

WHO AM I?

AUGUST 2022



PERSPECTIVE · IDENTITY

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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

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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

Welcome to TUC.

Whether you have completed 20, or 40 or even 80 trips around the Sun, you are most probably still trying to answer the persistent question that comes with being a human – “Who Am I?” Our answers to that are certainly formed out of our life experiences, our loves, and certainly for most of us, out of family history and our genetics. This question is also answered by what we spend our time doing. **So if you daily practice playing the guitar, you are a guitarist. If you are teaching students, you're an educator. A lifetime of intentional living produces something about you that is undeniably 'you'.**

We are always on the path to becoming who we want to be, though rarely can we declare “I've made it! I am now the finished article!” The follower of Jesus asks a particular question “Who am I called to be?” Over August the preaching and Bible focus will be around the shared experience of being human and knowing we are created for divine and eternal purposes. We are the treasures in jars of clay that Paul described (2 Corinthians 4), imperfect people that know their inherent weaknesses and flaws, yet still daily amazed that God has chosen us to bear living testimony through the Holy Spirit that lives in us. Discovering ourself in relationship to the person of Jesus means we can be re-enchanted by what it means to be human, made in God's image.

Passing the new budget for 2023. Thanks to all of you who considered the proposal in our annual budget meeting, which approved the vision for a third pastor, beginning in 2023. This person will be a missional leader, called to intentionally connect and build relationships with young adults and youth in and around Toowong. Further discussions around the scope and funding of this mission venture will be held over the coming months. We consider this is a vision that could only eventuate when God empowers the mission. To everyone who was present at our Vision Day in June where this exciting potential was formed, prayed over and discerned together, we are seeing the next phase. I ask our entire church to pray together that TUC is well placed to share the gospel of Jesus with our neighbours, many of whom are seeking purpose and ultimate meaning in their young adult years.

Glad to be serving with you here.

Matt



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.

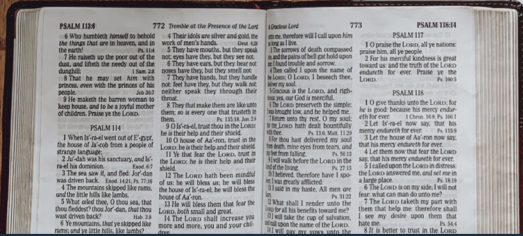
For prayer and counselling, please contact Matt on 0409 917 729.

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!

- 7 Aug:** John 1: 1 - 5
2 Timothy 3: 14 - 17
- 14 Aug:** TBA
- 21 Aug:** TBA
- 28 Aug:** TBA



“welcome!”

“You are a very friendly, welcoming church.”

These are words I often hear from people who visit or end up staying at our church - I know this is true because I see people from TUC warmly engaging with visitors every Sunday.

The challenge for me is that being welcoming is not just about greeting people and making newcomers feel welcome, it is also about connecting them in relationship with other Christians and engaging them fully in the life, growth and ministry of our congregation.

Offering a welcome can be difficult and sometimes involves risks, resources and personal costs. I know that I often gravitate to people I already know. Sometimes I am uncertain - is this person a new visitor or are they someone from TUC I just haven't met yet? Often it takes courage to speak to a person we don't have any prior connection with. In our culture today, where loneliness, distrust and cynicism are so common, as a Christian community, we can offer people a place of warmth belonging and healing around the 'campfire', so I try to remember that we offer welcome in gratitude for the grace we ourselves have received from God.

Our welcoming every Sunday is important. Because of Covid some church members are now returning after a long absence, new people are 'trying us out' and families are visiting from further afield. Being welcoming has always been important TUC, but it is likely to be even more important in the coming months we seek to be "The Light of Christ in all the World".



Dianne Hubbard
Care & Connect

Dianne is a member of Church Council at TUC and oversees the pastoral care group at TUC - the Care and Connect. She can be contacted on email: dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com

Dates for TUC Activities

Welcome to August! TUC activities will continue to roll in August so check out their dates below or on our events calendar on toowongunitingchurch.org

English Conversation:

Every Monday 10 am

Bible Study:

Every Tue 7pm at Kate's Place
Every Thu 7pm at Church House

Playgroups:

Every Thu & Fri 9.30 am

Youth Group:

Fortnightly Friday 7 pm

SafeSpace - Young Adults:

Fortnightly Saturday 5.30 pm



THE OFFERINGS : JULY 2022

PROJECTED BUDGET
\$ 18,500

GENERAL OFFERING
\$ 19,426

REVIEW: CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

What's Next?

Thank you to those at the Congregational meeting who considered and **approved the next steps for a third pastor in 2023.**

Two of the next things to consider will be **how we can support this new missional outreach**, both financially and in applying our personal gifts, abilities and prayers.

As mentioned during the Congregational meeting, seeking financial promises or pledges worked well for us previously and some explanatory documents are being prepared to use this approach again. Please consider prayerfully how you may be able to help with either a recurring or a one-off financial promise.

While the third pastor is the most significant step from our visioning day, there are other important outcomes. **Council is looking for your comments, feedback and support** for these as well. A form has been developed ([attached here](#) or prints available from the foyer) and we encourage and welcome your responses. We're asking if you can do that by **15 August** to allow Council consideration at our 17 August meeting.

As noted on the form you can complete and drop it to the box available in the church foyer, or please feel free to use the form to email your thoughts to Will at walswdes@gmail.com

Council is committed to keeping you updated on all of these matters so please watch for future information on our progress with God on these initiatives.

God bless you all,

Will Stewart

On behalf of the TUC Council



SPEAKER
HIGHLIGHT

WILL STEWART

PRESIDENT OF MT COOT-THA GIDEONS
CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR, TUC

- God has blessed Will through his **21 years as a member of Gideons**, serving at Mt Coot-tha in Brisbane.
- He has and continues to serve locally in many roles, and is **currently the President of Mt Coot-tha Gideons.**
- **At a Gideon State level**, Will has been an Area Director for the southern-most area and the State Vice President.
- **Nationally** Will has been the National Treasurer and National Vice-President.
- He has served on a variety of national committees including the National Cabinet, National Executive, Finance Committee, Auxiliary Advisory Committee, a special membership committee and the IT Development Group. Will is **currently the chairperson of the IT Operations Group.**
- In May 2011, Will was privileged to visit Malaysia with Gideons, to distribute God's word as part of what Gideons call a Bible Blitz.



BIBLE STUDY

TERM 3 WITH TUC

01

EVERY
TUESDAY
NIGHT

contact **Kate Green**

continue with **Reflections Series**

at **Kate's House**

7 PM – 8.30 PM

kategreenqld@gmail.com

02

EVERY
THURSDAY
NIGHT

contact **Ross Homel**

6 new series on **Character of God**

at **Church House**

7 PM – 8.30 PM

ross.homel@icloud.com



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

Church Picnic Walk at Maleny Reserve

location

**Mary Cairncross
Scenic Reserve**
148 Mountain View Road,
Maleny QLD 4552

date & time

Sat 13 Aug
Gathering at the Scenic
Reserve car park at **10:30**

Bring your own picnic lunch

Should you require transport, please advise Matt.

NEW DATE!

DISCRIMINATION MAKES US SICK

Join the panel discussion on personal and professional experiences of systemic discrimination in health



SPEAKER

Rita Prasad-Ildes
CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING
DIRECTOR, WORLD
WELLNESS GROUP



SPEAKER

Dr. Dinesh Palipana
DOCTOR, LAWYER,
ADVOCATE & AUTHOR



PANEL HOST

Rebecca Levingston
JOURNALIST, ABC
RADIO BRISBANE

TIME
6:30 - 09:00 PM

DATE
13 Sept 2022

VENUE
Factory 51





**scripture
Union
Australia**

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.

Apple Juice & Jam for Breakfast Club!

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!

Sunday Roster: August 2022

	7 Aug	14 Aug	21 Aug	28 Aug
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	Will S	Warwick B	Matt S	Matt S
Kids' Talk	Clare H	-	Bev H	Wendy B
Reader	Jane T	Sue O	Eve N	Nadia A
Pastoral Prayer	Ross H	-	Rob H	Kate G
Prayer Ministry	Karen N	-	Will S	Laurel A
Elder	Bev H	-	Will S	Ben R
Door	Gary O Jo R	-	Carly K -	Jane T Kabir S
M'Tea	- Brendan T	- -	Judith D Cynthia T	Michelle S Di H
Coffee Machine	Machine is currently out of order			
Bathroom Cleaner	Clare H	-	Jane T	Ben R
Offering Counters	Nadia A Rob L	- -	Rob J -	Kelvin W Grace T
Tech Team	data: Kabir sound: Adrian camera: Kelvin	data: - sound: - camera: -	data: Madeline sound: Jack camera: Kabir	data: Issy sound: Asher camera: Samuel
Music Team	James, Grace, Brad	Boram,	Geoff, Mitch, Thadeus, Yohannes	Cynthia, Brad, Adrian, Renata

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

Proudly sponsored by the Lord Mayor's Initiative Fund
Walter Taylor Ward



FREE! KIDS FUNFEST

Saturday 27 August 9.30am - 1.30pm
Craft and Woodworking activities

St Andrew's Anglican Church
Cnr Lambert Rd & Fairley St, Indooroopilly

August 2022

- 12 Fri** Youth Group
- 13 Sat** Family Picnic @ Maleny
- 17 Wed** Church Council
- 26 Fri** Encounter Youth Night @ Glebe Road

September 2022

- 9 Fri** Youth Group
- 21 Wed** Church Council

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

Bible Study

7 - 8.30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays
during the school term, in the church house

contact Ross: ross.homel@icloud.com

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



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