

Link



Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Presbytery Ministers, Administrator, PLT, congregations, faith communities, Ministers/Pastors/Chaplains and mission outreaches within Carpentaria Presbytery
- ◆ Minister's North Zone Gathering on 26 Nov
- ◆ Garry driving to Aurukun on 27 Nov
- ◆ Mark and Marie Dewar & their family

Carpentaria Link Weekly Reflection

Sign Up and Share Your Reflection

Here is your opportunity to contribute to Carpentaria Link by offering a reflection. You can choose the date from the calendar found at

https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/link_roster/link_roster_calendar.php

We would love to hear how God is working in and through you all.

Presbytery Office NEW

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Mon Tues Wed & Frid
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0409 287 109

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Rev Barry Cox
0408 415 816

Presbytery Appeal

Bowen UCA

In 2019, as part of a fundraising event, a large donation was received by Bowen Uniting Church. In 2021, a letter of demand was received from an insolvency firm to return the funds. After much investigation into the legitimacy of the claim and the rights of the congregation, it was determined that the demand to return the funds was legal and that the congregation would have to pay.

Bowen UCA having received the funds in good faith, applied the full fundraising amount to the cost of ministry. Permission was given to the Synod Legal team to negotiate a settlement figure on behalf of the congregation. The agreed amount now owed is \$25,000.

At our Presbytery meeting on the 5 November, a Presbytery wide appeal was launched to help Bowen. If you would like to help see bank details below. Let's help Bowen clear this amount so that they can get on with the work of valuable ministry they do to the community.

Bowen Appeal

Account Name: UCA Carpentaria Presbytery
BSB: 014-676
Account No: 474906525
Reference: Bowen Appeal

Christy Allen

Update: Annual Southern Zone Christmas Party 2022 - Cancelled

The annual Southern Zone Christmas Party scheduled for Saturday, 26 November at Townsville Central City Mission is now CANCELLED due to low numbers.

Townsville Central City Mission

Date Claimer: Burdekin Uniting Church Craft Spectacular

The Burdekin Uniting Church is holding its Craft Spectacular on Saturday, 3rd December. Help us raise funds for St Andrews Meals on Wheels!



Burdekin Craft Spectacular
 Burdekin Memorial Hall, Home Hill

Saturday 3rd December
9am – 2pm

Quality Cottage Crafts; Patchwork, Patterns, Fabrics, Flowers, Cards, Beads, Woodwork & much, much more...
 Morning/Afternoon Tea, Lunch, High Tea Trolley
 Free Demonstrations, Fun Treasure Hunt for the Kids
 Four \$100 cash Lucky Door Draws
 Entry - \$10 Children - FREE
 Group booking (10 or more) \$12 incl morning tea - Group tickets must be pre booked & pre-paid. Ph or email to book.

burdelincraftspectacular@msall.com.au or Ph. 0428 877 883

Thanks to our Sponsors




Burdekin Uniting Church
 CRAFT SPECTACULAR
 Sat 3rd December, Burdekin Memorial Hall
Support - Meals on Wheels
 Enter the
"Make a Christmas Decoration" competition

Help us raise funds for St Andrews Meals on Wheels and you could win \$100. Junior Section Prize \$50. Make a Christmas Decoration of your choice - your choice of character, size and medium and enter it into our competition for \$2. All decorations will be displayed in the hall on Friday afternoon, 2nd December between 3pm and 7pm but may be delivered before the day to the Church Office at 18 Munro St. Ayr open Wed, Thurs & Fridays 9am - 12pm. Please phone first 0428835254. All entries to be made on the day Sat 3rd December. For details on how to enter email: burdelincraftspectacular@msall.com

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Entry Form - Entry Fee \$2
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone No: _____
 Bring this entry form, \$2 and your decoration to the Memorial Hall by 5pm Sat 3rd December. Junior Section (to 15yrs) Senior Section

Garry's Thoughts...

Hezekiah's Illness

"Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah: 'Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the Lord, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and defend this city.'" Isaiah 38:4-6

Isaiah 38 starts with an impending tragedy. King Hezekiah was going to die. Isaiah told him plainly that he would not recover from his illness, that he should get his affairs in order. Hezekiah was understandably devastated. He "wept bitterly."

He prayed to God and pointed out what a good person he had been. Not unexpected. I imagine I would do the same if I were given a terminal diagnosis.

But, in Hezekiah's case, God responded quickly—he gave Hezekiah a reprieve from his illness for fifteen years. Not indefinitely. Just for a set amount of time. And we don't know how old Hezekiah was at this point. Was his life extended until he was 45? 60? 80? Would it make a difference?

What would I do if, on my deathbed, I got a message straight from God telling me I had fifteen more years? Would I be bitter that I didn't get to live longer? Would I be so blown away by the second chance that I'd dedicate my life to doing better in my work and relationships?

Would I try to cram in as much experience—and probably self-indulgence—as I could in that time, I mean really milk it for all it was worth?

I would hope that I would see the time as gift and use it wisely and according to God's will for the time. But I can't be sure—I'm human and flawed like everyone else.

Liturgically, we are now in the first week of Advent. It's a new liturgical year. And Advent moves us towards the incarnation of Christ, also known as Christmas.

I like Advent. I really dislike Christmas, but I like Advent.

I like it because in the midst of the business of Christmas, Advent reminds us about what or more, importantly, who, this whole shebang is all about. Because its all about Jesus.

Perhaps this text is a call to wonder about just what we are doing with our lives in this moment? Are there ways in which we might be closer to God and God's direction for us? Are we squandering time in worrying about things we can't control rather than enjoying the abundant beauty of God's creation? Are we holding onto resentments rather than making peace with the people in our lives?

Why wait until we know our time is limited, when we live now in the spaciousness of moments and the blissful ignorance of the day of our death?

Why not ask God to point us to the nearest opportunity for meaningful interactions with the world?

Maybe, after the tumultuous events of the last year, we can use Advent as a time to draw breath and to seek out God in new ways who, after all, breathes his Spirit of life into us and ask ourselves this fundamental question

How does an acceptance of mortality allow me to live a richer and more meaningful life?

Blessings
Garry

Synod News & Info.

Resources / Training / Workshops / Camps

Reminder: 2023 NYALC – Postponed to January 2024

The National Young Adult Leaders Conference planned for 2023 has been temporarily postponed to January 2024. Through 2023, in the lead-up to the 2024 NYALC, the President will host a number of NYALC online events for Uniting Church young adult leaders. This will include opportunities to begin exploring faith and leadership and to contribute to Act2 – a major project considering the future shape of the UCA. The first of these online events will take place on **Saturday 28 January 2023 from 2-4pm AEDT**. Save the date, and to express interest or for more information contact Lara:

LaraR@nat.uca.org.au

Sharon Hollis

President, Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia

Join the campaign to #RaiseTheAge of criminal responsibility

Children belong in school yards, not in prison cells. It's time for action. Right now, we have a crucial opportunity to convince politicians to #RaiseTheAge to at least 14 years old. They have the evidence. We need to show them how much the community cares about keeping children out of prison and supporting them in our homes, schools and communities.

Sign the [petition](#) and email your local MP, the Attorney General, and the Premier [here](#).

Free workshop: Trauma-informed and healing-informed practice

Trauma is a term becoming more widely used and understood by the public, and something the community services sector has been learning about and incorporating into practice for years. But what do trauma and healing-informed practices look like in a culturally safe context? This workshop will examine the difference between trauma-informed and healing-informed practices and will establish why using both approaches is imperative to a holistic practice framework.

Date: Wednesday, December 7. Time: 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Location: Online via Zoom

Register [here](#).

Advent and Christmas materials to share

Intergenerational Advent Resource

[Journey to Joy Worship Planning resource \(Draft Sample\)](#) - A collaborative team has created these **resources** from across the Qld Synod of the Uniting Church to help congregations, communities, and families celebrate Advent together intergenerationally. It contains bible readings, themes and suggestions for prayers, videos, and activities to do in worship to assist with weekly worship preparation for the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Day or Christmas Eve. There is also an Advent Candle Litany and suggestions for a Blue Christmas / Solace / Thanksgiving and Remembering Service.

These resources are connected thematically with the ***Journey to Joy Countdown to Christmas, Advent and Christmas Reflections*** to enable ongoing engagement for congregation members, families, and people in your community over this Advent and Christmas season. These additional resources include 15-character reflections (three for each week's theme), topics and questions for discussion for small groups, families, or individuals to engage with. These reflections invite the participant to explore a character connected with the Advent story, how their own story might connect, and some challenges connected with

the weekly theme. They are designed to invite conversation, connection, and creativity across generations by providing opportunities to share and hear each other's stories and engage in activities together to explore God's big story.

If you have questions about how to use or print the materials, please get in touch with Jess Pinkerton at jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au

Safe Ministry with Children

Supporting those who have experienced traumatic or distressing events

The Safe Ministry with Children [Policy](#), and Safe Church Training, tools and resources focus on providing a safe Church for everyone. Having safe [boundaries](#) and respectful relationships prevents re-victimisation and re-traumatisation of vulnerable people who have sustained prior trauma. Providing psychological first aid is the best approach to helping someone who has had a traumatic experience.

[For example, a person's physical and emotional safety will be increased if their unmet basic care needs are addressed. Using a person-centred and trauma-informed focus](#), and maintaining a collaborative partnership with the person, will offer the most useful ongoing support following trauma.

Psychological first aid - Offer the person:

- Information (e.g. offer information about a local housing service or a support group the Church offers)
- Spiritual and emotional support (e.g. offer to pray with them)
- Practical assistance (e.g. offer a meal or groceries from a food ministry)

Please let us know how we can work together better to ensure everyone can connect, contribute and belong. Contact Lynde Davy at safechurch@ucaqld.com.au or call [07 3377 9983](tel:0733779983).