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874

[minister@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:minister@ourcommonlife.org.au)

Friday off-day.

Church Office: 07 5429 6995

Hours: Tuesday 9 am to 12 noon

Email: [admin@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au)

Community Pastor: Pastor Kay Nixon

0412 539020

[kayn43@gmail.com](mailto:kayn43@gmail.com)

Tongan Community: Siale Lolohea

0476 306 815

Internet: <http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au>

For Church Hall Hire:

<https://ourcommonlife.org.au/calendar-hall-hire/#>

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Blackall Range UC inc: Maleny UC, Montville UC, Palmwoods UC.

# CHOSEN

Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42.

The doctrine of election is a difficult one. It has been the subject of much controversy. Yet the idea that God chose Israel to be God's special people is a basic understanding running through the Bible. God entered into covenant with Israel: I will be your God; you will be my people. However, what does it mean to be chosen by God?

We would like to think that it means being given power, prosperity and priority above all other people, ensuring that we are triumphant and victorious in all that we do. To be chosen by God must mean that God loves us more than others. Wait a bit! God is love, and to be chosen by God is to be chosen to be, not only recipients of the divine love, but an extension of that love. It means to be the servant of God who gives of himself in love for the world.

The Book of Isaiah introduces us to the image of Israel, the chosen people, being a suffering servant. Jesus took up this image and identified himself with it. As he represented Israel, he saw himself as God's servant giving of himself for the sake of the world. That's what love does. The above passage from Isaiah also indicates that the figure of the Suffering Servant is not only of one who sacrifices himself for the sake of Israel, he is given as a light to the nations that God's salvation 'may reach to the end of the earth'.

To be chosen by God is to be called to be servants of the Servant God. To be chosen is to live for others and not just for ourselves.

- If you had to choose someone to build you a piece of furniture, what would you look for in making your choice?
- Why is God called a Servant God?
- How can we be an extension of God's love?
- What does it mean to call Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29)?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

Blackall Range Uniting Church acknowledges the first peoples  
who are the traditional owners of the land upon which we live and worship.

## COMBINED SERVICE AND

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS UPDATE

Our combined service is coming up on Sunday 29 January, at 9 30 am at Maleny Church. After the service the Future Directions Group will provide you with an update on progress to date. A number of the submissions you contributed have been identified for consideration as possible Future Directions Projects.

**Here is what is happening:** In the near future you will be given access to the Submission Summaries either by email or hard copies available at each site. We urge you to read these carefully prior to the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Then at the meeting the Future Directions Group will facilitate a workshop to enable you to find out more: listen to the submission presenters, seek clarification, ask questions, consider the ideas that personally inspire you to ongoing commitment. Please note, this process is not just about "spending the Mission and Development dollars", but rather to identify "where our hearts are" in relation to extending the Kingdom in our community.

Lunch will be provided, including gluten free options.

**Need more information?** Please speak to one of the members of the Future Directions Group: Bob Philpot, Helen Uhlmann, John Daniels, Karl Tietze, Kay Nixon, Liena Hoffmann, Murray Robertson, Peter Callaghan.

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