

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

5th September 2021 Edition 133

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Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)



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



It may be Spring on the Surfcoast, but in our wider world, Covid19 and acts of aggression continue to affect many. Here is a quote from the ACT FOR PEACE Newsletter this week:

*"We're in the same storm, but we're in different boats.  
Some are in a dinghy and others in a yacht."*

This powerful metaphor, quoted in a news article this week, came from a 17-year old student living in Sydney's western suburbs – the centre of NSW's current COVID outbreak.

Acting as a carer for his younger sibling and a translator for his Egyptian-born parents, all while studying for his HSC exams, his story reflects a reality often missing from the headlines: lockdown isn't the same experience for everyone.

COVID-19 is affecting us all, but we know there are many communities - in our own backyard, and globally - who have been made particularly vulnerable by the revolving door of lockdown restrictions.

And speaking of pledges ( as we do on the back page...), a timely reminder from 1963:

I hereby pledge myself—my person and body—to the nonviolent movement.  
Therefore I will keep the following ten commandments:

1. Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
2. Remember always that the non—violent movement in Birmingham seeks justice and reconciliation — not victory.
3. Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. Pray daily to be used by God in order that all men might be free.
5. Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all men might be free
6. Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.
9. Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. Follow the directions of the movement and of the captain on a demonstration.

I sign this pledge, having seriously considered what I do and with the determination and will to persevere.

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

## Lectionary Readings

Sep 5: Pentecost 15

Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22

-23

Psalms 125

James 2:1-10 (11-13),

14-17

Mark 7: 24-37

Worship will continue for the  
Surfcoast Uniting Churches online at  
[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)  
Click [HERE](#) to enter

And on [ZOOM](#) at 11am

Our OPSHOP is

**Closed**

## Surfcoast UC Stewardship Calendar of Services

5 September: TIME/Joyful Giving:  
The Giving Plate

12 September: TIME/Joyful Living:  
The Giving Tree

19 September: TALENTS and Gift  
Giving: Café Church

26 September: TALENTS and Gift  
Living: Prayer & Music

3 October: TENDING CREATION:  
Careful Giving

10 October: TENDING CREATION: Careful Living. Gardens

16 October: TENDING CREATION:

Family Pet Fair @ Aireys Inlet

17 October: TREASURE: Generous Giving

24 October: TREASURE: Generous Living

31 October: Celebration :

COMBINED WORSHIP @ AIREYS INLET followed by Lunch.  
(Feed Me Torquay to cater)

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## We can do it!

By now you will have received your Stewardship kits. These simple brown paper bags contain all sorts of goodies, most importantly the pledge form on which you will record the amount of giving you can pledge to help the great work our churches want to do here on the Surf Coast.

Our current average giving is \$13.00 per person a week. This is not enough. If we double our total giving, we should be able to meet our needs. (We know that it will not be possible for everyone to double their giving, but even a small increase will help. Some people will be able to give more.) For those of you who haven't increased your giving for some time, this is your chance to catch up. Remember that these figures are per person, not per couple.

Please post your completed pledge forms to Torquay Uniting Church. Stewardship. PO Box 536, Torquay, 3228. This information will be kept totally confidential. You have the option to put your name on the form or remain anonymous, **but it is most important that you identify your congregation on the form.**

Our preferred method for giving is by direct payment from your bank account to the church account (details elsewhere in this newsletter). This means your giving will be regular, you never have to think about it and it is germ free! If you want help with how to set this up please contact Robyn Harper or Tricia Genat. Alternatively, you can use the envelope system (see your church treasurer) or put cash in the plate.

*From the Forward in Faith team.*

Surfcoast Uniting Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Sunday 5th September at 11am

Are you new to ZOOM?

Join a Zoom Meeting at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and click on Join Meeting:

Meeting ID: 923 6487 3816

Passcode: 590475

OR click this link...[https://zoom.us/j/92364873816?](https://zoom.us/j/92364873816?pwd=OFB4TGRzNDYUkVaK0tFbnV1VmpoQT09)  
[pwd=OFB4TGRzNDYUkVaK0tFbnV1VmpoQT09](https://zoom.us/j/92364873816?pwd=OFB4TGRzNDYUkVaK0tFbnV1VmpoQT09)

## Happy Birthday Wishes

Marg H, Heather D, Barb P, Ané G.



<sup>1</sup>Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people PSALM 125

**CALLING ALL KNITTERS:** In the last weeks of September our Stewardship services will focus on Talents. The knitting of the 20 x 20cm squares for rugs for Uniting are part of this ministry. Thank you to all those already knitting squares for us. We have a stash of wool for those who need more and will collect the completed squares when you call.

Lorraine at Beaut Beanies has kindly offered to join these squares to make into rugs.  
Please phone Robyn on 0407 829 926 for collection or more wool..Many thanks

A note from Bev Boxshall:

*Dear Torquay & Uniting Friends,  
My family and I would like to thank you most sincerely for your loving support as we mourn the passing of our beloved Robert, Dad and Papa. I feel blessed to be part of this caring fellowship.  
Bev*



**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet.  
**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,

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

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403

Account Name: **Surfcoast Uniting Church**

Please identify your congregation in the notes area:

Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm



## **A letter from Rev Suzie: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Dear friends,

I have been reflecting deeply on my role this past fortnight as we commence a stewardship program to build funds for full time ministry and the other expenses associated with running a Church. I know some will think it will need a miracle to achieve what we need, but that is why we called the team who worked on this program Forward in Faith. I wanted to share my understanding of my ministry role: I do not stand alone-I stand with the people the Holy Spirit has gathered in this place. I do not work alone-I work with the leaders and Councils and teams to walk in the way of Jesus Christ. I do not keep the Good News to myself-I share it with you and hear it from you.

It is a privileged role stepping into private spaces to care for those struggling with faith or life. Journeying with those who are grieving or suffering and being permitted to pray for their needs. My role is about sacraments and preaching, discipleship and mission and outreach. It's about living out the Gospel story together by being faithful to Jesus. It's about recounting the Story in such a way that we are all given the opportunity to interpret ourselves in the light of God. This stewardship program is designed to do just that, interpreting the time God has given us and the time we give God. Finding the talents God has given us and how we serve God with them. Tending creation because God gave us creation to care for. Understanding that the treasures we have are not only ours but what God has entrusted to us.

I believe that receiving ongoing communications and updates will help the process as we work through the next 2 months. We will need pledge cards coming in as soon as possible and so I ask that you please read Mary's newsletter item regarding pledging. I have a devotional book called "When Christians Meet". I've picked it up this week as we plan to bring Holy Communion to you through the Zoom worship service. I used to struggle with Communion through 'no contact' but after much thought and prayer, now understand the need we all have to continue the sacrament because it continues to tell the Story, and hearing and participating in the Story is nourishing, connecting and remembering. Here is the prayer attached to the devotion that comes out of **Colossians 1:15-20**

### **ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN CHRIST**

Lord Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you are Lord of all creation. You are the head of the church and the way we orientate our lives. In you we now have true and abundant life, life that is everlasting. You have restored and redeemed us. Your Word assures us that all things hold together in you. Even in those times our stability is threatened or hope lost, you reassure us of your love and confirm us in your grace. Please Lord Jesus continue to fill our lives with love to one another which is an earthly reflection of your love for us. Motivate us daily to allow your Word to dwell richly in our homes and hearts. Strengthen us to do everything for you in a spirit of heartfelt thanksgiving, joy and dedication. May we bring you glory in our commitment to you and your Kingdom: in Jesus whose name is love. Amen

**THIS WEEKS SERVICE: is a focus on our TIME and will include...**

**For Home delivery there is a full transcript of the recorded service**

**A Recorded service on our website ([www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au))**

**A Zoom service at 11 am** This will be a different format to the recorded service (SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS)  
Come to hear the Word through guest preacher Presbytery Minister Rev Linley Liersch - Story telling by our dads and the influence God has had on their own fathering - share in Holy Communion - & see the Giving Plates.

### **BIBLE READINGS**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Mark 9:30-37

Psalms 138:1-3

Matthew 20:1-16

**HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED ON ZOOM:** Please have with you a piece of bread or biscuit and some juice or even a cup of tea.

**WORSHIP PACK:** The pack contains an outline of the 2 month stewardship program with items and instructions on weekly activities for your participation. Please let me know if you need a worship pack.

Peace be with you, **Rev Suzie Castle**  
Minister of the Word m:0421 023 197

