Acts 17:22-28

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

John 3:1-16

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life

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Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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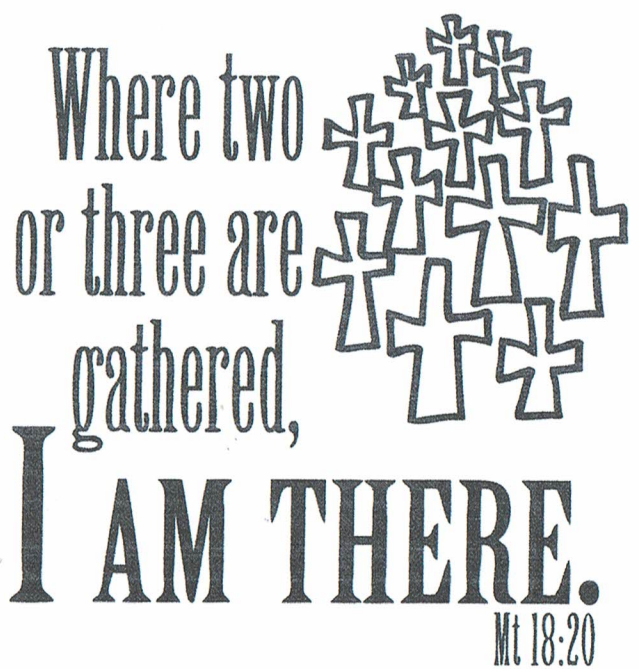
'Creating a caring, nurturing community'



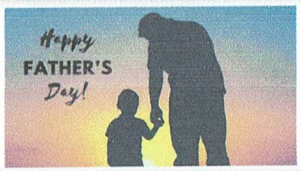
Morning Worship: Roster

	6th September 2026	13th September 2026
Leader	Rev Andrew Collis	Rev Andrew Collis
Music	Rosemary Akesson	Elizabeth Prosser
Entry of Bible	Iris Ballard	Robyn Herdegen
Acknowledgement of Country	Robyn Herdegen	Iris Ballard
Stewards	Tony & Anne Olinsky	Ailsa Liffman & Ana Topic
Reader	Tony Olinsky	Iris Ballard
Pastoral Prayer	Iris Ballard	Robyn Herdegen
Morning Tea	Robin Unger & Robyn Herdegen	Meryl Davey & Iris Ballard
Projection	Jeff Haynes	Tony Olinsky
Flowers	Ailsa Liffman	Robin Unger
Lectionary	Acts 17: 22-28 John 3: 1-16	Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

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



To all the Fathers out there, have a great day on Sunday 6th September

Ladies Friendship Coffee afternoon. Wednesday 9th Sept. 2:00pm RSL

Dates to save:
Saturday 26th September -Culture of Safety Workshop for members of council and leaders 9:00am to 4:00pm in church hall.
Sunday 27th September – Picnic with our Eden friends, at **Ford Park, at 12 noon.** Bring picnic food, folding chairs, musical instruments & simple games.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Taken as a set of rules, Matthew 18:15–20 can seem harsh. To our ears, they convey a sense of control and authority that does not sit well in our contemporary world.
Most of us will have heard about controlling leaders and wish to distance ourselves from them. Many congregations wish to invite and include rather than expel or exclude members. Yet, these verses hold some helpful principles. They suggest addressing conflict at the grassroots level, where it begins, and keeping it a private matter between those involved. They suggest a pastoral sensitivity that is alert to hurt feelings and a personal strength that overcomes difference and disagreement. They talk about engaging with others and drawing their wisdom and connections if there is no progress. Where might we be called to seek common ground as a basis for working together? How might this shape our relationships, our prayers, and our awareness of Christ's presence among us?

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close. ***Mark Twain***