



*we go
together*

August 2019



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH



Worship Information

9.30 am Sunday Morning

Please join us afterwards for **morning tea** & a chat downstairs in the hall.

You are also welcome to receive **prayer ministry** following worship at the front of the church.

Offerings

Monthly Budgeted Offerings:

\$15,350.00

Offerings received June:

\$16,705.70

Thank you for your generous support of the mission of TUC!

Online Giving:

National Australia Bank (NAB)

Uniting Church
Toowong General
Parish Fund

BSB: 084424

A/c No: 508563314

Get in Touch

Matt Smith | Lead Minister

0409 917 729 matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au
Please note Thursdays are Matt's day off

Clare Hankamer | Families Worker

0432 861 841 c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Claudia Diaz | Playgroup Coordinator

arq.claudiadiaz@hotmail.com

Joyce Shi | Uni Chaplain

lynns1009@gmail.com

Garry Jennings | Office Manager

3870 9684 info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Lauren Murray | Relationships Manager

0417 713 444 lauren@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Will Stewart | Church Council Chair

walswdes@gmail.com

Alicia McLachlan | Church Council Secretary

aliciaemmasmith@gmail.com

Jane Trewern | Congregational Chair

jftrewern@gmail.com

Sue O'Brien | Congregational Secretary

sobrien868@gmail.com

Dianne Hubbard | Care & Connect - Pastoral Care

dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com

Church Details

82 Sherwood Road, Toowong, QLD, 4066

Office Details

11 Grove Street, Toowong, QLD, 4066

Phone: 3870 9684

Email: info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Hours: 9.30 am–1.00 pm Tues, Wed and Fri

www.toowongunitingchurch.org.au

www.facebook.com/toowonguniting

Welcome!

In the pages of the Bible we can see that throughout all of history God has been calling out to His people, leading and guiding them along His path. As God continually breaks into history, we also see that He reveals a little more of His plan each time, so each generation receives what they are ready for and can build on what came before. He is gracious and patient with us, and He is actively involved in our lives because He is love.

Our more recent history here at Toowong Uniting Church also shows us the same. In the mid 2000s, TUC was on the verge of closing. The small handful of faithful people who made up the congregation at the time were challenged by this, and responded by asking God to be at work here. They opened their hearts and had faith that God would bring about His kingdom in this place. Based on a foundation of teaching the gospel and praying together constantly in order to line up with God's plan, things began to change. There were changes like introducing more modern music and starting up pastorates and a children's ministry. But, most importantly, underlying these changes was the desire to help more people know Jesus. There was an openness to the Spirit's working.

And praise God for what He has done and is doing! While we are very far from being a "perfect" church (and does such a thing even exist?), God has been growing His kingdom here, and we have so much to give thanks for. I think it's beautiful how we have people of all ages and backgrounds here. I love seeing the kids and youth get involved and share their gifts with us, and how the older generation is so supportive of them. I'm excited for the opportunities we have to reach out to the people of Toowong through ministries like English Conversation, Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas and Playgroup. I'm encouraged by all that God is doing through Uni Ministry

and the Pastorates and how friendships and chances to disciple one another are cropping up all over the place. I'm overwhelmed by the love I see people sharing with one another as we do life together here.

But this is not the end of our story. This love, God's love, that we see expressed here at TUC, wants to go further. Let's take it out into the community, to the people of Toowong, to help more people know Jesus and be transformed by him.

We can't know exactly what the future will look like and what changes will occur. After all, could the TUC of the past have known that this is where they would be in 2019? But we do know that the Spirit will guide us and that God goes ahead of us. As we look to our future and the next steps that we are to take as Toowong Uniting Church, let's remember where we came from and build on the past. We are a people whose God will never leave us or forsake us. He has something far better planned than anything we could think up, so let's let Him take us where He wants us to go. And how wonderful that we get to do this together, with Him and with each other.

- Lauren Murray

Cover artwork by Matt Smith

New to TUC? Welcome, it's great to have you here!

Our desire is to live and explain the Christian faith with as much clarity, authenticity and relevance as we can. Please stick around if you can for morning tea after worship; we'd love to have a chat!

To receive a weekly prayer email, or fortnightly enews, please fill in the "Connect" form found in the pews, and place it in the offering basket.

Please be in touch and let us know if we can be of service in any way:

lauren@toowongunitingchurch.org.au



Join us for worship, then stay for dinner

Prayer, Praise & Curry Night

Saturday 10 August, 5 pm



Three Course Questions of Life & Faith

4 Wednesday Evenings, 7 - 9 pm
7th, 14th, 21st & 28th August

In the church house

11 Grove Street, Toowong

Our Three Course starts this month and runs every Wednesday evening throughout August from 7 - 9 pm. We'd love you to come along!

The course is a chance to learn together about God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. There's also plenty of opportunity to ask any questions you might have about Christianity.

In order to properly cater (there will be snacks!) we ask that you please RSVP before 7 August: matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au



We're really looking forward to getting together for the Prayer, Praise & Curry Night! This will be a chance to come together and be refreshed as we give our busy lives to Jesus and acknowledge that he is Lord over all. We'll also be praying for each other and the wider community. Feel free to invite your friends and family.

The Evening's Schedule:

5 pm: Prayer & Praise Under the Umbrellas

A relaxed worship service with braziers to keep us warm.

6 pm: Dinner in the Hall

Please stick around for dinner afterwards if you can, as it's always lovely to share a meal together. This will be served at 6 pm in the hall with vegan options available.

For catering purposes, please let us know if you'll be there:

lauren@toowongunitingchurch.org.au



Clare Hankamer Families Worker

Clare oversees KATS, Junior Youth, Senior Youth and runs the Thursday Playgroup. Clare has a PhD in Horticulture with significant experience in both church and community youth work in the UK and Australia.

Contact:
0432 861 841

Children's & Youth Ministry

KATS (Toddlers - Year 5)

KATS stands for Kids at Toowong on Sunday and is our Sunday morning children's program run during the school term. The children leave after the children's talk to gather in their **Tiger, Leopard and Lion age groups**. An enthusiastic group of volunteers lead these groups, teaching the children about God in a fun and friendly environment.

Junior Youth (years 6 - 8)

Junior Youth also gather on Sunday mornings after the children's talk in the church house for a time of bible study and fun activities. The Scripture Union Light curriculum is used for KATS and Junior Youth. Each session encourages the children to get to know God better through praying together, looking at the bible together and themed games and craft.

Senior Youth (years 9 - 12)

Senior Youth join in with the whole Sunday worship and are encouraged to take on leadership roles in the church. Senior Youth also meet together every second Saturday night during the school term for Youth Group. **Our remaining dates for Senior Youth in term 2 are: 11 May, 25 May, 8 June and 22 June.**

Children's & Youth Events

A number of events are run during the year, such as the Junior Youth Sleepover, the Moonwalk and the Light Party. Keep checking the newsletter and enews for updates about these events.

Safe Ministry with Children

TUC has adopted the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod's Safe Ministry with Children policy and believes that every person is precious to God and in following Jesus' example, we are committed to providing a safe church for all, particularly those who are vulnerable. All volunteers working with children at TUC have up-to-date Blue Cards and have completed the Safe Ministry with Children training.



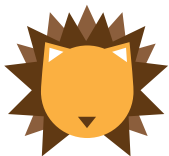
Tigers

Toddlers - Preschool



Leopards

Preschool - Year 2



Lions

Year 3 - Year 5



Junior Youth Sleepover

4 pm Sat 17 – 9.30 am Sun 18 August

All our Junior Youth members (grades 6-8) are invited to the sleepover for lots of games, lollies, prayer, leadership training and more! The sleepover will start at 4 pm on Saturday 17 August and finish at 9.30 am on Sunday 18 August. You can head into the church service at 9.30 am on the Sunday, and maybe even share a bit about the sleepover during the notices. We're sure the congregation will love to hear about it!

Please get in touch with Clare for more information:
c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Watoto Children's Choir

**Thursday 12 September
7 - 9 pm at Living Faith
Uniting Church**

Come and attend a night of African exuberance presented by the Watoto Children's Choir! These children raise awareness about the plight of orphans in Uganda while blessing audiences around the world with their incredible talent. The performance is appropriate for all ages and will be loved by both young and old.

Please be in touch with Iris Marais for more information and to RSVP:
**irismarais@gmail.com
0432 067 227**





Rise
RETREAT

Rise One Day Women's Retreat

Saturday 10 August | 10 am - 4 pm

Old Friary Centre for Christian Spirituality, Kenmore Hills

A Rise Retreat is an invitation to stop the madness and the noise for a moment. It is an invitation to slow down, quieten the spirit, and tune into the still, small voice of God, whispering to us by name, reminding us who we are and who God is. We highly recommend heading along to the Rise Retreat on Saturday 10 August if you can! You can book tickets here:

www.riseretreats.com.au/retreats/day-retreat-brisbane



Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas

Wednesday 21 August | 9.45 - 11.00 am

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas (MTUU) meets on the third Wednesday of every month. Everyone is warmly invited to join us on 21 August for a delicious morning tea and great company! We look also forward to hearing from Bev Homel at this month's gathering. Please be in touch with Wendy for more information:

0422 373 326 | awgelden@bigpond.net.au



Helpers for the Sunday Roster

Help us fill the September - November Roster!

Are you available to volunteer for one of the following roles on Sundays?

greeting at the door & taking up the offering | serving morning tea
running the data projector & sound system | counting the offering
doing the bible reading | praying during the service
playing an instrument and/or singing with the Worship Team

If you'd like to join in, please contact Garry and let him know which roles appeal to you, and what dates suit you during the September - November period:

info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au



Congregational Meeting

Sunday 25 August | 11 am in the hall

After our morning worship on Sunday 25 August we will meet in the hall at 11 am for the Congregational Meeting. This is a chance to keep everyone in the loop about what's been happening at TUC. Please grab some morning tea and a cup of tea or coffee and join the meeting. Everyone is most welcome to come along.

Earth Overshoot Day

Caring for Our Environment

Caring for the planet and fixing our damaged relationship with the environment is something I'm passionate about and plan to pursue as a career, so I found it very worrying to discover that this year's Earth Overshoot Day was the earliest yet, the 29th of July. Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. Ecological resources and services can be things like forest land, crude oil, fish stocks, and the planet's ability to take care of excess waste or emissions. So since the start of this year, we've used up the amount of natural resources it takes the planet a year to regenerate. That's 12 months of resources used in only 7 months. It is especially worrying to consider that if everyone in the world lived like we do in Australia, we would use a year's worth of resources by the 31st of March. Given that we discussed the story of the prodigal son at Senior Youth camp this year, I find myself comparing our actions as humans, particularly as the relatively well-off humans we are in Australia, to the story of the prodigal son. We are taking Earth's resources, God's creation, and squandering them at such an alarming rate, that we will be left destitute soon enough if we don't take action to change. As the story of the prodigal son teaches, God will always welcome us back with loving arms – but unfortunately for us, there won't be much we can do to get our planet back. Last year, the United Nations predicted that radical change needs to occur in the next 12 years in order to prevent devastating environmental destruction. This change would require the commitment of every person, every organisation and every government on the entire planet. It's encouraging to learn we already have the technology to transition to a clean energy future. Jesus also encourages us to rediscover a life consisting of far more than the accumulation of possessions (fight against consumerism, in modern terms) in Luke 12:15:

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (NIV)

As custodians of creation I believe it is our responsibility to do what we can to move Earth Overshoot Day to a later date. I encourage everyone to look for ways to make change in their personal lives, as well as making our governments more aware of the pressing need for adequate climate and environmental policy. To find out more, I recommend checking out the website of Common Grace, a Christian social justice organisation:

www.commongrace.org.au

www.commongrace.org.au/here_it_comes (for more information on Earth Overshoot Day)



Riley Guyatt

Grade 12, Indooroopilly State High School

Riley has been awarded the Tuckwell Scholarship to study at the Australian National University in Canberra. Next year she will begin her course; a Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability.

Sunday Roster: August

	04 August	11 August	18 August	25 August
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	Matt	Matt	Matt	Matt
Elder	Garry J	Alicia M	Lauren M	Sue O
Reader	Garry J	Liz W	Jane T	Ross H
Prayer (during service)	-	Ross H	Wendy B	Rob H
Door	Nikki B, Ross H	Will S, Jane T	Sarah S, Ray M	Sue & Garry O
Counting	Rob L, Joyce S	Sandra H, Rob H	Rob J, Kelvin W	Paul B, Emilia B
Morning Tea	Karen & Bill B	Brendan T	Gem M, Carly K, Sugandh G	Lauren M, Narelle WS
Coffee Machine	-	-	Jenny M & Brad M	Jenny M & Brad M
Data	Bill B	Scott G	Jack L	Tim O
Sound	Luke R	Mitch G	Elias P	Tim O
Prayer Ministry (after service)	Catherine Z	Karen N	Kim J	Neil D
Music Team	Lucy, Adrian G, Eli, Steph, Lauren	Lucy, Sue, Ryan, Lauren, Luke, Brad, Amelia, Riley	Alice, John, Garry, Yohannes, Graz, Thadeus, Steph	Hamish, Alice, Garry, Mitch, Luke, Brad, Amelia, Riley

August

- 03 Sat:** 7.30 am TUCk into Breakfast
6.30 pm Senior Youth Group
- 06 Tues:** 7 pm Pastorate
- 07 Wed:** 11 am Funeral for Edgar Marchant
7 pm Three Course (part 1)
- 10 Sat:** 5 pm Prayer, Praise & Curry Night at TUC
- 13 Tues:** 7 pm Church Council Meeting
- 14 Wed:** 7 pm Three Course (part 2)
- 17 Sat:** 4 pm Junior Youth Sleepover
- 20 Tues:** 7 pm Pastorate
- 21 Wed:** 9.45 am Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas
7 pm Three Course (part 3)
- 25 Sun:** 11 am Congregational Meeting
- 28 Wed:** 7 pm Three Course (part 4)
- 31 Sat:** 6.30 pm Senior Youth Group

September

- 03 Tues:** 7 pm Pastorate
- 07 Sat:** 7.30 am TUCk into Breakfast
- 08 Sun:** 11 am Connect Brunch
- 12 Thurs:** 7 - 9 pm Watoto Children's Choir at Living Faith Uniting Church
- 14 Sat:** 1.30 pm Working Bee
6.30 pm Senior Youth Group
- 15 Sun:** 9.30 am combined service with Korean congregation + BBQ lunch
2.30 pm Church Council Meeting
- 17 Tues:** 7 pm Pastorate
- 18 Wed:** 9.45 am Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas
- 20 Fri:** last day Term 3

Weekly Events

Easy English Bible Study

8.30 am Sundays before worship
in the church house
contact Joyce: lynns1009@gmail.com

Prayer Meetings

8.30 - 9.30 am Mondays
in the church house
contact Matt:
matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

English Conversation

9.30 - 11.30 am Mondays
during the school term
in the hall
contact Will: walswdes@gmail.com

Monday at Midday

12 - 1.30 pm
Every Monday, finishing on 9 Sept.
in the hall
contact Matt:
matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Playgroup

9.30 - 11.00 am Thursdays
9.30 - 11.00 am Fridays
during the school term
in the hall
contact Clare (Thursdays):
c_hankamer@hotmail.com
contact Claudia (Fridays):
arq.claudiadiaz@hotmail.com

Thursday Pastorate

7.30 - 9.00 pm Thursdays
during the school term
in the church house
contact Wendy:
wendy.g.browne@gmail.com