

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

23th May 2021 Edition 118

Welcome to the Surf Coast Uniting Church newsletter.

All our sermons can be viewed at www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au



Rev. Suzie Castle : m: 0421023197 e: suzie.castle@gmail.com

**SURFCOAST SERVICES each week: 9.30am at Airey's Inlet & Torquay.
11.00am at Bellbrae**

We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present, and emerging. Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

From the Minister's Desk.

Here we are celebrating Pentecost throughout the worldwide Church. It's our birthday and we should celebrate it well. Hopefully you can join in a morning service here on the Surf Coast, or the combined Presbytery Pentecost service at 3pm Western Heights UC...or both! It's a day for singing and celebrating that's for sure. It's also a day to remember the situation Jesus' followers were in as they met to pray at that first Pentecost.

Like the Passover, Pentecost was already an ancient festival. The word itself is the Greek term that means fifty; in the Old Testament, it's called "The Feast of Weeks". It was seven weeks and one day, or a "week of weeks" after the Passover. I mention Passover because that's the previous big festival that brought huge crowds into Jerusalem. It was also the time Jesus had been betrayed, killed, and then rose again. Since then he had appeared to the disciples several times, and then the ascension had happened and then Jesus left them again. So now the disciples find themselves amongst an enormous crowd that's arriving for this next festival. It's fair enough that the disciples would be wondering what was going to happen to them next. Given all they've experienced, is it any wonder they were confused and frightened?

Jesus had promised them another helper - an advocate, but they did not know what to expect, didn't know what or who this was going to look like. This promise must have seemed a long way away when they were in hiding and afraid. If we could understand just how frightened these people would have been, then we move closer to understanding what was so amazing about the Pentecost event. It broke down barriers, presented the opportunity to share the Word, and experienced God's Spirit allowing them to do extraordinary things.

That sums up the Church. **The Church is US!** Loving others with no boundaries, living out God's Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us where she wants us to go. Happy birthday one and all!

Peace be with you.

Rev Suzie Castle

Minister of the Word.



Remember to wear something **RED** on Sunday.

Combined Pentecost Worship Service

When: **May 23rd - 3pm**
Where: Western Heights Uniting Church
Who: All the Uniting Churches in the region
What: Worship; great Music, inspirational speakers, quiet meditation allowing the Spirit to speak to us, fun activities for all ages, Mission Expo.
Why: We love to gather as one people of God, as the body of Christ in this region.
We want to worship our amazing, creative God, three in one.

Register through this link <https://www.trybooking.com/BRFDA>

**TODAY!!!!!!PLEASE NOTE
THIS EVENT IS ON AT
WESTERN HEIGHTS UC,
31 Douglass St. Herne
Hill**

Due to Covid restrictions we need to have people register for the service the link is included in the notice.



Today's Lectionary Readings

May 23: Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34
Romans 8: 22-27
John 15: 26-27

Preaching Roster

May 23: Pentecost

**Airey's Inlet 9.30am &
Bellbrae: 11 am** Video
Sermon Rev Suzie Castle

Torquay 9.30: Rev Suzie
Castle

May 30: Trinity Sunday

**Airey's Inlet
Bellbrae:**
Torquay 9.30:
Joint service on Frontier
services ...worship
teams



A thought to share: Unable to attend Worship, I watched Rev Suzie Castle's 16 May reflections on YouTube. The previous Sunday had been Mothers Day; I had experienced a Mothers Day like no other, one so "weird", you'll have to wait till I stop laughing-and-crying to hear about it. I found great reassurance in Suzie's words on mothers and families. She reminded us of how painful, disturbing and messy some family relationships are, even with many mothers exemplifying patience and fierce commitment. Now, as I walk in the invigorating winter winds along the Surf Coast, I am reminded also of Suzie's words:
God still works within us, no matter what our experience .
Linda W. from Aireys

BUNNINGS BBQ:

Coffee and Kids have been given approval for a BBQ at Bunnings Torquay, on June 12th, from 10 am until 4.00 pm.

If you are willing and able, please volunteer your services to help on a shift. A roster will be available in the Church foyer, on Sunday, so please add your name if you are able to help.

Any questions to John Peck, phone 0488 177983.

Report from the Forward in Faith group (FIF).

Since the initial meeting this group has been busy exploring all the options available to manage the resources of the Surf Coast churches to achieve God's mission here with a **fulltime position of Ministry.**

1. A Time, Talents and Tithing plan is well on the way, with many positive and inspiring services planned for later in the year that will involve and encourage us all.
2. The finance group has taken several proposals to the Linked council, which have been actioned on, including moving the U Ethical money in the Synod into a higher interest account. We are also exploring other clusters methods of sharing and distributing the monies raised in each church.
3. We have suggested that in the main Fundraising events be used to donate to other charities.
4. The Op shop at Bellbrae is looking to open on a Friday too, this will aid both ministerial costs and donations they generously make to so many other charities. But this needs hands on the ground. **So please consider your time and see if you can volunteer to help. Contact Bev on 0419221514.**

The FIF group would like to encourage all to consider donating by using the direct debit or credit.... See the Bank details below. All of us in the FIF group are committed to given using this method which is easy and allows us to budget for this offering. If we all consider what we spend having a coffee, perhaps we could forgo one and put that money towards the ministry of our communities. We are aware that not everyone is able to do this, but one thing we can all do is **Pray for God's direction and presence in our lives and communities as we strive to do his work here in the Surf Coast.**

Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to the congregation account :

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403 Please add notes in the deposit area to identify your congregation:
Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

Bellbrae Op shop & Bookshop Roster: Remind your friends to drop in and browse...

Sat May 22nd: Cheryl, Karlene, Carlene—Sam, Suzie, Tricia

Sat May 29th: Jane, Carleen—Tricia, Robyn, Robert

Uniting are in very short supply of everything..



Their shelves are nearly empty. Please consider buying extra items and drop them at the Harper's house in Torquay.

The Geelong Progressive Christianity Discussion Group –Thursday 27th May 1.30 -3.30pm

This discussion group meets at the Waurin Ponds Library Meeting Room (next to Leisurelink).

1. Progressive Christian Network of Victoria

<https://www.pcnvictoria.org.au/ab/out-progressive-christian-network/about/>

2. Progressive Christianity.org

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/study-guide-for-the-8-points-of-progressive-christianity-2012/> (Fred Plumer)

3. A Progressive Christian Voice (Australia) includes a list of leading theologians

<https://www.progressivechristians.org.au/articles/a-conversation-on-progressive-christianity>

All welcome in person or via zoom. New zoom participants please contact heather.bowe.dennis@gmail.com for zoom details .

**Everyday holds
a possibility of**



Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Bellbrae: Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM : Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm