

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ First Southern Zone meeting for 2023 will be held on Sat, 11 Feb
- ◆ Christy and Garry will be in Brisbane at the Presbytery Synod Interface & Placements Retreat from Sun-Thurs
- ◆ Commissioning and Induction Services in Feb (see date claimers)

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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.

Carpentaria News...

Date Claimers

February 2023

Friday 10th 7pm - Pastor Andrew Hicks - Wulguru Uniting Church (moving from supply to placement)

Friday 17th 7pm - Rev Malia Mau - Burdekin Uniting Church

March 2023

Sunday 12th - Northern Zone pulpit swap

Grant Information / Workshops

How can grant writers help your congregation? Register now for this grant webinar happening on March 16th at 10am

Do grant opportunities fall into the too hard basket as you don't know where to start? Maybe a grant writer can give you the advice and direction you need without costing a fortune. Come along to this grant webinar to hear from a master grant writer who has helped community organisations with successful grant applications. We are hosting our first grant webinar of the year and we have a master grant writer Anna Dunn from Plentify Grants who will educate us on the benefits of a grant writer in grant applications. We will also provide some beneficial tools to help you with your grant applications.

Plentify Grant Writing assists clients to navigate the grant application process and prepare high-quality applications that address the questions from the funder. We work with business, sporting and community groups to prepare the necessary grant application components and ensure work is completed prior to funding deadlines.

Anna has bachelor and masters level tertiary qualifications and has worked extensively in the health and agricultural industries. Her interest in grant writing developed through assisting regional not-for-profit community groups prepare successful funding applications to allow completion of vital projects. Anna has completed a Master Grant Writing Course and further developed her skills to prepare high quality grant applications. She has prepared successful submissions for industry, sporting, and community organisations and been involved with small projects valued at a few thousand dollars through to large, multi-million-dollar projects.

Follow the registration process below to get your **FREE** ticket.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7621b224-ac8b-4dda-91ed-7af881f88218@6f22e5a7-e1b9-4ede-a7c5-31fca0deaa40>

2023 National Conference of Lay Preachers Sunshine Coast

The Queensland Synod is pleased to host on behalf of the National Lay Preacher Committee, the 2023 National Conference of Lay Preachers to be held **Friday 4th August to Monday 7th August 2023** at Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Sunshine Coast Queensland.

For Lay Preachers, prospective Lay Preachers and those interested in leading worship. Share in a wonderful few days and be encouraged, supported and challenged in your ministry.

Registration Cost \$299 (approx.) - includes; conference and conference meals; morning teas, lunches and dinners at the conference. Starting with dinner on Friday 4 August and finishing with lunch – Monday 7 August 2023.

Registrations will open on Tuesday 4th April 2023. All travel, transfers and accommodation are to be arranged and paid for by the attendee. For more information please go to the website page [click here](#)

Please note our website page will be continually updated with new information as it becomes available.

Qld Synod Events Team

Short Courses at Trinity

1. Mentoring short course – While this is for anyone to attend it is particularly important for POD Coordinators and POD mentors (current or future). The arvo session will have a specific focus on POD training
2. Church Council Essentials – This will be offered online over two evenings.
3. Pastor Core Competencies – the two UCA short courses are primarily aimed at equipping pastors in the areas of core competencies.

You can get more details on the website at <https://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/events/>

Nigel Rogers, Dean of Formation

Learning for Living Course

Moreton Rivers Presbytery invites to you to the Learning For Living Course. It is open to everyone who would like to explore the foundation of their faith. Learning for Living is also an accredited lay preachers course and through the support of participants congregations they can become recognised and accredited within the Uniting Church. It is offered online and a link will be sent to those who register. It is run on **Thursday evenings from 7pm - 9.15pm**, starting on the **16 February**.

Registrations are now open - <https://bit.ly/Learning4Living2023>

Moreton Rivers Presbytery

Farewell, Rev Nigel Rogers

With great sadness, I have received the resignation of Rev Nigel Rogers from his role as Dean of Formation at Trinity College Queensland. Nigel will continue at Trinity through the first semester until June 12, 2023. We will work with Nigel to ensure there are processes to farewell Nigel and conclude his placement at the College formally. We will make sure you know about these events as they are planned.

Nigel has been a blessing to Trinity over the last five years, and the development of Trinity's resources, vision and mission has been enhanced by the passion and skills he has brought to his role. We would not be who we are without his leadership, and we look forward to watching his gifts being used in his subsequent placement. Nigel will work with the TCQ and the Synod office to ensure all of the projects and processes he is currently involved with are appropriately handed over during this transition.

Paul Jones, Principal of Trinity College Queensland

From the Word for Today...

Faithfulness

'Great is thy faithfulness.' Lamentations 3:23 KJV

Faithfulness can turn the most menial job into a vitally important one.

For example, think about how dependent we are on something as small as a postage stamp. It's always ready for service. It goes wherever it's sent. It does whatever it's asked to do. It sticks to the task until it's done. It doesn't give up when it's licked. It stays up to date. And it finds no job too small.

We weren't all born with equal talents; some of us are more gifted in certain areas than others. But every one of us was born with an equal responsibility to utilise his or her abilities at full capacity. That's the most any of us can do, and it's what God, who gave us our talents, expects us to do.

Two hundred years ago, when the U.S. Marine Corps was first formed, officials gave considerable time to contemplating a fitting motto. They finally chose the Latin phrase *semper fidelis*, a phrase now engraved on the mind of every Marine. What does it mean? 'Always faithful'!

Both are important words, but the most important is the first one: *always*. Why? Because a Marine can't afford to be faithful only when it's comfortable or convenient, or when they feel like it, or when it will make them happy. *Semper fidelis* means you must always be faithful – regardless of the cost.

God wants to be able to say the same thing about you as is said about Him: 'Great is thy faithfulness.' So whether you're a boss, an employee, a father or mother, a husband or wife, a friend, a teammate, or a Marine, the word for today is – always be faithful.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 8 February 2023)

The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass



Synod News & Info.

Resources / Training / Workshops / Camps / Celebrations

Reminder: Easter Madness 2023 (1-4 April)

Our annual high school camp for Uniting Churches across Queensland, Easter Madness will take place 1-4 April, 2023 at QCCC Mt Tamborine. Easter Madness is a 4 day camp for young people in high school to evolve in their faith and discipleship, build community and develop leadership skills.

Our theme this year is "REDEFINED". God is the great redefiner and through the person and work of Christ Jesus everything should be redefined, how we look, act, behave and see ourselves, others and the world around us. In discovering who God meant for us to always be, our purpose is redefined. Easter Madness will look at, what it means to live in freedom as a disciple, redefined.

If you head to our website www.eastermadness.com.au you can download the church kit and sponsorship links. This is the promotion [VIDEO](#) for CQ and Carpentaria.

Please if you have any questions or want more information email Mia at adminsupport@mrpres.org.au or call (07) 3366 0236.

Gifts in Wills Webinar

Would you like to make a difference for generations to come? Leaving a gift to the church, no matter how large or small, can make a difference in missional work. Do you want to learn more about how to leave a gift in your will to the church? We will hold a free webinar on Tuesday, April 18, at 11:30 am. This webinar will cover the role of The Property Trust in estates management and everything you need to know about how to leave a gift to your congregation or the church as a whole. We will have a senior associate from Thynne Macartney talk about what useful gifts you can leave to the church.

When: Tuesday, April 18 at 11:30 am

Where: Online event - Webinar

[Click here](#) to register.

If you have any questions, contact Vanessa, the Office of the Synod's Fundraising Support Manager, at vanessa.griffiths@ucaqld.com.au.

Sign up for Lent 2023 materials and resources

We are planning for Lent in 2023 and have created a Lent website for you to bookmark. We've also included a link that you can use to enter your email and sign up for Lent materials and resources. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us by responding to this email.

[Click here to sign up for Lent!](#)

Journey with Jesus during Lent

Each week there is a reflection, discussion questions, and challenges to help you and your community consider practices that form people who become lifelong followers of Jesus' way. Following this year's Lectionary readings, this material will explore parts of Jesus' recorded ministry and discover some of the templates he set for his disciples when he invited them to "follow me".

[Click here](#) to 'Journey with Jesus' during Lent and sign up for updates [here](#)

UnitingWorld's Lent Event - 40 days of prayer, simplicity and generosity for our hurting world

UnitingWorld's Lent Event seeks to help us refocus our lives through prayer, simplicity and generosity.

- Pray - Use our prayer guide to pray alongside our partners as they address the challenges facing their communities.
- Live simply - Give up something in solidarity with people who have less.
- Give - Donate or fundraise to help our partners fight poverty and injustice.

Head to <http://www.lentevent.com.au> today to get started. In 2023, Lent is from February 22 to April 6.

Life of the Church

Cutting through the 'noise' of life – Refocusing during Lent

"When I was a child, I would sit on my mother's lap, and she would tell me the stories of our people. It meant I knew who I was because I knew my story. "I'm so grateful for it because today it's fading away. It's harder for young people because of the noise of modern life."

Ever since I heard this from Kim Allen, a youth leader with the United Church in Papua New Guinea, a UnitingWorld partner church, I can't get it out of my mind. I think his words transcend his culture and speak into our current moment.

At just 28 years old, Kim is responsible for around five thousand youth across almost ten remote islands. He acts as a facilitator to connect youth to the church's work.

Read more about the feature, written by Dr Sureka Goringe - National Director, UnitingWorld.

Nominate a shining light in your community for Blue Care's 70th anniversary!

Thank you to those fantastic volunteers who have put their names forward to be our local champion for the organisation of Blue Care's 70th-anniversary celebrations in their communities. If you have a shining light in your community or congregation, please encourage them to put their name forward to sheri.holland@ucareqld.com.au, and we will assist them with every step.

Blue Care is looking forward to the continuing connection with our communities, UnitingCare, and Uniting Church congregations through this season of celebration.

Contact **Sheri** if you have any questions or would like more information.

Safe Church and Safe Ministry with Children

Safe Church assessment - Information request

Thank you for your continued and extraordinary commitment to the care of the children we are entrusted to look after. As part of fulfilling our commitment to the community to conduct child-safe activities, presbyteries have been requested by the General Secretary to work with congregations to supply information for a routine annual Safe Church assessment. Congregations will be contacted by their presbytery. The information must be collated and forwarded to the Synod office before March 15. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Annual Safe Church Audit

The annual audit includes all volunteers, not only those volunteers in child-related roles. All volunteers must complete a [Statement of Personal Commitment](#) each year and complete training relevant to their role. New resources have been developed to assist congregations, presbyteries and [regulated businesses](#) in gathering this [information](#). Resources are available on the synod [website](#).

Principle 10 of the 10 UCA Child Safe Principles

Review and continuous improvement of policy, procedure and practice. The Uniting Church is committed to continuous improvement and regularly undertakes reviews of policy, procedure and practice. We examine incidents and reports to identify systemic issues and take lessons from what we learn. Please let us know how we can work together better to ensure everyone can connect, contribute and belong.

If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch with your Presbytery office or the Safe Church Assurance and Support Officer, Lynde Davy, at safechurch@ucaqld.com.au or [07 3377 9833](tel:0733779833).

