

# Link



## Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

### Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ *Christy is back from leave and Garry will be at the Presbytery Synod Retreat from Sun to Tues at Rockhampton*
- ◆ **Safe Ministry for Children Audit 2024** – congregation's will be sent a request shortly so you can prepare the required information to be forwarded to Synod
- ◆ **New Safe Church Training** – there will be refresher training throughout Jan & Feb. Facilitators will be required to attend one of these sessions to get the new materials to use going forward
- ◆ **Combined Worship Service for the Northern Zone** will be held at Edmonton UC on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 9am

### Presbytery Office NEW

#### Postal Address

PO Box 6071  
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#### Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid  
8.30am-1.30pm

#### Executive Assistant

Ana Mila  
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[office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

Rev Garry Hardingham  
0409 276 940  
[presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

Rev Christy Allen  
0418 184 834  
[presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley  
0429 195 506  
[admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Hospital Chaplains:

##### Cairns:

Rev Shane Kammermann  
0409 287 109

##### Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox  
0408 415 816

January 24

Whosoever shall confess  
Me before men, the  
Son of Man will  
also confess before the  
angels of God

Luke 12:8

Sharing God's Word

# Carpentaria News...

## Garry's Prayer for 2024

*Lord of sunshine and rain,  
of hope and crippling pain,  
of city and coast and outback plain,  
we acknowledge your Lordship over all things.*

*For it is You, O Lord,  
who brings into being all things.  
It is You and You alone who builds Your church  
And raises servants to Your Gospel.*

*And so we turn to you Lord and pray for  
Rev Bruce Moore, our moderator,  
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, our General Secretary.  
Give them the strength and conviction of Your Grace  
To be a renewing spirit in the life our Synod.*

*We pray for our Presbytery Leadership.  
For Christy and Garry, our Presbytery Ministers,  
For Ana, our executive Assistant  
Robyn, our Administrator.  
And Akosita, our Secretary.  
May Your Spirit guide them, uphold them  
And equip them in the leadership  
And work they do together.*

*We pray for our Zone Chairs,  
Michelle Cullen (Southern Zone)  
Netani Bolatolu (Northern Zone)  
Tevita Niurua (Calvary Zone)  
And Craig Mischewski (Cape/Gulf Zone)  
May they have the wisdom and knowledge  
of the church in the far flung places of this Presbytery  
and bring their knowledge and servant hearts  
to the leadership we have entrusted in them.*

*We pray for our chaplains,  
In the defence, in police,  
in aged care and hospitals  
As they continue to walk alongside those  
who either serve our community or  
seek comfort in Your presence.*

*We pray for our Bush Chaplains  
and the work they do in the harshest  
and remotest parts of our land.  
Bear them up in hope, in strength,  
and forever be their compass that they may  
never loose the way.*

*Finally, we pray for all our congregational ministers, they may all seek to be followers before they seek leadership. We pray for our congregations For the good men and women who serve you every day Sometimes in full view, but often in the background.*

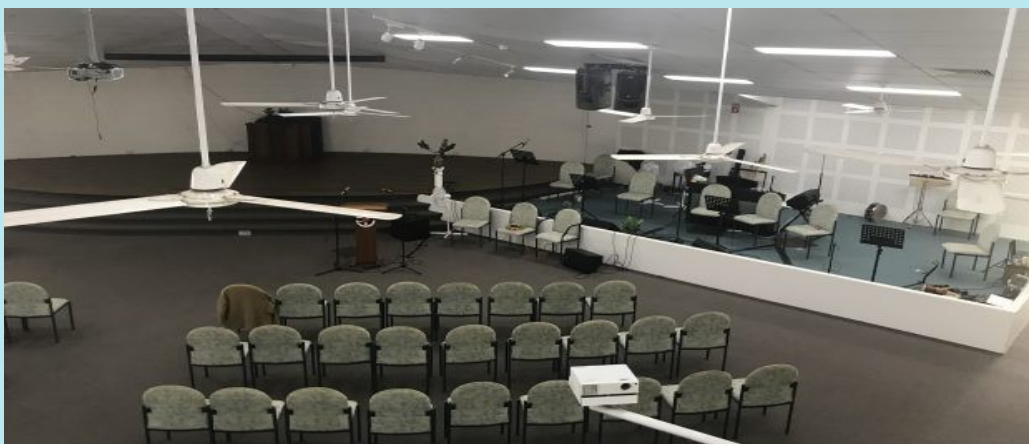
*For we Lord, all seek You. We long for your direction. And we long for Your peace. That together we may indeed be the body of Christ and be beacons of light in a dark and uncertain world.*

*We pray this in Your loving name. Amen*

*Happy New Year everyone!*

*Blessings and peace  
Garry*

## **Mt Louisa Community Church Enhances Lighting With Grant Funding**



The Mt. Louisa Community Church secured a grant to fund the implementation of LED lighting, enhancing its aesthetic appeal while lowering its energy costs.

Hiring out the church premises is a crucial element in maintaining the financial stability of the church, according to Ian Jessup, who serves as the Treasurer of the Church Council and Chair of the Property Committee. Ian said the size of the building means there are a lot of associated costs.

“It’s imperative for us to stay vigilant with maintenance,” he said. “Inside the main structure, there are approximately a hundred light fixtures; unfortunately, about a quarter of them were not functioning. Furthermore, the ceilings soar to a height of around 12 metres, making maintenance quite challenging.”

**Read more of the article by Andrew McKaysmith, Synod Writer and Content Creator, at [Journey Online](#).**

# Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

## Discipleship

The Online Discipleship Bookclub is back on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, commencing with our first gathering on Wednesday, February 21!

As our first book for the year, we will explore Thom S. Reiner's incredible work, "Anatomy of a Revived Church". Looking at faith communities on the brink of closing down, Reiner identifies simple yet vital shifts in culture, attitude and practice that these congregations made to release new life. While only a small book, the insights that Reiner puts forward hold incredible power for reshaping how churches view themselves and the world around them as they look towards a new and better future.

There is one copy to give to someone who is willing to read it and write a short (no more than 500 words) review of the book by February 7. If you would like to be that blessed person, please email Paul at [paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au), and he'll get the copy to you ASAP. Copies of the book can also be purchased from your favourite book retailer, such as Koorong.

[To join the book club on the 21st, click this link.](#)

## Responding to Domestic Violence - QCT Zoom Workshop



**Queensland  
Churches Together**

### RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Zoom Workshop Series*

**Discover the power to make a real difference!**  
Unveil the stark reality beneath the surface—despite efforts by authorities, women continue to be killed at a rate of more than one a week. But this is the tip of the iceberg, with a significant number of people suffering abuse and coercive control each and every day.

**Domestic violence happens in Churches too!**  
Contrary to common belief, the pews hold stories untold. Research illuminates the harsh reality: Intimate Family Violence echoes within our congregations as much as in the wider community.

**Empower yourself! Gain the tools and insight crucial for Church Leaders. Erase uncertainty, confront, and advocate confidently.** Let's rewrite the narrative together, equipping our communities with knowledge and action.



[Register Now](#)

More Information  
<https://qct.org.au>



**Workshop Dates**  
*The workshop will run over three Wednesday evenings*

Session 1: 21 Feb 2024  
Session 2: 28 Feb 2024  
Session 3: 6 Mar 2024

All sessions run from  
7.00pm – 8.30pm  
(Brisbane time)



For Information   
**07 3369 6792**

## Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry - The work of the congregation

The Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry: Congregational Engagement (FTMC) is a comprehensive four-day program designed to provide participants with an introductory overview of the essential principles and methodologies involved in ministering to congregations and organisations during times of transition. While FTMC is an independent program, it also serves as the second phase of training leading to qualification as an Intentional Interim Minister, with FTML as a prerequisite.

- [Click here for more information](#)

This course will be presented in a blended format, with two days conducted online via Zoom on February 21 and 28, followed by two days of in-person sessions at the Centre for Ministry in North Parramatta, NSW, on March 6 and 7.

## From The Word for Today...

### Listen more carefully

**'Hear Me, everyone, and understand.'** Mark 7:14 NKJV

Jesus said, *'Hear Me, everyone, and understand.'* He spoke life-changing words, but He understood that preoccupied minds don't always listen too well. Are you a good listener?

#### 1) If you're a leader, do you listen to your followers?

The kind of leaders people want to follow do more than conduct business when they interact with you; they take the time to get a feel for who you are as a person. Philip Stanhope, the Earl of Chesterfield, believed, 'Many a man would rather you heard his story than granted his request.' If you're accustomed to listening only to the facts and not the person who expresses them, change your focus – really listen.

#### 2) If you're in business, do you listen to your customers?

A Cherokee saying states, 'Listen to the whispers and you won't have to hear the screams.' Never get so caught up in your own ideas and products that you don't hear your customers' concerns, complaints, and suggestions. Businesses should see unhappy customers, not as a problem, but as an opportunity to improve their service. That's why you should make it a priority to keep in contact with the people you're serving.

**3) If you're committed to growth, are you listening to your mentors?** You will never become so advanced or experienced that you can afford to be without mentors. If you don't have mentors, go out and find them. If you can't find a mentor, begin by reading the right books, starting with your Bible. If you're not following in the footsteps of someone wiser than you, there is a good chance you're not on the right path.

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 24 January 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024)*