

Link



Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ❖ *A new initiative for 2025 will be the request for congregations or faith communities to share highlights, insight or reflections from their area. Ana will invite one congregation each month to be included in Link as a new monthly edition*
- ❖ *Christy is in Brisbane this week*
- ❖ *To subscribe to Uniting News: Click the link [here](#) and add your details.*

Moderator's Disaster Appeal

In response to the flooding in North Queensland, the Moderator's Disaster Appeal has been activated to provide people the opportunity to donate to the front-line efforts of our congregations in the affected areas.

Please note: donations are not tax-deductible.

[Donate here](#)

Presbytery Office NEW

Postal Address

PO Box 6071
Mackay MC Qld 4741
NEW NO: 0459 544 507

NEW Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri
9.00am-3.30pm

Executive Assistant

Ana Mila (Secretary)
NEW OFFICE NO: 0459 544 507
office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Rural (Supply) (based in Northern Zone)

Rev Craig Mischewski (Deputy Chairperson)
0400 036 630
cjmisch@gmail.com

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal (based in Southern Zone)

Rev Christy Allen (Chairperson)
0418 184 834
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Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley (Treasurer)
0429 195 506
admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au

REMINDER RE CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY MEETING IN CAIRNS

28-30 March 2025

Venue: Cairns Emmanuel UCA
(Information will be sent out soon)

Carpentaria News

Reflection from Craig...

Love

The Apostle Paul says some pretty radical things, radical for our time but unbelievably radical for his time. In his day life was brutal, people died young and unless you were relatively well off your life was very difficult and unpredictable. This is what makes Paul's teaching on love so amazing, given that much of his audience were slaves or slave owners. The crux of his teaching is in verses 4-7 of 1 Corinthians 13 and it goes,

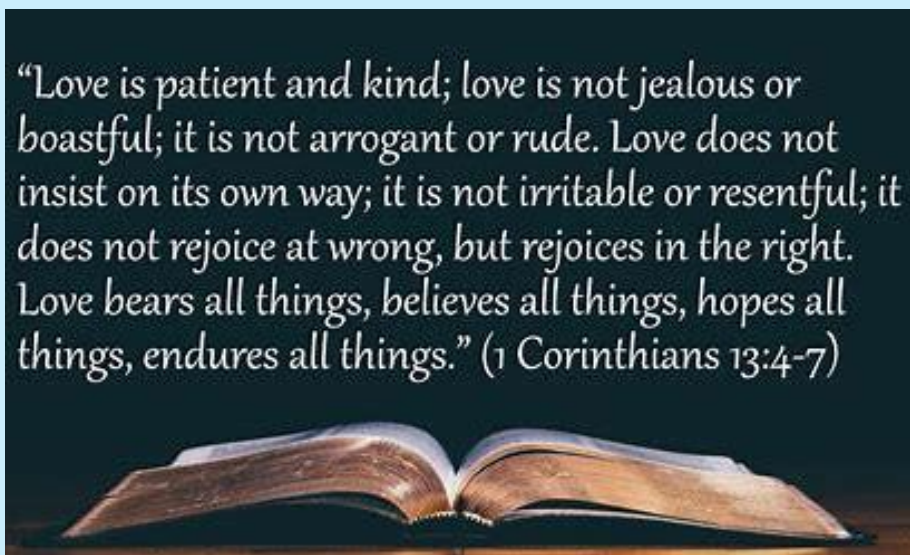
Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Imagine you are a slave owner or slave and hear this. Or you are a woman, given that women were treated as property in those days. The bit that really grabs me is where it says love doesn't insist on its own way. Imagine that in a first century household where children, wives and slaves were all property of the man of the house. It's kind of mind blowing really, Paul saying to that guy you're a Christian now so you can't insist on your own way.

This is true for our day as well, how often in church meetings are there those who insist on their own way, or in families who do the same thing. Insisting on your own way, unless for very good reasons around safety and such is generally an indication of the need to control. People who need to control are mostly very insecure and as such are far more concerned with what makes them feel safe than they are for the common good. It is up to each of us to question ourselves, why do we need to insist on getting things our way, is it for the common good or is it driven by insecurity.

Choosing the way of love means we put the common good before our need except in a circumstance where a very bad decision is about to be made. So think about your motivation next time a group decision needs to be made, whose purposes are being served. In the end it's always best to serve the purpose of love.

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)



SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY NORTH QUEENSLAND FLOODING

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by the severe flooding across our Presbytery.

We stand in solidarity with the communities facing the challenges of displacement, property damage, and recovery in the wake of these events.

If your church buildings have been affected by the floods, please reach out to Group Insurance for support and guidance. You can contact them via email at ucinsuranceclaims@ucaqld.com.au or by phone at **(07) 3377 9754**.

Let us continue to hold each other in prayer and offer support wherever possible as we navigate this difficult time together.

DATE CLAIMERS

2025 Dates

- **28-30 March** – #1 Presbytery Meeting in Cairns at Cairns Emmanuel
- **16-19 May** – 38th Synod in Session at Alex Park
- **10-11 August** – PLT (face to face) at Ingham or Innisfail
- **11-14 August** – Presbytery Retreat at Cardwell starting with dinner
- **31 Oct to 2 November** - #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church
- **3-5 November** – Strategic Meeting (face to face) in Townsville (tbc)

UPDATE RE ADVENT APPEAL

The Advent Appeal to help Kennedy Patrol with fuel costs concluded. The Presbytery would like to thank all those who contributed from congregations, individuals from our Presbytery as well as others across the state. The total received was \$1,684.20

VOLUNTEER CARE ESSENTIALS – TOWNSVILLE

Blue Care Mt Louisa Chaplain – Ps. Kemerli Lievano will be running the Volunteer Care Essentials Course at Kirwan Uniting Church on Saturday Feb 15 and 22.

This course will equip our volunteers for pastoral care expression in the congregation or other settings such as hospital or aged care volunteer chaplaincy. The CARE Essentials Course is an eight-session course designed for use in Congregations or Faith Communities and can also become the beginning step on the pathway to more specialised Pastoral Care volunteering in various UCA Chaplaincy settings. The CARE Essentials Course includes an exploration of what Pastoral Care entails and how we can define it, examining why we are involved in Pastoral Care, and some foundational skills needed to get started as a Pastoral Carer.

Register via Facebook at the Kirwan UC Facebook Events page below or email Kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com / [Pastoral Care Essentials Course I | Facebook](#)

TOWNSVILLE 3RD CO. BOYS BRIGADE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Boys Brigade is a Christian association for Boys aged 6 to 18 that equips them with the skills and knowledge to develop positive friendships, engage in leadership and develop an understanding of their Biblical role as sons of God and men of valour. Kirwan Uniting Church has been invited to host Townsville only Boys Brigade Company, Townsville 3rd Company - to be captained by Zack Lyons and BBs Chaplain, Rev. Esteban Lievano. For anybody who might be interested in joining the Company as a leader or learning more about Brigades in general, there will be a Leadership Training Day at Kirwan Uniting Church on Saturday 8 of Feb. To register your interest, please click the link below for Kirwan UC Facebook Event Page, or email kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com

[Townsville 3rd Co. Leaders Training | Facebook](#)

EASTER MADNESS 2025

Easter Madness 2025 will again be held at Alex Park on the Sunshine Coast on 11-14 April (one week before the Easter Holidays). The main focus of EM is to see every young person become more aware of God's redemptive love, offering them opportunities to recognize and have real experiences with this Love.

This year's theme is Beloved based on Romans 8: 35-39, each day will have a special focus:

1. Fri: **Unshakeable Love** (v.35)
2. Sat: **More than Conquerors** (v.37)
3. Sun: **Depth of God's Love** (v.39)
4. Mon: **Living in Response to God's Love**

Ana will send out the EM25 letter, poster and card to congregations so you can participate and partner with the planning team in this relevant and vital youth ministry.

For more info contact Fernando Torres by mob: **0423 723 822** or email: youthworker@mrpres.org.au or go onto the website: <https://eastermadness.com.au>

EOI OPEN FOR COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN GRASSROOTS FUNDING

Expressions of Interest are now open for Communities for Children Cairns South and Yarrabah Grassroots Funding. If you are interested email office@ucacarpentaria.com.au to get a copy of the Application Information and Guidelines as well as the Application Form. Expressions of Interest close on 17 February 2025.

FREE WEBINAR ON ELDER ABUSE AND COERCIVE CONTROL

There is a free training webinar on the topic of elder abuse and coercive control that may be of interest for ministers and congregations. It will be a good session for anyone that needs to complete their hour of external training for the year. Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA) are hosting a free webinar "Death by a Thousand Cuts – Coercive Control and the Older Person" at 11.30am on 13th February. Link to register - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vBKayvXmQTKmVbEmP0Uc2w#/registration

From The Word for Today

PRAYER

'Lord, teach us to pray,' Luke 11:1 NKJV

Demonstrating an uncommon level of honesty, a well-known pastor says: 'Prayer is the biggest struggle I have ... It's difficult to maintain a consistent prayer life, and especially difficult to sustain the conviction that it does any good at times.'

Prayer doesn't come naturally for the majority of us. We know it's supposed to be a dialogue, but often it feels like a monologue. There is nothing worse than trying to talk with someone who won't talk back. We don't like to admit it, but often what we are really wondering about prayer is, 'How can I pray so that God will give me what I want?' One little boy was asked if he said his prayers every night. He replied, 'No, some nights I don't need anything.'

Prayer is not about the particular words you use or the length of time you spend praying. It's about getting acquainted. It's about building a relationship. If you have something to talk to someone about, you may say, 'We need to find somewhere we can talk.' You want to make sure you're heard, and that you hear what the other person has to say. When you eliminate the noise of this world, you maximise your ability to hear God. It shows God you're taking your relationship with Him seriously. The psalmist said, 'He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty' (Psalm 91:1 NKJV). Do you have a 'secret place' where you can be alone with God? It can be anywhere. But you need a place where you can go and show you mean business with God.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 5 February 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2025

