

Tree of Life



April
2022



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.

Online Giving

We are thankful that people at TUC are generous givers in more ways than one: giving their time, sharing their gifts and donating financially.

We take up an offering during each worship service on Sundays. These funds are used for the continuation of ministries at TUC.

These days, many of us don't carry cash, so you may like to set up an ongoing, direct-transfer offering through your bank using these details:

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 Matt's day off is Wednesday

Clare Hankamer | Families Pastor

0432 861 841 c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Boram Lee | Office Manager

3870 9684 info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Madeline Kim | Ministries & Communications Coordinator

madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Dianne Hubbard | Care & Connect - Pastoral Care

dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com

Will Stewart | Church Council Chair

walswdes@gmail.com

Kate Green | Congregational Chair

kategreenqld@gmail.com

Sue O'Brien | Congregational Secretary

sobrien868@gmail.com

Toowong Uniting Church

82 Sherwood Road, Toowong, QLD, 4066
Office: 11 Grove Street, Toowong, QLD, 4066

Phone: 3870 9684

Email: info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Hours: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Tue, Wed and Thu

www.toowongunitingchurch.org

www.facebook.com/toowonguniting

www.youtube.com/c/ToowongUnitingChurch

Minister's Welcome April 2022

Whenever April arrives, we know the humid weather is leaving and outdoor life and being in the garden becomes far more enticing.

The theme for this month is "Tree of Life", a resplendent Biblical image which sprung from the Tuesday night studies Ross Homel is leading (thanks Ross!). As you may recall, when God creates Eden, he places a Tree of Life in the centre of the garden. Initially, this tree could be eaten freely by the man and woman, yet it was closed off to them when they were forced to leave Eden. The tree reappears in John's Revelation, where it produces fruit that heals the nations in the City of God. It's a vibrant image of the way God uses His creation to bring renewal and vitality to our physical bodies, and just as much to our souls. Between those two trees stands the cross, that re-unites us with the Edenic life which we all yearn for, to walk freely with God in the garden. While the cross is the symbol of ultimate sacrifice, the tree of Life is the symbol of everlasting gift. Both trees are reuniting us to God forever.

The oldest known living organism in the universe is a tree. The Bristlecone Pine in California is 4,862 years old! Think about that for a moment, the oldest living thing in the universe. Trees are symbolic for each of us – being connected to a place and time, digging deep, branching out, bearing fruit, sharing their abundance. We are encouraged to be the 'trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, so that God might be glorified' (Isaiah 61). Our lives are meant to bring spaciousness and restoration to all around us. Often when we look at trees, we might also appreciate their beauty. Some forest giants can inspire a response of praise to God.

Perhaps you can find some time over Easter to spend relaxing under a tree, enjoying the tranquillity and imagine how you are called to be 'a planting of the Lord'. In Him, we can bear much fruit.

P.S. If you want to know anything about trees, do ask Clare Hankamer whose doctoral studies were in the field of botany. Clare's former career saw her employed at Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.



Matt Smith
Lead Minister

Matt and Narelle are excited to be growing into the TUC community. Matt is constantly thankful for the dedicated staff team he is part of.

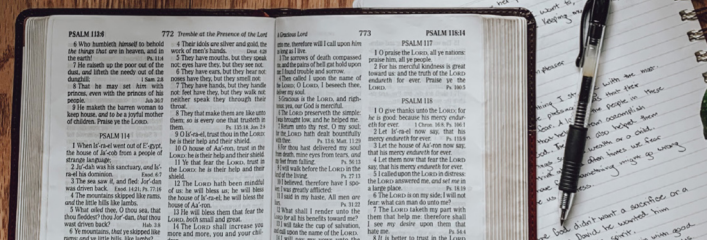
For prayer and counselling, please contact Matt on 0409 917 729.

Please note that Matt's day off is Wednesday.

Bible Readings

Here are our Bible readings for the next few weeks. You might like to read along at home!

- 3 April: Trap of Wealth** - Luke 12: 13 - 21
- 10 April: Union in Christ** - Romans 8: 9 - 17
- 15 April: Good Friday** - John 13: 21 - 30 & John 19: 17 - 28
- 17 April: Easter Sunday** - John 20: 11 - 18 & Galatians 3: 6 - 14
- 24 April: Genesis 2: 4 - 17**



Easter Celebrations

Join us at our family-friendly Easter services to remember Jesus' death, and celebrate his resurrection.

Palm Sunday | 10 April 9.30 am

Maudy Thursday Prayer Walk | 14 April 7.00 pm

Join us at the church before we head out in groups to walk around our suburb and pray for our neighbours.

Good Friday | 15 April 8.00 am

A solemn service to remember and give thanks for Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Easter Sunday | 17 April 9.30 am

A joyful celebration of Christ's victory over death and what this means for us! There will be an Easter egg hunt for the kids.



Boram Lee
Office Manager

Contact:
3870 9684
info@toowong
unitingchurch.org.au

Office Hours:
Tue, Wed, Thu
9 am - 3 pm

Welcome Boram

We are very pleased to welcome Boram Lee as a permanent member of our office team in the role of Office Manager. Many congratulations to Boram for her successful interview.

Boram was originally trained in church music and worked as an administrator at the IDI (International Development Institute) Uganda as part of a NGO called Korea Food for the Hungry International 8 years ago. We look forward to working with Boram as she brings in her experiences, skills and gifts to church. Please welcome Boram.

Over **Easter at TUC**, we are considering the biblical image of the **Tree of Life**.

The **Bible Project** has a brilliant section on this teaching, available in video and written forms.

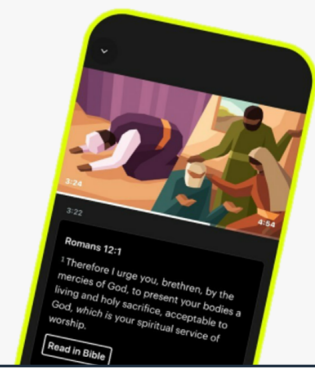
Please take the opportunity to dig deep into this treasure box of content that will undoubtedly enrich your understanding and interest in this promise of God.

Here's some of the links you could start with:

Intro Video: Tree of Life
bibleproject.com/explore/video/tree-of-life/

Commentary: Tree of Life
bibleproject.com/blog/tree-of-life-lost-not-forgotten/

Podcast : Tree of Life
bibleproject.com/podcast/series/tree-life-podcast/



 **Download the Bibleproject app**

Are you new to TUC?

We'd love you to come to our

CONNECT BRUNCH

Sunday 24 April 2022 at 11:00 am
after the service in the **Church House.**

If you have recently come to TUC during the **past 12 months**,
or you **missed** the previous one in July 2021,

please join us, **share some food and drink together**,
and **get to know each other** a little more.

For catering purposes, please let Dianne know if you can attend,
and if you have any special dietary requirements:
dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com | 0410 680 023



scripture
Union
Australia

Making God's Good News Known to Australians

**Support our
Local Chappy:
Mandy Chiang**

Mandy Chiang is our local Scripture Union Chaplain at the Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology in Toowong.

Every week, Mandy runs Breakfast Club for the students before school so they can have a meal and spend some time with one another.

If you'd like to help support Mandy, please bring along some bottles of long life juice and jars of jam to the collection point in the foyer. We have it on good authority that the students prefer apple juice to orange!

**Apple Juice & Jam for
Breakfast Club!**

Dates for TUC Activities

Some of our ministry groups are on break over the Easter school holidays. They will resume as school returns. If circumstances change, we'll keep you posted.

English Conversation:

On break in April *due to school & public holidays

Tuesday Bible Study:


Every Tuesday 7 pm

Playgroups:

Every Thurs & Fri 9.30 am

Youth Group:

Friday 22 April 7 pm



THE OFFERINGS - MARCH

PROJECTED BUDGET
\$ 18,500

RECEIVED
\$20,668

Children's & Youth Ministry

For Parents

You are amazing! I hope you know that Our Father God is with you; loving you and guiding you at this important time of life.

Please know that the whole Church family are supporting you in prayer.

As a parent, I go back to this verse in Isaiah again and again for encouragement:

He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:11)

KATS (Toddlers - Grade 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 **Leopard and Lion age groups**. An enthusiastic group of volunteers lead these groups, teaching the children about God in a fun and friendly environment. The Scripture Union Light curriculum is used for KATS.

KATS will meet every Sunday in 2022.

Youth (Grades 6 - 12)

This year we are launching a new look youth group which will combine Junior and Senior Youth Groups and will meet every second Friday night in the Hall. We pray that it will be a great evening to hang out with friends and to spend some time asking the big questions of life and to pray and worship together.

We really love seeing our young people take part in worship on Sundays. We seek to support and encourage them to discover their leadership gifts and to be looking at ways to serve God in the Church and Community.

Children's & Youth Events

A number of events are run during the year, such as the Youth camp, the Moonwalk and the Light Party. Keep checking the newsletter and weekly 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.



Clare Hankamer Families Pastor

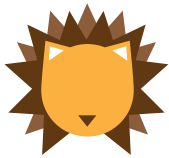
Clare oversees KATS and Youth and runs the Thursday Playgroup. Clare has a PhD in Horticulture with significant experience in both church and community youth work in the UK and Australia.

Contact Clare for details
0432 861 841



Leopards

Preschool - Grade 2



Lions

Grade 3 - Grade 5



Youth Group

Grades 6 - Grade 12

Free Bible apps

For Children



Superbook Bible App - is a spinoff from the video series which depicts 2 children who time travel with the help of a robot into actual Bible events and how they apply these experiences to their lives. It is aimed at Primary-aged children.



Bible for Kids App - fun way to help your lower Primary-aged child learn Bible stories

For you and your teenagers



Bible in One Year Devotional App - youth and adult versions available. Really good Bible teaching from Nicky Gumbel



You Version Bible App - offers a range of Bible devotions for adults and teens

IMPORTANT NOTES TO PARENTS

At TUC, we aim to conduct on-line live streaming of our Sunday worships in a **safe, open, transparent and age appropriate manner** where *everyone feels cared for, safe, respected and supported*.

Thus, all endeavours are made **NOT to film** any child of **Primary school age and under** during live streaming at TUC.

What does this mean?

- ✓ children's faces will be **blurred out** on streaming or cameras would be **turned off** during **Kid's Talks** on Sundays.
- ✓ **please assist** by interrupting children from heading up to the **defined live streaming area** (*first two rows of pews on either side of the church aisle*).





Church Family Camp

Friday 12 August – Sunday 14 August 2022

At **Lennox Head, NSW**

Yes, it is really happening, the dates are locked in!

We will keep you updated for details along the line so Save the Date now!

Sunday Roster: April 2022

	10 Apr	15 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	1 May
	9.30 am	8 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	Kelvin W	Matt S	Matt S	Matt S	Matt S
Elder	Josephine R	-	Bev H	David V	Dianne H
Reader	Sue O	-	Karen N	Wendy B	Nadia A
Pastoral Prayer	Kate G	-	Ross H	Grace T	Rob H
Prayer Ministry	Dianne H	-	Rob H	Neil D	Karen N
Kids' Talk	Wendy B	-	Clare H	-	-
Door	Kelvin W -	-	Grace T Will S	Nikki B Karen N	Gary O -
Bathroom Cleaner	Will S	-	Jane T	Dianne H	David V
Coffee Machine	Rosanne G Carly K	-	Reuben B Brad M	Brad M	Brodie S Rosanne G
M'Tea	Karen N Brendan T	-	Narelle W -	Narelle W -	Carly K Jane T
Offering Counters	Rob L Rob J	-	Rob J	Jane T Emilia B	Emilia B Grace T
Tech Team	data: - sound: Gabe camera: Luke	-	data: Issy sound: Jack camera: Eli	data: Kahlia sound: Asher camera: Kelvin	data: Mitch sound: Kelvin camera: Samuel
Music Team	Scott, Thadeus, Yohannes, Stephanie	Eli, Adrian, Kahlia	Luke, Asher, Boram, Sue	Cynthia, Amelia, Eli, Adrian, Issy	Jisu (James), Luke, Asher, YeEun, Mex

Serving at TUC

Can you help?

Worship and Tech Team

Serving Morning Tea

Bible Reader

Cleaning

Pastoral Prayer

Running the Coffee Machine

Prayer Ministry

Doing the Kid's Talks

Door Welcomers

With the help of our helping hands, we are able to worship and congregate harmoniously every Sunday. If you would like to share the love by serving at TUC,

**Please get in touch with Boram:
info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au**

*If you would like to help by joining the roster, please get in touch with Boram

April 2022

- 10 Mon:** Palm Sunday Celebration KATS
- 14 Thu:** Prayer Walk
- 15 Fri:** Good Friday
- 17 Sun:** Easter Sunday
- 20 Wed:** Church Council meeting
- 22 Fri:** 7 pm Youth Group recommences
- 24 Sun:** Connect Brunch
Mt Coot-tha Church Picnic

May 2022

- 6 Fri:** Youth Group
- 18 Wed:** Church Council meeting
- 20 Fri:** Youth Group
- 21 Sat:** Pray All Day
- 22 Sun:** Pentecost Sunday
- 27 Fri:** Youth Group

Weekly Events

Prayer Meeting

8.30 - 9.30 am Tuesdays on Zoom
contact Matt:

matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

English Conversation

10 - 11.30 am Mondays
during the school term, in the hall
contact Boram:

info@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: c_hankamer@hotmail.com



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH