



**Uniting Church
in Australia**

Uniting in Christ
acting with love
living with hope
witnessing in faith
working for justice

Maryborough Parish Maryborough & Country Congregations

Church Office: 21 Sussex Street, Maryborough

Tel: 040 242 5340

Postal Address: P.O. Box 585, Maryborough

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Office Hours: Wednesday – Friday 9.00am – 12noon

Ministry Team: Rev Delma Lovell 0428 598 309

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Our Vision

“Making Christ Visible”

SERVICES SUNDAY 6th February

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

7.00pm UCA Tiaro Hall - Rev Delma

READINGS: Is 6:1-8, (9-13) Ps 138
1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11

SERVICE SUNDAY 13th February

9.00am St. Stephen's Church – Dawn Jenkinson

2.00pm Bauple Home Group

READINGS: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1
1 Cor 15:12-20 Lk 6:17-26

SERVICES SUNDAY 20th February

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - - Rev Delma

7.00pm UCA Tiaro Hall - - Rev Delma

READINGS: Gen 45:3-11, 15 Ps 37:1-11,
39-40
1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50 Lk 6:27-38

SERVICE SUNDAY 27th February

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

READINGS: Ex 34:29-35 Ps 99
2 Cor 3:12 - 4:2 Lk 9:28-36, (37-43a)

SIMPLY ALL AGE WORSHIP_6pm. Wesley Auditorium.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

How are you? I pray you are well and have found ways to live through this time that bring you joy. Sometimes it is the little things we notice that bring us the most joy. Perhaps it's a smile, a hello from a stranger or a beautiful flower in the garden, the birds chirping outside or the sound of a voice. Over the past week or so I have found joy in a spotted dove nesting outside in a shrub right in front of the window to our dining room. I have a 'birds eye view' of this whole process. This dove, or from research probably two doves, as both mum and dad take turns sitting on the nest throughout the day and night, has appeared out of nowhere. But I am thankful for its presence as for me it symbolises the hope of new life to come.

This got me to thinking about the significance of doves in the Bible. It was a dove that Noah sent out three times to check to see if the floodwaters had receded (Genesis 8:7-12). The first time it came back empty handed, the second time with a freshly plucked olive leaf and then the third time it didn't come back. Perhaps it had found a new life free from the confines of the ark.

A dove or the symbolism of a dove is used at Jesus' baptism: "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like

MINISTER'S MESSAGE CONT'D

a dove and alighting on him. (Matthew 3:16 NIV); "Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. (Mark 1:10 NIV); "...and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22 NIV);" "Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. (John 1:32 NIV)." The dove is used symbolically to represent the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus, and dwelling with him.

The dove as the symbol and embodiment of the Holy Spirit that brings new life, hope and peace is very powerful and still has significance for us today. There is the dove in the Uniting Church in Australia logo. The Assembly website explains its significance: "The Holy Spirit, symbolised by the dove with the wings of flame, empowers and guides us to be witnesses to Jesus Christ."

I wonder if in this time God is calling on us to pause, notice and reflect on the world around us, so we can be drawn back into God's presence in our everyday existence? Once we have found God's hope and peace in the world around us, then we can go out into the world 'making Christ visible.' Let us give thanks and praise to our God who does not leave us nor forsake us.

Even though I will be on holidays from 7 -13 February you are all in my thoughts and prayers as we journey through this time together. May you feel God's presence bringing you peace, hope, love and joy in the days and months ahead.

God bless

Rev Delma

WEEKLY PRAYER

Jesus Christ bringer of hope,
We give you thanks that you bring the
promise of
Joy to the grieving
Justice for the oppressed
Freedom for the captive
And food for the hungry
Jesus Christ bringer of hope
Come to us
Open our hearts and minds and lives

That your birth in our midst
might sustain us in hope
So that we might live in ways
That bear witness to your love
And enact your radical hope
Which upsets the rich
Disrupts the powerful
And raises up the downtrodden.
Amen

Sharon Hollis. President

Loving God,

At this time of challenge and concern, we thank you for the gifts of kindness and compassion. We see the compassion in those whose life is dedicated for the care and welfare of others, and we are so thankful that we are part of the church whose role it is to support the healthy and transforming power of your love in this way

At the start of this year, let us remind ourselves to have compassion for ourselves, so that we may rest in the gentleness and wisdom of your spirit.

May we be open to the refreshing breath of your spirit, the openness of your liberating love for ourselves and others, and the restoration of the whole of creation in your name.

Loving God, let us not be afraid of what tomorrow brings. Ease our troubled minds, soothe our ragged souls, allow gentleness to pervade our spirits, let us ask for help when we need it.

For it is in humility and obedience to you we will find our way.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Rev Heather den Houting. General Secretary

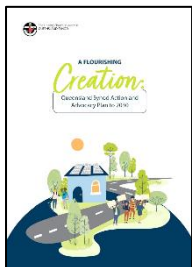
[Uniting News 25 Jan]

Easter Madness camp

Easter Madness is just around the corner and the Moreton Rivers Presbytery is calling all young people across Queensland to attend. Young people are the today and tomorrow of our Church!

Registration for Easter Madness—held from 8–11 April 2022 at the Sunshine Coast—is now open! It's a great opportunity for young people to explore their faith, have fun and connect with other like-minded people across the Uniting Church in Queensland.

For more information or to sponsor a camper, contact Rev Fa Matangi on 07 3366 0236 or email youthworker@mrpres.org.au



HAVE YOUR SAY on environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a core part of the **Shared life. Flourishing communities** strategic vision. The initiative outlined the need to; *"Develop and promote a care for creation Position Statement and Action Plan"*.

The **A Flourishing Creation** document has been developed in consultation with many people and groups across the church. UCA would like you to be involved in the next round of consultation by responding to some questions.

Go To <https://ucaql.com.au/projects/projectplenty/> to download the report and complete the short, 3-question survey.

EXPLORING FAITH & DISCIPLESHIP

Lenten Sessions commence at 9.30am on Friday March 4th, continuing for six Fridays, in the Wesley Auditorium.

Rev Delma will be on annual leave from February 7th to 13th.

If you have any pastoral matters during this time, please contact your pastoral carer or the office.

Parish Office: ph. 0402 425 340, 9am and 12pm, Wednesday - Friday.

TONGA TSUNAMI RELIEF APPEAL

UnitingWorld has launched an appeal to support our neighbours hit by the devastating tsunami in Tonga.

Go To

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/tonga> for more details.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia. Please give generously.

The TOOMBOLA has been POSTPONED due to the current Covid situation.

Watch this space for updates.

Annual Reports for 2021 due in March

It is time for our groups to reflect on what has happened or not happened over the year. All secretary/leaders of all Church groups need to prepare and forward annual reports and signed audited financial statement (where applicable) to the Church office by 9.00am **Wednesday 2nd March 2022** for publication and presentation at the UCA Maryborough Parish annual meeting that will be held at the end of **MARCH 2022** (@ 9.00am- St. Stephen's Church). Leaders Council still to decide the date.

Preferably emailed (as a word document) to ucamaryborough@gmail.com

Date Claimers February 2022



Monday 31st (Jan) @ 5.30pm Management Committee Meeting _ St Stephens church



Tuesday 1st @ 6.00am Breakfast Ministry St. Pauls Anglican Hall

Tuesday 8th @ 6.00am Breakfast Ministry St. Pauls Anglican Hall



Tuesday 8th @ 4.30pm Girls Brigade. Wesley Auditorium
Cadets 4.00pm – 5.30pm. Upper Section 6.00 – 8.00 p.m.



Thursday 10th @ 1.30pm MUCAF AGM & General Meeting _ Wesley Auditorium



Monday 14th @ 5.30pm Parish Tea at Maryborough RSL **CANCELLED**



Tuesday 15th @ 6.00am Breakfast Ministry St. Pauls Anglican Hall



Tuesday 15th @ 4.30pm Girls Brigade. Wesley Auditorium
Cadets 4.00pm – 5.30pm. Upper Section 6.00 – 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday 15th @ 9.30am BOOK CLUB_ Wesley Auditorium



Thursday 17th @ 9am Petrie Gardens Worship (Tiara)

Thursday 17th @ 3pm Chelsea Church Service



Monday 21st @ 5.30pm Management Committee Meeting _ St Stephens church

LEADERS

Monday 21st @ 7.30pm Girls Brigade Leaders Meeting _ Wesley Auditorium



Tuesday 22nd @ 6.00am Breakfast Ministry St. Pauls Anglican Hall



Tuesday 22nd @ 4.30pm Girls Brigade. Wesley Auditorium
Cadets 4.00pm – 5.30pm. Upper Section 6.00 – 8.00 p.m.



Monday 28th @ 5.30pm Pastoral Care Meeting _ St Stephens church



Monday 28th @ 6.30pm Leaders Council Meeting _ St Stephens church

If you would like to direct deposit, the details are:

Branch: **BSB 014010**

Account: **Uniting Church Maryborough**

Account number: **3873 956 67**

Thank you for prayerfully considering these options to support the work of the Church

