GENESIS 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

ROMANS 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

MATTHEW 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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'Creating a caring, nurturing community'

You give them something to eat. Matthew 14:16

Morning Worship: Roster

	2nd August 2026	9th August 2026
Leader	Rev Andrew Collis	Rev Andrew Collis
Music	Corinne Nicolson	Rosemary Akesson
Entry of Bible	Robyn Herdegen	Ailsa Liffman
Acknowledgement of Country	Geoff Burton	Iris Ballard
Stewards	Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey	Anne Olinsky & Ana Topic
Reader	Iris Ballard	Jean Shannon
Pastoral Prayer	Robyn Herdegen	Ailsa Liffman
Morning Tea	Jean Shannon & Geoff Burton	Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Geoff Burton
Flowers	Ailsa Liffman	Robyn Herdegen
Lectionary	Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

Regular Activities

Morning Worship: 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday/month: - 10am
Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and 2:30pm at Wyndham
Imlay House Service: 2:00pm, 4th Thursday of the month – helpers would be appreciated.
Tura Beach Op Shop: Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.
Uniting Church Tai Chi 108: Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley
Uniting Church Dance Group: Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and Friday mornings at 9 am Contact Jeff Haynes on 0402 384 535 for details.
'Blokes United' Coffee Morning - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday each month - 10am at The Eddy
Ladies Friendship Coffee Afternoon – 2nd Wednesday of the month – 2pm at RSL
Church Bring-and-Share Brunch – 1st Sunday/month (Feb, May, Aug, Nov.)

Corinne Nicolson – 6th

For those who would like to make their offering anonymously via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for Giving Direct are: **Acc Name** Sapphire Coast Uniting Church **BSB** 634-634 **Acc No** 100037934

Our **Church Bring-and-Share Brunch** will be held today after the church service. Please plan to stay and enjoy some food and fellowship together.

Duty Roster
To help Ailsa prepare the duty roster for **September, October and November,** I have put a list on the notice board where you can note any future absences. The list will remain up for a few weeks to give you time to think about it and to help Ailsa when she comes to do the roster.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT
The feeding of the five thousand is one of the few events in the life of Jesus recounted in all the gospels, indicating its significance to the early Christian community. The practice of breaking bread has also been linked to this event.
It is easy to become stuck on the question: what really happened? How could a small lunch feed a vast crowd? Commentaries can help us explore possibilities, but this story also offers rich images for us as followers of Jesus. Jesus attempts to withdraw on hearing of the death of John the baptiser, but a crowd pursues him. How often are we asked to put aside our own needs to support others—family, friends or strangers? Jesus welcomes the people with compassion and practical help. The disciples are overwhelmed, reflecting a sense of 'can't see, can't feel, can't help.' Then the generosity of one becomes the catalyst for a feast; there is more than enough for everyone. The twelve baskets left over suggest that Jesus' blessing makes sustenance available for all.
When we are hampered by tiredness, overwhelmed, limited in resources or lacking faith, Jesus' commands remain: stay here, sit down, look at what you have, give thanks, and share. What might we witness by putting these into practice?

When science finally locates the centre of the universe, some people will be surprised to discover they are not in it. ***Anon***