Uniting in Christ | Acting with love | Living with hope | Witnessing in faith | Working for justice

#### **NOTICES**

## **Face to Face Services** Services 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Montville: 8.15am Worship Maleny: 9.45am Worship Palmwoods: 3.00pm Reflections in the Garden

## RCL Year A Readings

(Pentecost 17)

Ex 16:2-15 Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 Phil 1:21-30 Mt 20:1-16

## **Face to Face Services** Services 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Montville: 8.15am Worship Maleny: 9.45am Communion

Service Palmwoods: 10am Worship

## RCL Year A Readings

(Pentecost 18)

Ex 17:1-7 Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 Phil 2:1-13 Mt 21:23-32

#### **COMING UP NEXT WEEK**

**Wednesday –** 8.30am Meditation at Maleny Church

Thursday 28th – Men's group lunch (details below)

Friday - 1.30pm KYB at Maleny

UC Saturday September 30th -

Garage Sale at Maleny UC

#### COMING UP IN OCTOBER

Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> – Celebration of Creatures Great and Small Sunday October 15th - Maleny Friendship Tea 5.30pm - Sue presents her Africa Photos Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Festival @ Maleny & Rev Liena's Service of Closure At Maleny

## Men's Group

It is time to stir ourselves into some action. In response to a number of requests, we plan to meet for the usual BBQ at the amphitheatre (with a smoky fire) from around midday on Thursday 28th Sept. - B.Y.O. food and drink. All men are welcome a great chance to reconnect.

#### Financial Matters – Stuart Craig

The BRUC Council have asked me to update you monthly on the church's financial position. Many thanks to all for your past offerings that contributed to a surplus for the last financial year.

However, offerings for July and August this year are around \$5000 below those for the same period last year. The church had a deficit of over \$7400 for the same period.

Please consider this in your prayers and I encourage you to contribute a little more if you are able.

## October 1st @ Maleny Uc - Celebration Of **Creatures Great And Small**

Come celebrate our pets as we celebrate Francis of Assisi, the patron of animals and all of God's creation – Bring your pets and have them blessed in this season of creation.

#### **Chappy Chris Is Urgently Seeking Volunteers**

Mentors, Tuckshop and Maleny IGA 'Rewards Program' is #41849. For details, please chat with an IGA staff member. Helping at the school is one way to be salt and light within the Maleny community. Interested? Questions? Please contact Chappy Chris on 0433643686 or chris.boughen@suchaplaincy.org.au

**SOUND OF FREEDOM:** The film is based on the incredible true story and shines a light on even the darkest of places. 
We've set up your very own dedicated Ticket Page. Anyone can purchase tickets HERE.

We've also created a **Facebook Event** for your screening. Check it out HERE.

# Thanks For the Gift

Matthew 20:1-16

It's great to be given a gift, isn't it? Or is it? What if it's a puppy and you're not ready for the food and vet bills, the exercising and training that goes with owning a dog? And the receiver is placed under obligation to the giver, for example: you receive a gift and then feel the need to reciprocate in some way. We know that there is no such thing as a free lunch. There's an uneven power balance between giver and receiver. The choice lies with the giver. Even if hints are given, the receiver has to accept what someone else has chosen.

Maybe that is why people have trouble with the grace of God. They have to accept that they are not in charge; they have to accept whatever they are given. They are under obligation to use the gift of life, and all other gifts, properly. If salvation is by grace, then it is not to be looked upon as a reward for services rendered.

In the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard, Jesus made it clear that life at its best, life lived in the love and grace of God, is a gift. Heaven is not a reward for services rendered; it is a gift. People who approach it in terms of wages will be disappointed. Instead of trying to win heaven as a reward in the future, let's live the life of heaven now, as far as it is possible, with gratitude and joy. Enjoy the gift of life; enjoy the gift of new life in Christ.

- Think of examples of the power imbalance between giver and receiver. When has receiving a gift placed you under an obligation to the giver?
- List some of the gifts have you received from God.
- If salvation is a gift, why do people think that they have to earn it?
- How can we best show our appreciation for God's gift of new life in Christ?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

#### MONTVILLE REFLECTION GALLERY DISPLAY

The beginning of July sees a new display in the Reflection Gallery of beautiful artworks by the late Dr Michael Simpson who continues to inspire us through his legacy of art. And we thank the Rev Geraldine Wheeler for having her very special artwork in the gallery.

### **COMBINED FESTIVAL OF MALE VOICE PRAISE** event

2.30pm, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 @ Living Church, 1541 Creek Road, Carina, QLD. This is a special event featuring a program of sacred music by men of the Festival Male Voice Choir, a men's quartet and a teenage classical pianist. Contact: Malcolm Arnold M: 0428 003 988

## **SEASON OF CREATION**

A time where Christian communities around the world pray and act to care for Creation, beginning September 1 (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and ending October 4 (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Ecology).

**Season of Creation website** 

#### **MINISTRY CONTACTS:**

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman

0490 421 874

minister@ourcommonlife.org.au

Friday off-day.

Church Office Contact:

Peter C mobile: 0458 263 322 Hours: Tuesday 9 am to 12 noon

Email: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

Community Pastor: Pastor Kay Nixon on mobile

0412 539020

kaynxn43@gmail.com

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

For Church Hall Hire:

https://ourcommonlife.org.au/calendar-hall-hire/

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

They can be Direct Debited to Blackall Range Uniting Church,

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