EXODUS 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you'. This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

ROMANS 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; out do one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

MATTHEW 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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Merimbula Uniting Church

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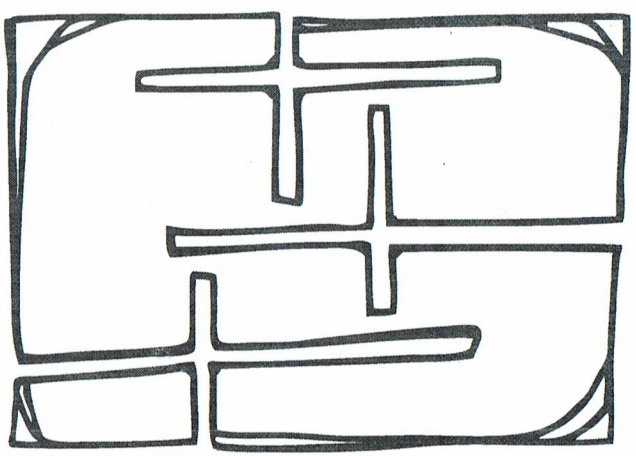
'Creating a caring, nurturing community'



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS.

MT 16:24

Morning Worship: Roster

	30th August 2026	6th September 2026
Leader	Rev Andrew Collis	Rev Andrew Collis
Music	Elizabeth Prosser	Rosemary Akesson
Entry of Bible	Iris Ballard	Iris Ballard
Acknowledgement of Country	Shirley McLennan	Robyn Herdegen
Stewards	Robyn Herdegen & Julie Russell	Tony & Anne Olinsky
Reader	Shirley Bazley	Julie Russell
Pastoral Prayer	Iris Ballard	Iris Ballard
Morning Tea	Wendy & Larry Hulands	Robin Unger & Robyn Herdegen
Projection	Jeff Haynes	Jeff Haynes
Flowers	Robyn Herdegen	Ailsa Liffman
Lectionary	Exodus 3:1-1 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28	Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

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.)

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

ACVVS (Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme)
Council meeting and AGM: Thursday 3rd September at 2:00pm in church hall

Dates to save:
Saturday 26th September -Culture of Safety Workshop for members of council and leaders 9:00am to 4:00pm in church hall. Details to follow.
Sunday 27th September – Picnic with our Eden friends, likewise details to follow

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT
Following Simon's declaration of Jesus as God's chosen one, and his new name of Peter, foundation leader of the church, Jesus calls him 'Satan'—one who stands in opposition to God's way. Peter moves from becoming the rock for Jesus' followers to a stumbling block for Jesus. It is sobering to note that a step of faith and revelation one day does not absolve us from being a barrier to someone's faith the next.
Then we find Jesus asking us to deny ourselves and take up a cross if we want to follow him. In a world where our instincts are for self-preservation, and the surrounding ethos of consumerism promotes 'you owe it to yourself,' Jesus' words are counter-cultural. Yet, the self-giving love that Jesus asks of us is what enables growth, acceptance, healing and second chances. Elsewhere, Jesus tells us to love our neighbour 'as ourselves.' This suggests that we do need to care for our own well-being and hold on to self-respect. If our being and identity are denied, or we are depleted, neglected, ignored and abused by ourselves or others, we have so much less to give. In the week ahead, what opportunities do we have to enrich life for others by putting their interests ahead of our own?

The one who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
Anon