

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ **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 the first Presbytery Leadership Team meeting for 2024 on Tuesday**
- ◆ **Pray for Christine Herman** as she had surgery last week and is now recovering
- ◆ **Pray for Robyn & Gavin Cooley** for traveling mercies as they drive from Mackay to Cairns for the Presbytery Budget meeting next week
- ◆ **Combined Worship Service for the Northern Zone** will be held at Edmonton UC on 17th March at 9am

Presbytery Office NEW

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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.

Easter Madness Sunday - 18th February 2024

The Easter Madness Team asks congregations to please look at asking your Church Councils to consider their request to have a **retiring offering to support Easter Madness 2024 for Sunday 18th February**.

The PPT we have prepared for you to use to advertise can be found at this link below. Best to download the images – that seems to help open them correctly.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NQeRoAhL3LoTOWC0CVAox1LKj8FAgWB6?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lysani on 0428 607 068 or via email: eastermadness@mrpres.org.au OR the Moreton Rivers Presbytery office: office@mrpres.org.au

Thank you for your consideration and support of Easter Madness.

Easter Madness Team

Scam Alert

Please be aware that there have recently been several scam attempts, both via text and email mimicking people's legitimate contacts with only a slight change in the details.

If you receive a text or email or asking for help or money, please always double check the email address and/or phone number against the details you have saved in your contacts list for that person. Also, don't click on anything or reply, but first, contact the person directly using the phone number **you** have for them (and not a phone number potentially provided by a scammer), to check whether the text or email is legitimate.

Act2 – Uniting in Prayer 2024

Following the popularity of the very first Uniting in Prayer event last year, we will be running the event again this year from 19 May - 22nd of June. We are currently working on a range of worship resources as well as the new 2024 Prayer Chain (a whole of church prayer chain that will include congregations, presbyteries, synod, agencies and schools).

Our team is also currently putting together daily prayers for the 35 days. We are asking you to help in identifying people and communities in your presbytery that may want to contribute a prayer to be shared over the 35 days. In 2024, the daily prayers will have an emphasis on creativity and include written prayers, videos, images, songs, poetry and art. Please let us know if you have any names or contacts for those who might be interested, simply include their contacts in a reply to this email and one of our team will reach out to them.

Due date for prayers are 31st of March 2024.

For more information or to sign up for Uniting in Prayer 2024 see our website:

<https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024>

Save the date now in your personal and church calendars and sign up on the website to receive the resources, daily prayers and updates straight to your inbox.



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.

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

Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

Trinity College Queensland – Activate Program 2024

You may have heard of Activate, the Gap Year program that Trinity College Queensland was relaunching for 2024. It created a lot of positive comments, but we also received some feedback from people who wanted to join Activate while continuing their Uni studies or full-time work. We listened to you and we are excited to announce that we have redesigned Activate to fit into your life, no matter what stage you are at. Activate is no longer a Gap Year program. In other words: keep doing what you're doing and add this into the mix!

Activate is now an add-on program for 18-28 year olds that will transform your perspective on everything else that's going on in your life. You will be part of the Trinity College community, where you will enjoy fun and friendship, learn biblical literacy and life skills, and partner with Interserve, Red Frogs and Scripture Union for mission and outreach.

Activate is about the whole person. Believing that our spiritual life is entirely linked to all areas of our life, we will undertake two fundamental tasks: reading the Bible at the same time as reading life. For a year, we're going to read the Bible as it was intended to be read: for transformation. In this way, we become better equipped to write our own life stories with purpose and conviction as our understanding of the biblical story grows. The program is flexible and convenient, requiring only 21 Wednesday nights for group time, 6 Friday nights for Life Skills, 6 Saturdays for activities and 2 Sundays for mission and outreach. **Activate starts on Wednesday 6th March, 2024.**

The best part is that the program is very affordable, costing only \$500 for the whole year. And if that's not enough, **we also have a scholarship that covers the entire cost** for eligible applicants (pretty much everyone who applies). But hurry, because the scholarship is limited and the deadline is approaching fast.

You can find more details about how to apply for the scholarship here: [The Rodney Eivers Scholarship - Trinity College Queensland](#)

To apply for Activate, please fill in this [application form](#).

UnitingCare RAP Cultural Calendar 2024

The UnitingCare RAP team have put together a [Cultural Calendar](#) which shares dates of significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They are offered so that we might all participate and share in these days and events, as part of our covenantal relationship in a spirit of reconciliation, and learning.

Legal Aid webinar: Disaster legal help

Are you supporting clients who have been affected by a disaster or major weather event? Attend a free webinar on **21st February, 2-3pm**, registration is via [here](#).

This session will cover:

- the legal support available for people who've experienced disasters such as a storm, cyclone, flood or bushfire
- common legal issues after a disaster
- Q&A session
- further support and top tips

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

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.](#)

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](#).

From The Word for Today...

Moving from failure to success

'You are snared by the words of your mouth.' Proverbs 6:2 NKJV

A noted psychiatrist remarked that two of the saddest words in human vocabulary are 'if only'. He believes people who get trapped by their failures spend their lives saying, 'If only I had tried harder. If only I had been kinder to my kids. If only I had been more truthful. If only ...' The way to change that mindset is to change your vocabulary by substituting 'if only' with the words 'next time'. 'Next time, I will try harder. Next time, I will be kinder to my kids. Next time, I will be more truthful.'

The Bible says, '*You are snared by the words of your mouth.*' And a snare is a trap. Have you ever seen an animal caught in a trap, struggling to be free? Your words can do that. And they don't just affect you; they affect *others*. Maybe you think we're making too big a deal out of this. If you do – read on: '*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit*' (Proverbs 15:4 NKJV). '*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, Aand those who love it will eat its fruit*' (Proverbs 18:21 NKJV). Jesus said, '*... whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says*' (Mark 11:23 NKJV).

What do these Scriptures have in common? They confirm that our words breathe life (or death) into everything! So instead of defeatist talk, speak victory over your situation. Instead of speaking failure, start speaking success. When you do, God will honour the fruit of your lips.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 7 February 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024)

