

PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ throughout the Pioneer Valley and in Worship Services at Walkerston, Mirani, Eungella*



'The Window'

21st June, 2020

Preparations are being made for the resumption of the Parish Worship Services on **Sunday, 5th July, 2020** in The Valley UCA and St. Andrew's UCA. However, please watch this space and wait for confirmation from Pastor Allen or myself. In the meantime, please continue to join our Zoom Worship Services using the Link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/559169125>



Working Bee

Saturday

27th June, 2020

The Valley UCA, Mirani

10.00am

St. Andrew's UCA

From 8.30am

To prepare our buildings for Worship Services and Hall Hire, a Working Bee will be held next Saturday at both centres. Please mark this Event on your calendars and come along armed with buckets, cleaning products, cloths/rags. A lot of work has been done on the Hall Toilets and they are looking much more presentable after being cleaned, freshly painted and the replacement of broken louvres.

Thank you so much to Bruce, Rod, Michelle, Kathryn and Allen for the input and time they have put into this project. The body of the Hall is in need of some mould removal, fan cleaning etc. Bruce has offered to climb up to the high places and endeavour to clean these. This coming week pedal bins, sanitising products and paper towels etc will be sourced for The Valley Church and St Andrew's Church and Hall. A big thank you to all who are caring for our Church grounds and gardens. While we haven't been able to access our buildings, the work these folk have continued to carry out, shows the communities that we do care about our Church facilities. **See you on Saturday!**

Bible Reading: Matthew 10:24-39 (NIV)

²⁴ “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.

²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Discipleship Thought: *Jesus never minced words. He understood that those who see life differently are always likely to be shunned and even abused. Why did he feel the need to warn his followers? What was his offence that would spill over into their persecution?*

As we read the full account of his teachings, we might observe a few matters that riled some in his audience. Perhaps first and greatest of all was his willingness

to include people that the consensus wanted to shun – prostitutes, tax collectors; enemies of the Jewish religious state like Samaritans, Romans and other gentiles. He managed to turn the accepted order of things upside down.

Furthermore, he cared more for the values of the law than the letter of the law. How dare he pick corn on the Sabbath!? Then, again, he was acclaimed as Messiah and Lord – but so unconventionally. His way, the way of the Kingdom almost always confronts the status quo, especially where greed is concerned. Thank God that grace and love are sufficient to sustain us when we find ourselves implicated in his persecution.

Prayer: Gracious God, we come with our prayers of adoration, praise and thanksgiving.

For the wonder of creation and all its beauty, we adore you.

For your love that never leaves us alone, we offer our praise.

For your goodness in sustaining our lives by the gifts of your Spirit, we give thanks.

Though you are beyond our imagining, able to hold the entire universe in your embrace, we know that you are intimately present in our lives.

You are truly the centre of our being, and so we worship you, now and forever. Amen

(Words for Worship 21st June, 2020)

Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations. This week we:

Prayers Please **Pray for....** Connie, Laurel, John & Families, Ken & Colleen, Rod, Michelle & Families.

....those receiving or recovering from medical treatment – Carl, Richard, Len, Rev Nathan, Debbie, Ray, Stephen's father, Earl, Ruth, Kevin, Angus, Megan.

A Prayer for Comfort and Healing: Loving God, we pray that you will comfort those who are suffering, lend skill to the hands of the medical people, and bless the means used in all sources of treatment. Give those in need confidence in the power of your grace, that even when they are afraid, they may put their whole trust in you; through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

....commonsense amongst members of our communities. Pray that they take notice of the self-isolation regulations.

....the Leaders of our Country as they make decisions in these uncertain times.

....the safety of medical staff across the world as they provide medical treatment for those who have been in contact with the coronavirus and other diseases.

....those who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are recovering and for those who have lost loved ones.

....all who work in frontline services: Hospitals, Schools, Residential Care, Emergency Services, Counsellors and our Community Services.

....teachers, parents and children as they return to school on Monday.

....Ian and Lynn in their missionary work.

....**Parish Elders** - Bruce, Beth, Morelle, Sam, Colleen and Lyn.

....**individuals and families** who are feeling stressed, sad and lonely, the homeless and for those who have lost their jobs.

....**individuals, families** to come to know the Lord and join our members in Worship as soon as we are all able.

....**an abundance of finances for our Parish.**

....**members of our Church Council and Property Committee.**

....**safety in the workplace.**

....**Reach Out Activities.**

....**those who are being affected by the violence in our community, in our nation and all over the World.**

....the members of **Local, State and Federal Governments.**

....**Scripture Union Queensland, Bible Society, Frontier Services and School Chaplaincy.**



....**Pastor Allen Soxsmith, Moderator - Rev David Baker, Rev Suzy Sitton** who is the **Interim CQ Presbytery Minister.**

....**for retired ministers** who are doing supply ministry and for the **lay people** who are working to keep Parishes functioning.

....**for our families and friends** and for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

....**for Teachers, RI Instructors, School Chaplains** and all those who work with children.

....**for Lay Preachers and Retired Ministers** who give of their time and talents conducting Worship Services across the Mackay District.

....**for the many blessings** we receive in our daily lives.

....**for the joy children and grandchildren** bring to our families.

A Little Humour: 😊 To the search committee of a country congregation, a pastoral candidate said, "If I am voted in as pastor of this church, I will work hard to bring us into the nineteenth century."

A member spoke up. "Uh, Preacher, don't you mean the twenty-first century?"

The Pastor replied, "Let's just take it one century at a time!"

"From The Big Book of Church Jokes, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission."

Monday Morning Prayer with Moderator Rev David Baker: Loving God, we give you thanks for the changing of the season that reminds us again that we are a part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

In the midst of times of distancing and isolation may we know even more keenly your presence and your plenty.

By your spirit, prompt us to know where we can serve you and love our neighbour, near and far, in new, unexpected and generous ways. Amen. Rev John Ruhle



Carolyn Wilks (21st)

Oliver Higham (23rd)

June Income \$850.00

June Expenditure \$358.16

Planning is underway for the Annual Harvest Blessing Service as per below. The Government COVID-19 Restrictions are being revised all the time, so please be aware that this Event may be postponed.

Proposed date for Harvest Blessing Service



**Combined
Pioneer Valley
Churches**

*Invite you to join us
for an afternoon of fun and friendship
as we ask for
God's Blessing of the Harvest*

- ☛ **WHEN....**Sunday, 5th July, 2020
- ☛ **TIME....**3pm to 4pm
- ☛ **WHERE....**Marian Catholic Church Hall
- ☛ **WHY....**to ask God's Blessing on this year's Harvest
- ☛ **WE WILL....**be taking up a Collection.

A Quick Prayer: I know I can't obey You all on my own, Lord. When I try, I just get tied up in all the good I want to do. Make my heart all Yours, and I will no

longer struggle with sin. When my soul prospers, surely my life will be blessed. Amen

Mottos for Success: When things get so heated that you find yourself raising your voice, it's time to call a timeout until you can get your emotions under control and collect your thoughts. Then apologise and try again.

S.H.I.N.E – (Seeking Him In Everything) For the youth and young at heart

Read the Bible Reading on Page 2

Jesus said, "Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Let us pledge ourselves to be worthy of him.

Story: Taking up our cross can be as simple as facing difficulties in life with integrity and refusing to go with the flow simply because it's easier that way. Taking up your cross brings pain, but it also brings its own rewards.

In this story, Mr Skillett takes up his cross and endures suffering, but learns to be himself because of it.

Mr. Skillett's Cross - Mr Skillett was feeling very sad. He was sure he had grown another couple of centimetres, and since he was already as tall as a bus and as thin as two pieces of paper stuck together, he really didn't feel it was fair that he should have grown even more. Besides, he was aware that most people stop growing when they are teenagers, and Mr Skillett was already well past that stage. What shall I do?" he groaned to Mrs Round, his next-door neighbour.

"Why," replied Mrs Round, "I should think you ought to come in for a cup of tea and a nice piece of my cake."

Mrs Round was growing too, but she was growing in the opposite direction, rounder and rounder and rounder. She was already as round as she was tall, and she only came up to Mr Skillett's knees. He had had to widen her doorway last year, lest she became so round that she stuck fast.

Mr Skillet folded himself in three in order to enter Mrs Round's house. Then he sat down with a sigh in her little round chair and helped himself to three slices of cake. He felt a little better after that. So did Mrs Round, who was never happier than when people were eating her cake.

But the main problem hadn't gone away. No matter how much cake he ate and how much better he felt after eating it, Mr Skillett was still growing.

'Perhaps I'll visit Dr Black,' he mused. 'He may have some special medicine which would help me.'

Mr Skillett made his excuses and strode along to Dr Black's surgery. Dr Black was delighted to see his old friend and Mr Skillett was relieved to see that he could spot Dr Black easily against the white walls of his surgery. Dr Black was black from head to toe. His hair was black, his skin was black, his eyes were black and

his teeth were black. And he wore black clothes. This made him invisible at night, but fortunately he was very visible in his surgery during the daytime.

"Hmm," murmured Dr Black, scratching his head with a black fingernail. "I'd like to help, but I don't think there's much I can do. We could perhaps arrange an operation and chop a few inches off your legs, but I wouldn't like to guarantee the outcome. Besides, it wouldn't be you if you were shorter."

"Oh dear," exclaimed Mr Skillett, "I'm not sure I fancy the idea of an operation. Perhaps I'll pop over to Timid Tilly. As a schoolteacher she must be highly intelligent. Maybe she can think of a plan."

Timid Tilly was very sympathetic to Mr Skillett's predicament, but despite thinking and thinking and thinking for nearly an hour, she was unable to solve his problem.

Mr Skillett felt very depressed. He hated being so tall. He longed to be ordinary and normal, like everyone else. Besides, his bones and his muscles and his joints often ached, because they were just too long. And he had terrible difficulty buying clothes, because nobody else was as tall as him. It was awful.

Then he thought about his friends, who were all rather odd. He heaved a sigh. "I guess I'm meant to be like this," he told himself, "so I'd better get on with it. I can't be perfect. I can't even be the size I'd like to be, so I think I'll just make the best of it and be thankful that I'm alive and can enjoy life."

Then he began to remember all the things that were good in his life. He thought of his friends, with whom he was so happy. He thought of his house and decided that he could always build another storey if he grew too much. He thought of Mrs Round's delicious cakes which were always there for him. He remembered how he had been able to help lots of people simply because he was so tall.

And suddenly Mr Skillett was glad. 'I'll be proud of my height,' he decided. 'It's been good to me and good for me. I'm never again going to moan about it. I'm going to be happy and I'm going to help my friends to be happy too. Life is good, no matter what I look like. I'm so glad to be alive.'

And he was.

Blessing: And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, be in your homes and in your families, with those whom you love and with those for whom you pray, both now and always. Amen.



This morning while Bruce Kerr was doing some work at St Andrew's, a representative from MP Michelle Landry's Office stopped to deliver a new Australian Flag to be hung off the sign in the front of the church. It was a timely gift as the existing flag was looking a bit sad. Thank you very much.

Contact Details: P.O. BOX 152, WALKERSTON 4751

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Minister: Pastor Allen Soxsmith

Phone Number: 07 4959 3974



8.00am Every Sunday

St Andrew's UCA

Bold Street

WALKERSTON



10.00am Every Sunday

The Valley UCA

Victoria St

MIRANI

EUNGELLA

3.00pm

Holy Communion

ECDA Hall

EUNGELLA

Elders: Beth Higham 4958 3158: Morelle Coxwell 4959 1229: Bruce Kerr 4966 6924: Lynette Gargano 4951 4075: Colleen Brown 4954 5470: Sam Fernando 4959 3298

Electronic Banking Details

UCA Pioneer Valley – ANZ Bank - BSB: 014-010

Account No: 2115 57247

Containers for Change

ANYTHING ENVIRONMENTAL, 19 INTERLINK COURT, PAGET.

Parish's Registered Number **C10195946**

Alternatively, collect the cash and drop it into the offering plate.

Newsletter: Kerith Noy: 07 4959 2328: **email:** glen.noy@bigpond.com or P O Box 346, Walkerston Q 4751

Prayer Warrior: Vicki Kiem: Mob: 0408 767 331:

email: vakmoss@gmail.com

7.40am-7.55am – St Andrew's Vestry – Sundays

Lectionary Readings: 21st June, 2020 - Pentecost 3 - Genesis 21:8-21 or Psalm 86: 1-10,16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

28th June, 2020 – Pentecost 4 - Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

5th July, 2020 – Pentecost 5 - Genesis 24:34-38, 42-29, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

12th July, 2020 – Pentecost 6 – Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

19th July, 2020 – Pentecost 7 – Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

26th July, 2020 – Pentecost 8 – Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b or Psalm 128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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