

GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

ACTS 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptised?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptised with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—together there were about twelve of them.

MARK 1:4-11

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



MERIMBULA UNITING CHURCH

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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Mobile

'Creating a caring, nurturing community'



He saw the spirit descending
Mark 1:10



Morning Worship: Roster

	10 th January 2021	17 th January 2021
Leader	Rev Jean Shannon	Rev Jean Shannon
Music	Elizabeth Prosser	Corinne Nicolson
Duty Elder	Ros Williams	Shirley McLennan & Iris Ballard
Stewards	Joan & Royce Lovett	Jeff Haynes & Stuart Edwards
Reader	Margaret Manley	Shirley Bazley
Pastoral Prayer	Ros Williams	Shirley McLennan
Morning Tea	No Morning tea	No Morning Tea
Projection	Jeff Haynes	Tony Olinsky
Lectionary	Genesis 1: 1-5 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20) 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51

Regular Activities

Morning Worship - 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday/month: - 10am

Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and at Wyndham - 2:30pm & 3rd Wednesday/month - 2:00pm at Imlay House. (not at present)

Tura Beach Op Shop - Open Mondays, Wednesday & Fridays 9:00am to 4:00pm

Fellowship Group - 1st Monday/month at 1.30pm - contact Joan or Corinne

"Uniting Gardeners" - 1st & 3rd Friday, 3pm to 4pm at the church.

Uniting Church Tai Chi 108 Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley

Uniting Church Dance Group - Tuesday evenings & Friday mornings

Church Bring-and-Share Brunch - T.B.A.

Birthdays this week:

Tony Olinsky - 11th



For those who would like to make their **Offering** via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for **Giving Direct** are: Acc Name: *Sapphire Coast Uniting Church* BSB: 634-634 Acc Number: 100037934
Cards for the plate, indicating your choice, are available on the front desk.



Take Your Brain Dancing starts this Wednesday 13 January at 1pm for new dancers. Bookings are essential. Please ring Wendy 0412997769 or email wendycolhoun@bigpond.com

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

The Gospel of Mark offers us no birth story, no sweet narrative of stars or stables. The first time we encounter Jesus is at his baptism in the Jordan. The heavens tear apart, the Spirit descends like a dove, and a voice comes from heaven, saying, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Before any of Jesus' ministry, before works and miracles, before pain and sacrifice, before teaching and acts of justice, before living and loving, God names Jesus as beloved and with him God is well pleased. God doesn't love Jesus because of what he does, God isn't approving of Jesus because of how Jesus measures up, but simply because of who he is and perhaps more importantly, who God is. This too, is our gift in baptism. God does not love us because of what we know, or what we do, but simply because of who we are - and more importantly, who God is. Before our gifting and calling, before our promises and our responses, comes the gift of God's love, relationship with God, God's blessing and affirmation. We belong to God.

It is not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it.

The Golden Girls

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.

Spanish proverb

From the Treasurer...



How can I financially support the church most effectively in the modern era

Our church relies directly on its members for a regular income, in order to fund a full-time minister and carry on our work in the community.

There are 3 ways you can make your offering to Merimbula Uniting Church:



1. Traditional cash/cheque to the collection plate
 2. By setting up a Direct Debit via Synod – (fill out the Giving Direct form available from the Treasurer)
 3. By setting up a regular payment/transfer from your own internet banking account
- Using your internet banking account means:*
you can set and forget;
you can schedule to pay weekly or monthly;
you can change the amount at any time, or stop it without forms or phone calls;
you are in complete control.

The church has set up a dedicated bank account for offerings, separate from our working account. All contributions received here are 'swept' into the working account as a single lump sum each month. Therefore, confidentiality is fully maintained and individual offerings are not traceable back to the giver. The system is even more private than using the collection plate!

Why is direct banking so important?

- Income fluctuates with attendance. During the early COVID period, we were not allowed to attend church – but the church still has running costs. In the days of dated envelopes, people could easily make up for the times they weren't there. But that time has passed. Many new members, (ie the last 10 years) have never seen the envelopes and do not know that offerings were assumed on a weekly basis where they could be afforded. So not there, often = no income for the church.
- Giving direct balances out the year and helps the treasurer budget on the basis of projected income.
- What's in it for me and the church?
Many cafes and shops refuse cash because of COVID safety concerns. The potential for infection is equal for the giver as well as those who need to count it. It is a risk that is preventable.
Payments happen automatically and do not rely on a person remembering to go to the bank.
Just like cash, it can be altered or stopped at any time according to a person's financial needs.
You have an exact record of expenditure instead of getting to the end of the week/month and wondering where the money went. Accountants prefer electronic transfers for people on a budget.
Cash just seems to 'slip away' when you're on a tight budget.
The church needs a platform of predictable income, because bills are predictably regular.

Information sheets on setting up a direct bank payment are available from the church office, if you would like some guidance with this. If you haven't already done so, please consider supporting your church in this way!

Our bank details for offerings are –

Account Name: **Sapphire Coast Uniting Church**

BSB: **634 634**

Account Number: **100037934**

