Dear Friends

*“I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father. “You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. “But remember the root command: Love one another.”* (John 15:15-17 The Message)

Sometimes we look around us, but we don’t really see. We can’t see the wood for the trees. We can be so busy living life that we lose sight of the people around us and their needs, whether within the congregation, our families, friends, neighbours, or the wider community. Jesus draws our attention to his *“root command: Love one another.”* There’s the old saying that “Love makes the world go around.” There is a lot of truth in that. It is love that gives everything life so it can bear fruit. Without love, the world is a barren wasteland where new life struggles to sprout and flourish. Sometimes in our lives we might feel like we are living in a barren wasteland when we encounter some hard ground that we can’t penetrate, the life-giving rain doesn’t come, and it feels like the sun is never going to shine again. We might even feel that the future looks bleak and it is time to give up.

Recently I bought Tom Bolsinger’s book, Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory. The book is based around the story of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark who set out in 1804, leading a troop of men across America for 15 months. The mission was to confirm the 300 year dream of the long promised Northwest Passage, a navigable river that would take them from the head of the Missouri River to the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Imagine their excitement to stand at the head of the Missouri River. They had achieved this impossible feat that no one had ever done before. They were making history! How excited they must have been as they walked to the top of the dividing range, visualising an easy water path to the ocean. As one said, all he could see was, “the most terrible mountains I ever beheld.” If we saw these mountains, we might describe the snowcapped Rocky Mountains differently. But for these explorers, who thought the hard slog was behind them, they realised they had only finished the warmup session! Sometimes in life we are disappointed because when we think things are going to get easier, they don’t. Instead we can hit a snag or an apparent dead-end. We have choices. We can either give up or pull up our bootstraps and navigate that rocky path ahead even when we can’t see what is beyond it.

Bolsinger provides some food for thought using this quote: “It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be. The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships, to how well we know and trust one another.” (From Margaret Wheatley’s book When Change is out of Control.) Lewis and Clark had built a strong team by the time they got to the Rocky Mountains. They cared for each other, so they were prepared to work together to reach the ocean. Jesus encourages us to be a good neighbour. That is what showing love is all about, taking an interest in people and helping them if, when, where and how we can. We can invite people to join our activities. It is good if we provide a safe space where all are welcome. I have seen you welcome those who are new to our activities and encourage them to join in. I enjoy seeing how you care for each other and how you are supporting each other.

Yes, if relationships are strongly rooted in love we can look ahead with hope for the future. God has plans for us if we keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, the greatest adventurer of all time who risked his life for God’s kingdom. What risks would you be prepared to take for God’s kingdom?

Blessings

Rev Delma Lovell

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| **CHURCH SERVICES:**  **Sunday 7 September** - Rev Delma  **9:00am** St Stephen’s Church  **Sunday 14 September** - Rev Delma  **9:00am** St Stephen’s Church  **Thursday 18 September**  **3:00pm** Chelsea Retirement Living Community Hall - Irene Leegwater  **Sunday 21 September** - Dawn Jenkinson  **9:00am** St Stephen’s Church  **2:00pm** Bauple Home Group  **Sunday 28 September** - Rev Delma  **9:00am** Wesley Auditorium  Breakfast Ministry Celebration  *Please note:*  *Maryborough’s 4th Sunday church service*  *is held in the Wesley Auditorium.* |
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| **REV DELMA IS ON LEAVE:**  **Monday 15 September to**  **Sunday 21 September**.  Please ring the church’s mobile if you require assistance during this time. |
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| **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO**  **DIRECT DEPOSIT:**  The details are:  **BSB:** 014 010  **Account:** Uniting Church Maryborough  **Account Number:** 3873 956 67  *Thank you for prayerfully considering this option to support the work of the congregation.* |
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| **LEADERS COUNCIL NEWS**  UnitingCare has announced that Rev Delma is one of three finalists in the Full Circle and Reconciliation Awards in the category of “Bringing People Together” for the work she does in her Connect100+ role which includes the Uniting Church Mental Health Forum Maryborough. Winners will be announced at the gala dinner on Thursday 9 October in Brisbane City Hall. |
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| **CONTACT DETAILS:**  St. Stephens Church  ***25 Sussex Street***  Wesley Auditorium,  St. Stephen’s Hall & Office  ***21 Sussex Street***  **EMAILS:**  Leaders Council – operational issues  **lc.ucamaryborough@gmail.com**  Finance- including finance, hall/church bookings  **financeucamaryborough@gmail.com**  Other items – availability for roster,  bulletin items, bluecards  [**ucamaryborough@gmail.com**](mailto:ucamaryborough@gmail.com)  **FACEBOOK:**  Maryborough Parish Uniting Church  **WEBSITE:**  https://ucamaryborough.org.au/  **POST:**  PO Box 585, Maryborough, QLD, 4650  **PHONE:**  **0402 425 340** (this number will go through to  Rev Delma’s Number automatically) |
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| **LEADERS COUNCIL NEWS**  **Communion Chalice Donation**  We have donated one of the Tiaro/Bauple communion chalices to the Murgon/Goomeri congregation. They are very appreciative as their chalice was no longer usable due to its age and general deterioration.  **Number of Elders on Leaders Council**  At the August meeting, due to the current low number of Elders, the decision was made to not limit the number of nominees for the Elders election for 2026. All elected Elders will serve on Leaders Council. |
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**BIBLE READINGS:**

|  | **1st Reading** | **Psalm** | **2nd Reading** | **Gospel** |
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| 7 Sept | Jer 18:1-11 | Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 | Phlm 1-21 | Lk 14:25-33 |
| 14 Sept | Jer 4:11-12, 22-28 | Ps 14 | 1 Tim 1:12-17 | Lk 15:1-10 |
| 21 Sept | Jer 8:18 - 9:1 | Ps 79:1-9 | 1 Tim 2:1-7 | Lk 16:1-13 |
| 28 Sept | Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 | Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 | 1 Tim 6:6-19 | Lk 16:19-31 |



| **ANNUAL BREAKFAST MINISTRY APPEAL**  The month of September will be dedicated to donations towards the Tuesday Breakfast Ministry when members of the congregation can give their support through gifts of **Money**, **Traditional Rolled Oats** (NOT Quick Oats, please and the cheaper store brands are welcome) or **cans of Baked Beans**.  Please place your money in the bowls and food items in the crates which will be placed at the front and back of the church for the four Sundays of September in anticipation  of your support.  If you have any questions, please talk to me at church or phone on 0437 297 761.  Donations of can also be direct debited to the Breakfast Ministry bank account:  **Account Name:** UCA - MARYBOROUGH PARISH  **BSB:**  014 655 **Account Number:** 4250 44594  *Marion Tappenden – Breakfast Co-ordinator* |
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| **GARAGE SALE**  The Church Garage sale is being held on:  **Saturday 27th September from 7:00am** in the Wesley Auditorium.  Any donations may be left at the hall on Wednesday 24th and  Thursday 25th September from 9am to 3pm.  Helpers on these 2 days as well as the Friday and Saturday are most welcome for any time you can spare!  *Thank you*  *Elizabeth and Carolyn* |
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| **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**  The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2025,** at the conclusion of the service in the Wesley Auditorium. The Congregation is asked to fill vacant Leader positions for 2026. Leaders appointed by the Congregation who serve on Leaders Council are the Elders, Treasurer and Congregation Chair.  **Positions to be voted for are:**   | Chair of Congregation | Secretary of Congregation | Presbytery Representative | | --- | --- | --- | | Elders (no limit) | Treasurer of Leaders Council |  |   Note: Current Elders, who will continue to serve throughout 2026, are Marion Tappenden.  ***NOMINATION FORMS*** *are available from Sunday 31 August or email copies can be requested through*  *Rev Delma. Forms must be returned no later than* ***Wednesday 15 October 2025.***  Please prayerfully consider these roles and if you have queries, please talk to Leaders Council Chair,  Bruce Grant; Leaders Council Secretary, Ros Martin; or Rev Delma Lovell. |
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| **PRAYER MEETING:**  **Every Monday 8:30am - 9:00am**  St Stephen’s Church  **BREAKFAST MINISTRY:**  **Every Tuesday 7:00am - 8:00am**  St Pauls Anglican Church Hall  A community breakfast for those in need.  **CHATTY TUESDAY:**  **Every Tuesday 9:30am - 12noon**  Wesley Auditorium  All are welcome to come for a cuppa and a chat, play boardgames or bring your craft.  **GIRLS’ BRIGADE:**  **Every Tuesday (during school terms)**  Cadets **6:00pm - 7:30pm**  Upper Section **6:00pm to 8:00pm**  Wesley Auditorium  **MEMORY SUPPORT CAFE:**  **Wednesday 10 September**  **11:30am - 1:30pm**  Wesley Auditorium  Providing support for carers of those with  dementia or memory loss.  **PARISH TEA:**  **Monday 8 September 5:30pm - 7:00pm**  Maryborough Services &  Citizens Memorial Club  *RSVP to Nalda Brett on 0407 628 072*  *before 10:00am on 11 August.*  **BOOK CLUB:**  **Tuesday 16 September 2:30pm**  Wesley Auditorium  Join us for a chat, a cuppa and  to share discussions on our readings.  **LEADERS COUNCIL MEETING:**  **Monday 22 September 4:30pm**  Wesley Auditorium  **MARYBOROUGH UNITING CHURCH**  **ADULT FELLOWSHIP MEETING:**  Thursday 9 October 1:30pm  Wesley Auditorium  All are welcome. Afternoon tea following the meeting. |
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| **RUOK? DAY**  The Uniting Church Mental Health Forum will be at the Maryborough Markets on 11 September. You are welcome to call in and say hello. |
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| **This Qld Mental Health Week community organisations are uniting for Maryborough.**  **UNITING FOR COMMUNITY**  **MENTAL HEALTH**  **When:** Thursday 9 October 2025  **Time:** 9:00am to 1:00pm  **Where:** Maryborough City Hall  **Free Information Expo** |
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| **PRAYER:**  God our strength!  You brought us out of captivity  and called us to be your people.  Renew our communities of faith  to listen to your voice.  When we are stubborn and walk in our own counsels,  Call us back to your ways.  Open wide our mouths to sing your praise.  And declare your goodness and grace.  Renew us God be communities that  Submit to your guidance instead of our own plans;  Trust in your provision instead of our own strength;  And follow your path instead of our own desires.  Transform our stubborn hearts, O God.  Renew our communities to be people who listen,  who trust, and who follow wherever you lead.  Make us communities of faith, hope, and love  That truly hear you and obey your voice with joy.  In your mercy, make us new. Amen.  *Qld Synod Uniting News, 26 August 2025.* |
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| **When:** Wednesday 10 September 2025  **Time:** 5:30am  **Where:** Brolga Theatre River Stage & Outdoor Area  A brief stroll from the outdoor area to the river stage. A time for quiet space, reflection and remembrance of those we’ve lost to suicide, followed by a community breakfast and coffee. You can walk to remember a loved one, as a personal tribute for a friend or family member, or to show your support for Australians experiencing emotional distress or mental illness. |
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| **GIRLS’ BRIGADE TOMBOLA**  **When:** Saturday 15 November 2025  **Time:** Doors open at 11:00am  **Where:** Wesley Auditorium, 21 Sussex Street |
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