



Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -



Link

#18 | 2026

NOTES & UPDATES

- **Interim Presbytery Minister for Carpentaria is Rev Doug Foster – his mobile is 0412 583 536**
- **Commissioning Service for Mario Weyers at Kirwan UC on 19 September conducted by Rev Bruce Cornish**
- **Intercultural Mission Weekend will be held at Aitkenvale on 19-20 September. Enquiries can be made to Rev Brendon Lukin on mob 0408 212 210.**

PRAYER POINTS

- **Carpentaria Presbytery Minister, Congregations, Faith Communities, Ministry Agents and Councils as they serve and live out their church mission within the community**
- **Christy Allen, her mother and family**
- **Craig, Jude Mischewski and family**

PRESBYTERY OFFICE



Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 5:00pm



0459 544 507



PO Box 7070, Garbutt QLD 4814
New PO Box from 1 June 2026

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

REV CHRISTY ALLEN (Chairperson)

0418 184 834 | presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Residing in Southern Zone

Mon (Day Off), Available Tues-Fri

Deputy Chairperson

REV CRAIG MISCHEWSKI

0400 036 630 | cjmisch@gmail.com

Executive Assistant

ANA MILA (Secretary)

0459 544 507 | office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm

Administration Support (1 day/wk)

NATALIE LUND

0491 278 198 | natalie.lund@ucaql.com.au

Mon 10am-12:30pm | Wed 2-4:30pm | Thurs 3-4:30pm

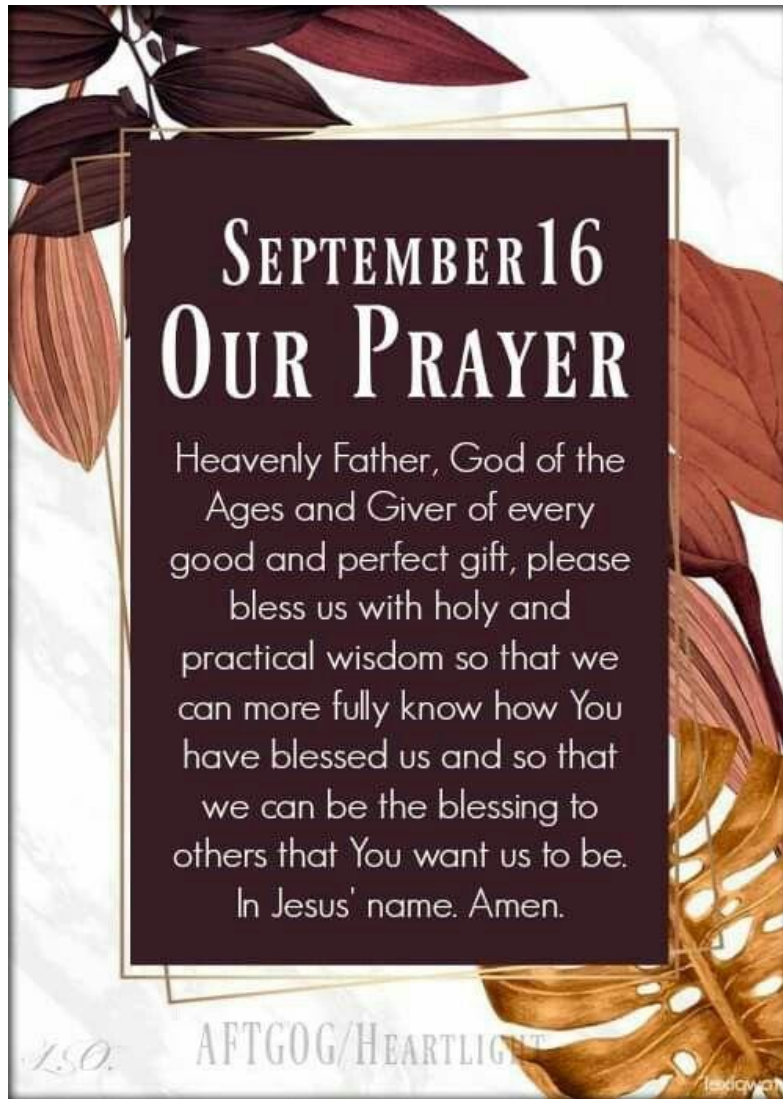
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Connect100+ Newsletter – email connect100@ucareql.com.au

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PASTORAL INFO

INTERIM PRESBYTERY MINISTER ARRANGEMENT

Dear Ministry Agents and Congregations

Please be advised that the Moderator has made interim arrangements for Rev Doug Foster to look after Presbytery Minister duties for Carpentaria. If you have any urgent matters, you can contact Doug on his mobile: 0412 583 536.

In this interim please help us by sending through your queries, time sensitive matters or follow up to our office email: office@ucacarpentaria.com.au and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Christy's mum is declining and the family has gathered at Gold Coast to be with her.

Please remember Christy, her mother and family in your prayers, during this sensitive and difficult time.

*Thank you
Ana*



CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTION

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT LOUISA COMMUNITY CHURCH – TOWNSVILLE



We began 2026 with the knowledge that our minister, Rev Michelle Cullen would be moving on to a new placement as Chaplain to the Mt Louisa Aged Care facility next door to the church. This has meant that Michelle has continued to have contact with the congregation through shared events including a quarterly seniors morning tea called Millies Café which is run by our church. Michelle also conducted worship at MLCC on Blue Care Sunday.

For the congregation, which numbers around 50 most Sundays, it has meant that the organisation of and conduct of regular worship, Sunday Kids and other activities have been in the hands of the church leadership. As we may be without a ministry placement for our part time (at this stage) ministry, the church leadership will continue to do that for the foreseeable future.

Our Sunday worship has a small music and singing team of 5, a tech team and a family who continue to conduct our Sunday Kids (Sunday school) during school terms, with the 5-10 children going to Sunday Kids for the second half of worship. Worship is contemporary and relaxed in style. In the absence of a ministerial placement, the congregation is stepping up with participation in preaching, leading worship, music, readings and prayers.

We share Holy Communion together on the first and third Sundays of the month.

A KYB (Know your Bible) group meets weekly, and a junk journaling craft group meets monthly.

We have recently been privileged to host a Tongan celebration worship service at which the Princess and Prime Minister of Tonga were present. They had come to Townsville to celebrate Jason Taumalolo's 300th NRL game. It was a great celebration and very special.

At the moment without a minister in placement, we are continuing to maintain our current activities including regular worship, church council business and property maintenance. There is not a lot of forward planning or visioning for the future, but the Townsville wide Uniting Church Presence Assessment process has allowed a bit of lateral thinking with Townsville Central City Mission and ourselves working closer together. We plan to share together more into the future. It is also our intention that we will be able to look at some planning for 2027 before the end of 2026.



Market Day

We held a very successful Market Day (Fete) on 25th July. This was our second one with the first being held in August 2025. This Market Day we had over 30 external community store holders attend who each paid a modest site fee. We had our own stalls of Baking, Craft, Trash and Treasure, Sausage Sizzle, Plants, Connect and Bless, Children's activity area and Morning Tea. While it was a lot of work it was a wonderful community connection time which was also productive financially to the tune of over \$4000.



Ex Child Care

Over 4 years ago the childcare centre associated with our church had to close. It was hoped that Uniting Early Learning would be able to refurbish and reopen the centre however after some time and effort that was financially not going to be able to occur due to changes in regulations and the consequent increasing costs to refurbish an existing facility. As a result, towards the end of 2025 the parts of our complex occupied by the childcare centre were formally handed back to the congregation. Since then, we have been involved in repurposing the spaces for community and church use. We have been able to access funds from the childcare 'sinking fund' to do that work.



We now have an extra space to hire and use which has sound and data projector facilities, kitchen facilities which is suitable for up to 60-80 people and outdoor areas including a children's playground. Another space (the Shed) is now used by the Vincent Men's Shed and a third space (The Demountable) is available for smaller meetings and events.



New Signage – with slide in options

We have recently installed new church signage which has slide-in options to advertise special services and events as well as space for regular lessees to advertise their events.



Other Church and Community Groups

Our church complex hosts a number of other church and community groups either weekly or monthly.

Each Sunday we have 3 other congregations using our property. The Immanuel Pentecostal church (an Indian congregation) on Sunday morning in Frew's Place, Grace Riverway Church (an African congregation) Sunday afternoon in the main auditorium and Messenger Revival Church (another African congregation) in the afternoon in Frew's Place. We are also pleased to be welcoming Restoration Ministries who are the evening congregation from the West End Townsville church (Restoration Inn) who have had to find other premises as the West End Church is not able to be used. They will worship on Sunday evening in our new space, Caroola Hall.

The Ukerlyptus Strummers, a 50 strong group playing ukuleles and singing meet on our property weekly on Thursdays as does the International Aglow prayer fellowship on Fridays.

The Vincent Men's Shed uses our property weekly and is looking to expand that usage.

We also host monthly general and committee meetings of the Townsville Garden Club (pictured).



A leading support services organisation, Tadacares, uses Frew's place for their monthly training sessions.

Throughout 2025/2026 we have had many individuals and organisations hire various parts of our complex for such diverse purposes as weddings and wedding receptions, funerals, tombstone openings, one off special worship services, vacation Bible Schools, end of year concerts, school discos, birthday parties, to name a few.

Prayer Points

- For the right ministry leader to be available at the right time.
- For lay leaders and retired ministers supporting the congregation to continue to be sustained and not burn out.
- For continued positive conversations and ministry cooperation between Townsville Central City Mission, Townsville Korean congregation and Mount Louisa Community Church.
- That we find a permanent solution to keeping possums out of our ceiling void and hence out of our church.



CARPENTARIA NEWS

PRESBYTERY INTERCULTURAL MISSION WEEKEND AT AITKENVALE UC – 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2026

At 9:00am worship in Aitkenvale UC on Sunday, 20 September, we will host people from the Presbytery at an intercultural, multilingual service. People from different ethnic backgrounds will participate.

The 9:00am service on Sunday morning will be part of a Presbytery Intercultural Mission Weekend held over the weekend of 19-20 September. The guest preacher will be **Rev Dr Jason Kioa**, a Tongan-born Australian and ordained minister in the Uniting Church. He has served in the Uniting Church in Australia since 1990 with various placements including Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (2006-2009), President of the Tongan National Conference and Minister at Mascot Wesley Uniting Church in Sydney - a thriving multi-

lingual, intergenerational, inter-cultural congregation, where he served with Rev Brendon Lukin. Jason is Australia's most senior Tongan Minister who is an advisor to Synod and Assembly committees in the Uniting Church and in fellowship and engagement with church leaders throughout the Pacific. Jason's 2020 Doctoral Thesis **"The Role of The Tongan National Conference in The Uniting Church in Australia"** has been groundbreaking in positioning the Uniting Church in Australia as an intercultural Christian denomination.

Please come as early as you are able to take part in a rehearsal for the service from 8:00am.

TRINITY SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS



WEDNESDAY AT TRINITY (TERM 5) 2026
MINISTRY TRAINING (IN PERSON & ONLINE)
11AM - 1PM

DATE	WORKSHOP
2 Sept	Ordination Part 1 - Rev Paul Clark
9 Sept	Ordination Part 2 - Rev Paul Clark
16 Sept	Youth Ministry – Hannah Legge
23 Sept	UCA Schools – Jon Moriarty & Nigel Fairbairn
30 Sept	Congregational Leadership – Rev P Clark
7 Oct	A Multicultural Church - Rev Malcolm Scanlan

REGISTER HERE

or at trinity.qld.edu.au

Anyone is welcome to join us for one or more workshops to enhance their ministry practice/experience. Course offerings subject to change.
All training is offered free of charge to Uniting Church Qld attendees

WARNING NOTICE – EMAIL SCAMS AND IMPERSONATION

Attention Church Administrators and Leadership

We would like to bring to your attention a recent attempted email scam involving our church.

Today, our office received an email that appeared to come from our Pastor. The email address used was our Pastor's first name.last name@outlook.com, and the sender advised that his email address had changed.

At first glance, the email appeared legitimate. The sender then requested a PDF copy of our church directory, which contains personal contact details of members of our congregation.

Before providing any information, we contacted our Pastor directly by phone. He confirmed that the email did not come from him and that he had not requested the church directory. This appears to be an attempt to impersonate our Pastor in order to obtain confidential congregation information.

Please be vigilant. We have also heard of similar scams involving invoices purportedly from Government Departments.

In these instances, the email address can look very similar to the genuine address, but the sender may actually be using an @outlook.com or other free email account. The invoice may even be for an amount that is close to what the church is expecting to pay.

The email may then advise that the department's bank account details have changed and request that future payments be made to a different account.

Important precautions

Please ensure that all church administrators and anyone responsible for finances or congregation records:

- Do not rely solely on the sender's name or email address.
- Be particularly cautious of emails from @outlook.com, @gmail.com or other free email accounts claiming to represent a Pastor, church organisation, business or Government Department.
- Do not provide church directories, membership lists or other personal information in response to an unexpected email request.
- Do not change bank account details based solely on an email.
- If an email requests sensitive information, payment or a change to bank details, independently contact the person or organisation using a known telephone number or previously verified email address.
- If you receive an unusual request from your Pastor or another church leader, contact them directly to verify the request before taking any action.
- If you suspect an email is fraudulent, do not reply to it or click on any links or attachments.

A simple rule to remember

STOP – CHECK – VERIFY

If an email involves money, personal information, passwords, bank details or confidential church records, stop before acting and verify the request directly with the person or organisation concerned.

ASBESTOS INSPECTIONS AND REPORTS

The 5yr Asbestos Inspections have been undertaken throughout our Carpentaria properties and reports have been circulated to congregations for their information and record. An invoice for the asbestos inspection and reports will be sent out to individual congregations in due course.

QLD DISASTER CHAPLAINCY NETWORK – DISASTER CHAPLAINCY TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CAIRNS AND TOWNSVILLE

Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network is pleased to announce we have received more funding to roll out additional Disaster Chaplaincy Training!!!

LOCATIONS: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE (North & South), ROCKHAMPTON, REFRESHER TRAINING AND MORE TBA

The Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network is running disaster chaplaincy training for accredited chaplains and credentialed ministers. To take part in training, you will need to hold an ordination with your denomination or an accreditation with a recognised chaplaincy organisation.

The training takes place over two days. The first day covers Disaster Chaplaincy within the Queensland context and the role of chaplains within recovery and evacuation centres. The second day focuses on trauma, and the different effects disasters have on people. This official disaster chaplaincy training will enable you to be deployed to support people inside evacuation and recovery centres as deployed by local Councils and the State Government.

Training will run 9.00am-4:30pm each day. Attendance on both days is required to be deployed.
Please register at your preferred location below:

- Register [Brisbane North Sat 19th & Sat 26th Sep](#)
- Register [Cairns Tues 6th & Wed 7th Oct](#)
- Register [Townsville Fri 9th & Sat 10th Oct](#)
- Register [Brisbane South Fri 6th & Sat 7th Nov](#)
- Rockhampton: 2027 (Dates and Registration TBA)

Refer to Uniting Church Queensland Synod's [QDCN Disaster Chaplaincy Policy](#) here
For more information, see our [Disaster Chaplaincy Flyer](#) here

ONLINE RENEWAL PRAYER

Tonight we gather across the miles, from wherever we find ourselves, to pray together for the renewal of our church. Our prayers aren't a wish to return to how things used to be, but a moment to let God speak to us of the future that lies before us. We gather in trust - knowing that God is at work even now, wherever we are, drawing people to encounter the hope and love we have discovered in God. So we gather with attentive ears and open hearts to listen and act on what God would reveal to us.

We'd love you to join us as we gather online from 7-730pm on a Tuesday night, whether prayer feels natural to you, or you're not quite sure what you're doing, you're welcome. Simply come as you are.

To join us simply use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81994146488?pwd=VDcxd1dCbjluaHZQR3JsM0wySGdWUT09>

If you are unable to join us, you might like to join us in this prayer during the week

*God, you are great,
and we praise you today and every day -
not only for what you've done,
but for what you're doing next.
Help us speak of your greatness
not as a memory of days gone by,
but as a living testimony:
your presence still changing and guiding us,
in the way of Jesus.
Help us listen closely too,
hearing what you ask of us:
to let go of the ways we've always done things,
to hear the quiet voices at the margins,
to release our need to command and control.
Lord, you are gracious and kind,
slow to anger, rich in love.
Make us that way too -
especially toward those who will lead differently than we did.
Help us trust that your goodness doesn't depend on us staying in charge.
Renew our church, God -
not as museum of what we built,
but as your home still being built,
with space at the table for all who long to join your life.
For your name's sake, and for theirs.
Amen.*

FIRST AID TRAINING COURSES

Each congregation should have a First Aid person and be up to date in training. Australia Wide First Aid provides the necessary training. They offer the following training courses:

- HLTAID009 for Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- HLTAID011 Provide First Aid
- HLTAID012 Provide First Aid in an education and care setting

You can book directly through their website: <https://www.australiawidefirstaid.com.au/qld/townsville>

Alternatively, if you are looking to have the invoice issued to your organization, please complete a booking form which you can get from Ana at Presbytery Office and send it to cic@australiawidefirstaid.com.au.



DATE CLAIMERS

2026

19-20 September – Intercultural Mission Weekend at Aitkenvale
23-26 October – 39th Synod at Alex Park
19 November – Muth Arrak Zone Meeting in Cairns
20-22 November – #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church
23-25 November – PLT F2F Strategic Meeting

Synod Selection Panel (SSP) Key Dates 2026
Selection Day 2
 Synod Selection Day 2 – 28th November

ZONE MEETINGS

Muth Arrak	Northern	Southern	Cape Gulf
19 November - Cairns	12 September	No more meetings	(Zoom meetings at 5.30pm) 17-19 November - Retreat to be confirmed



THE WORD FOR TODAY

GOD IS PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

“Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us.” 2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV

Without God’s Word, most of our experiences in life make no sense whatsoever. With it, we can decipher our experiences. Few things are more comforting or more exhilarating than knowing that God is the One putting together the jigsaw puzzle of your life. It was a London cartographer, John Spilsbury, who is credited with commercialising jigsaw puzzles around 1760. During the Great Depression, they were popularised in America as a cheap form of entertainment.

Puzzles come in all shapes and sizes, including the latest and greatest—3D spherical jigsaws. But the method of assembly has not changed. It requires the fitting together of oddly shaped, interlocking pieces. The key is the picture on top of the box. Without it, you’re lost. And that’s why many of us feel helpless and hopeless at times—because the pieces of our lives don’t seem to fit together, and we can’t see God’s vision for the whole. Few have suffered more than the apostle Paul, yet he wrote: *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal”* (2 Corinthians 4:16–18 NKJV). Yes, bad things do happen to good people. But God has promised to recycle it, redeem it, and use it for our good and His glory.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 16 September 2026) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2026)

