



## Sapphire Coast Uniting Church 'Lockdown' Newsletter

Week Ending Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Welcome** to another of our weekly emails, keeping our congregations connected during the Corona Virus shutdown. Feedback, contributions and any items for future inclusion are welcome, and can be forwarded to Jeff, Tony or via the church email.

### Birthdays next week:

8<sup>th</sup> – Royce Lovett

9<sup>th</sup> – Colin Manley

12<sup>th</sup> – Fred Stove



**Morning Tea:** Please note change to the usual Meeting ID. Feel free to join some of the regulars for our virtual morning tea again this week. For those who have internet access and would like to join us at 11:00am each Sunday, just log onto zoom.us and click on 'Join a Meeting'. When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID:** 736 9261 2649 and **Password:** 40225 Alternatively just click on the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73692612649?pwd=bGVqYlV0UmtkSmZHYjZTbmlXcmUydz09>

Be sure to have your computer/laptop/ipad camera and audio turned on. (If you need some assistance, call Jeff or John beforehand). So, grab a cuppa and a biscuit and join us – no agenda, just a social catch up with whoever who can make it on the day. The chat will be limited to 40 minutes today. Thanks to Tony for hosting!

### Church News

- While the government has recently announced that Churches and Worship Centres are able to reopen from June 1 with up to 50 people, we are guided by NSW Synod on the Uniting Church response. Their advice is to hasten slowly, and ensure all required health procedures and policies are in place. While this is worked through, it is likely to be several more weeks before we are able to have a service in our churches. Bear in mind that any numbers are subject to the 4 person per square metre rule, which would limit Merimbula church to a maximum of 30 people in the congregation, rather than 50. In the meantime, preparations are underway for a Zoom service to be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Now that the manse has been vacated, work has commenced on a refurbishment. Royce has been organising quotes from painters for the removal of the old wallpaper and repainting of the interior of the property. John is measuring up floors in preparation for the replacement of carpets in the office, lounge/dining room and master bedroom. We plan to install an air conditioner in the office and there are several other tasks to be undertaken, so that the manse is at its best for the arrival of Rev Jean Shannon sometime in August.
- Car for Sale – the vehicle driven by Rev David is now surplus to our needs and is to be sold. If you know anyone in the market for an inexpensive second-hand SUV, let us know. The car is a Hyundai ix35 2.0L Highlander CRDi Diesel Auto, currently registered till December and has travelled \$338,000km. (Registration CPD48Z) Asking \$5990 ono

- Closure service for Rev David Russell – We bid a fond farewell to Rev David Russell, who has now concluded his time with us and will take a short break before commencing his new role with Illawarra Presbytery. Rev David has been with us since May 2013, initially in a supply role, then a 50% placement shared with Cooma Uniting, and finally a fulltime placement with us for the last 3 years. A Closure of Ministry service was held last Sunday with some 42 people in ‘attendance’ via Zoom. The lockdown presented some



challenges for this service, with some participants in Canberra and others in Merimbula, yet all went relatively smoothly. Pictured are David and Susan during the service and holding a farewell gift from the congregation – a painting by Bob Ross. Our thoughts and prayers go with them as they head north for the new stage of their life journey.



- The next Church Council meeting has been set down for 9<sup>th</sup> July, at 2:00pm. We to hold a face to face meeting by then, but Zoom remains as a backup plan.

### Elders

Thank you to our Elders, who continue to be the main point of contact for our congregation. While most of the congregation have been able to receive our weekly newsletters by email, there are a number who do not have internet access, and rely on others to keep them informed. Similarly, while a group of the congregation have been able to keep in touch with weekly Zoom video ‘Morning Tea’ calls, many are not in this situation. Please continue to be mindful of those who may be missing out on these contacts. A weekly Elder’s call, or simply dropping in a copy of the newsletter, can make a big difference.

### Op Shop



The Op Shop remains closed, but pictured is a rather large transport that collected a load of 50 bags of clothes from our church storage shed on Monday. This clothing is on its way to Sydney and will be repacked to eventually find its way to African communities.

It is hoped that the Op Shop will be able to reopen in some capacity before too long!

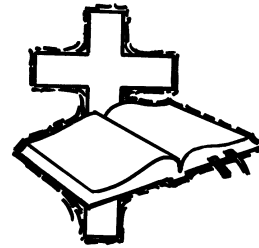
### Your Weekly Offerings

Thank you to those who have been posting or forwarding their regular offerings, and to those who have directed payments to our church account (BSB 634 634, Account Number 100038811). Many have continued their *Giving Direct* contributions. If you are unable to do this you may continue to

put your weekly offerings aside in an envelope, that then can be placed in the collection when normal activities eventually resume.

**Lectionary readings this week:**

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20



**DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT – Words for Worship**

The idea of the Trinity is no easy matter to grasp. Threeness and unity seem, on the face of it, to be contradictory. The problem for the first Christians, those who wrote the creeds, and for us today is, who would we exclude from our understanding of God? Would we give up on the idea of an eternal creator who births and sustains the billions of galaxies of which we are just a tiny part? Or would we sacrifice the idea of the incarnation, the example of God portrayed in the life of Christ, or his saving grace or the power of the resurrection – all of which Christians perceive to be God with us, Emmanuel? Or, would we deny the presence, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, God present with us forever? Perhaps the way to look at the conundrum of the Trinity is not to seek definitions and particularity, but instead, to rejoice in the many ways God is made known amongst us.

**Reflection – from Insights Magazine**

Trinity Sunday is a celebration of who God is for us: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The concept of the Trinity evokes the theme of community and relationships. It acts as a model for human relationships as a part of God’s reconciling mission in our world.

One God, yet a community of persons, the trinity expresses the notion that the highest form of existence is communal. God is communal, so therefore we should find the true meaning of being as a person in fellowship with other people. Because of this, the church community should reflect God far better than a lone person, no matter how gifted that person may happen to be. By insisting on being individuals over being community, we limit and diminish ourselves. Growth in faith really only takes place when we give to others and receive from others; when we know we need them and they need us. What kind of wonderful creatures might we become if, in the fellowship of the church, we begin to model ourselves not on individualism but on God’s community, as symbolised by the Trinity?

**PRAYER**

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon  
and curl the baby's ear;  
Spirit, brooding over chaos  
before the naming of day;  
Savior, sending us to earth's ends  
with water and words:  
startle us with the grace, love, and communion  
of your unity in diversity,  
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name.  
Amen.



**Contact Details**

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Wyndham Congregation: Nancy Grant – 64942127

*Sapphire Coast Uniting Church acknowledges the First Peoples of the land on which our congregations meet, work, play and live. We honour them for their continuing custodianship from time beyond remembering. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.*

Missed a newsletter? They can be viewed on the Merimbula church website by clicking on the link on the front page, or going through to 'Notices and News' and clicking on 'Lockdown Newsletters'.

Keep safe,  
Ed.



*Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive these emails*