

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ *Pray for Florence Charger's family and the Napranum community as they farewell Florence at her funeral today*
- ◆ *Safe Ministry for Children Audit 2024 – email request has been sent out to congregations requesting information for the Audit and info is due by end of Feb 24. Ana will make phone contact with each congregation in due course*
- ◆ *Pray for Pastor Gewa Au and family & for traveling mercies as he travels to PNG for his brother's funeral. Garry will be preaching at Edmonton this Sunday*
- ◆ *Combined Worship Service for the Northern Zone will be held at Edmonton UC on 17th March at 9am*

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Carpentaria News...

Easter Madness 2024

Easter Madness 2024 will be held on the weekend after Easter from Friday the 5th to Monday 8th April 2024 at Alex Conference Centre, Alexandra Park, QLD. Get set for an annual high school camp that'll impact your faith journey! Organisers are ramping up church enthusiasm for youth outreach events, offering an experience that's beyond the ordinary day to day. At EM, it's about connecting, experiencing God in a different way – all while having a total blast and meeting awesome new people! Plus, being part of Easter Madness means discovering a wider church family and making a real difference in rural communities.

Congregations who do not have young people can still sponsor or donate to sending some of our young people from our Presbytery to Easter Madness. Congregations who have youth are encouraged to hold fundraisers e.g. bake sale or car wash to help raise funds to send their young people to Easter Madness.

If you are interested in sponsoring, donating or have young people wishing to attend, please let Ana know as soon as possible on email: office@ucacarpentaria.com.au or call office on (07) 4068 8131.

Mossman Uniting Church extends a helping hand after Cyclone Jasper



Mossman Uniting Church (Mossman / Mt Molloy / Port Douglas) is assisting the community in its clean-up efforts following the significant damage caused by the severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

A strong and enduring storm, Jasper, brought heavy rainfall to Far North Queensland and made landfall as a Category 2 cyclone near Wujal Wujal on December 13, 2023. Pastor Nadia Abraham serves as the Minister at Mossman Uniting Church. She said the region remains susceptible due to the damage to infrastructure and increased demands on supplies.

“There has been a substantial amount of damage to the road network, leading to severe disruptions in travel. The rivers and waterways have also been inundated, and there have been landslides,” she said. “Port Douglas experienced a continuous power and water outage lasting approximately seven days. This situation has left the community feeling vulnerable, with ongoing interruptions in the water supply.”

Many homes have been affected by catastrophic flooding. Due to the high temperatures, mould develops rapidly, making it unsafe to inhabit and clean the affected properties.

Pastor Nadia reported that debris remains scattered across the district as residents labour in the oppressive humidity, disposing of their belongings into the now common skips.

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

Learning 4 Living - Lay Preacher Course Semester 1 2024 REGISTRATION LINK

Learning 4 Living is running again this Semester offered by Zoom only on Thursday evenings 7.00-9.15pm. If you wish to participate in this course please fill in a registration form via this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCJpHQ545Ytz_jXgm0p7cKQcePUX4di9kpkOU7EEneQ2yZ0g/viewform?usp=sf_link

This course is the ideal introduction for those who are new to Christian theology. The central ideas and beliefs, key debates, significant historical documents and leading thinkers of Christianity are introduced using the framework of the Apostles' Creed. The central ideas of both traditional and contemporary theology are explored with reference to Faith, God, Creation, Jesus and Salvation. While all major Christian denominations are considered there will be an emphasis on the UCA Basis of Union.

The classes will be structured to provide an opportunity for participants to engage in theological reflection appropriate to their own contexts and at their own pace. There are ten Learning Activity sessions as well as two tutorial sessions. One of the four Presbytery Lay Preacher CEM workshops is also included in the semester. There are breaks for the Easter/School holiday period – to allow time for further reading / reflection and preparation of assessment.

This is a general interest course suitable for all those wanting to explore their faith further as well as for those wishing to undertake Lay preacher accreditation or considering a Period of Discernment.

If you have any questions, please give Kathy Wright (Moreton Rivers Presbytery, Office Manager) a call on (07) 3355 0236 or email office@mrpres.org.au

Free Safeguarding Masterclass (Persons of Concern)

At BBSafe, we are deeply committed to supporting not for profit organisations by providing free and pro bono content when we can. We will be holding an online masterclass on **Friday, 2 February, 12-2pm AEST** – and you and your colleagues are very welcome to join. To register for the webinar, and receive the link, please email Sarah Lim directly - sarah.lim@bbsafe.com.au

In the masterclass we will run through:

What is safeguarding?

- Defining safeguarding
- The elements of safeguarding
- Requirements under legislation, regulation and organisational policy and procedure

How to do safeguarding well – beyond compliance

- The Building Blocks of Safeguarding Culture

Deep dives

- Understanding context specific risk
- Recognising grooming
- Understanding disclosures
- Reporting requirements

The session will include opportunities for reflection and discussion so you can test where your organisation is at in relation to safeguarding. The session is not jurisdiction specific and will cover children and vulnerable adults.

Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

Join us in Lent 2024 as we explore The Great Restoration Project

Materials are available now!

Over the last ten years there has been an explosion of television shows and series focussed on restoration. Shows like The Repair Shop, Fixer Upper, The Block, Flip or Flop all focus on restoring the old and bringing life to the discarded, whether it be houses or the things that go inside them.

This Lent, we invite you to join us as we learn about the greatest restoration project of all time. Over seven weeks we'll focus on God's plan for humankind – a plan for restoration, a plan for new life, a plan that was both unexpected and brilliant. The resources will be based on the lectionary and explore the restoration theme with a toolbox metaphor. Contained within the 7 weeks of material will be reflections and worship themes and suggestions, including interactive and intergenerational elements, prayers, tool fun facts, and restorative practices.

We will be encouraging individuals, families, and communities to undertake a restoration project over the course of Lent, working together to bring to life an old table, chair, cutlery, teddy bear or other item. In addition, there will be a toolbox inscribed with "The Great Restoration Project" and each week, a different tool will be added as a reminder of the weekly content.

For more information contact Jess Pinkerton or Paul Wetzig via discipleship@ucaqld.com.au

Australia Day Honours

Among many UCA recipients in this year's Australia Day Honours, esteemed Uniting Church leader and former Queensland Moderator the late **Reverend Donald Whebell** has been awarded an AM for his service to the Uniting Church in Australia.

Don served two terms as Moderator, in 1989-1990 and secondly as the first full time Moderator for three years, 1993 -1996. In partnership with his wife Pam, Don served in many different roles across the church, including as Minister of St Stephen's Uniting Church Toowoomba and Presbytery Chair in Mary-Burnett and Central Queensland Presbyteries from 1985-1999. He served as Secretary for Ecumenical Relationships and Interfaith Committees in the Synod in the 1990s-2000s and was Co-Secretary of the National Roman Catholic - Uniting Church Dialogue.

Don was a much-loved minister across the church, deeply passionate about the Basis of Union and a mentor and formative influence to many in the Queensland Synod and beyond.

Other Queensland recipients were Dr Judith McKay, for service to the museums and galleries sector; Barbara Power, UnitingCare Queensland, who received an OAM for service to child welfare organisations. In 2010 Barbara was a founding member of the Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland and is the current Uniting Church Representative; and Bronwyn Brown OAM, was awarded a Purple for service to the community through music, including as an Organist at St Andrew's Uniting Church in Brisbane.

Congratulations to all recipients!

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, 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.](#)

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.

Get ePrepared

Get ePrepared is a free self-help tool created by Justice Connect, in partnership with Telstra. The website is an interactive learning tool to help you practice the steps to create electronic copies of your important documents, in case you need them in an emergency. Access Get ePrepared [here](#).



Encouraging Word For Today

Our problems
may seem
overwhelming,
but God's power
is stronger than
any obstacle we
may face.

Have a
Blessed Day

From The Word for Today...

Give your worries to God

'The peace of God ... will guard your hearts and minds.' Philippians 4:7 NIV

When you feel anxious and afraid, here are two things you should do:

1) Find a 'faith friend'. When anxiety grabs your mind, one of the most powerful ways to break the worry spiral is to disclose it to a 'faith friend'. When Israel went out to occupy the promised land, here is what God said to them: *'Is anyone afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too'* (Deuteronomy 20:8 NIV). Pessimism, fright, and discouragement are contagious. And so is courage!

2) Take action and face your fear. Sermons about how God will take care of you aren't in and of themselves sufficient to remove anxiety from your life. You must do certain things, like stepping out in trust. The way to get God's peace from your head to the rest of your body is to trust Him to the point where you can confront your fears head-on. So, with that in mind,

- ◆ meditate on passages like Psalm 23; imagine yourself being shepherded by the Lord through green pastures and led beside still waters,
- ◆ talk to your 'faith friend' before worry gets a foothold in your mind
- ◆ use a 'breath prayer' such as, 'God, I'm casting all my cares on You,'
- ◆ exercise; physical exercise is one of the best ways to stop excess adrenaline from building up,
- ◆ identify your fear and take even one small step towards confronting it, and
- ◆ get sufficient rest. David said, *'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety'* (Psalm 4:8 NIV). Today, give your worries to God!

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 31 January 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024)

