

05.2022

DIFFICULT JOURNEY

*- to boarding
school on a mid-
winter journey
along what is
known as the
Chadar trek.*



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

Bible Readings

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

- 1 May:** 1 Kings 17: 1 - 24
- 8 May:** Ruth 1: 1 - 21
- 15 May:** Matthew 6: 13
- 22 May:** Matthew 10: 5 - 20
- 29 May:** 1 Samuel 30: 1 - 10



Dates for TUC Activities

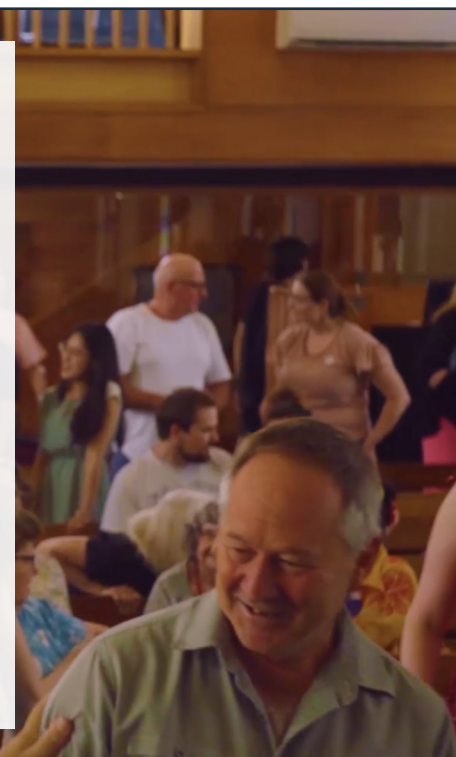
We hope you had a great Easter break and relaxing long weekends in April. Our activities are back in May so if you are interested, let us know! Everyone is welcome to join!

English Conversation:
Every Monday from 9th May 10 am

Tuesday Bible Study:
Every Tuesday 7 pm

Playgroups:
Every Thu & Fri 9.30 am

Youth Group:
Every Friday fortnightly 7 pm from 6th May





Scott Guyatt

Scott is Connect 100 Coordinator, Community Partnerships, UnitingCare Queensland.

Forgiveness: 70×7

A little while ago, I was travelling and using the car's GPS to help guide my path.

I had a rough idea where I was going, but the GPS knows everything, right? So, I had the destination plugged in, and that lovely, calm voice was chattering away in the background, offering instructions to take the next exit, turn right, turn left and so on. At one point, passing through an area, I thought I knew well, I decided to set my own path, taking an alternate route that would avoid some traffic and multiple traffic lights. I'd save some time. The GPS disagreed with my decision.

"Do a U-turn when possible", it instructed, knowing that I had done wrong and would soon be well off course. I persisted with my own decisions, and so did the GPS with its corrections: "Do a U-turn when possible".

This went on for quite a while – me locked in a battle of will with my GPS, my stubbornness against the GPS' wisdom. If the situation were reversed, I would have been furious: "I TOLD YOU TO DO A U-TURN!" I would have raged. Not the GPS. That same calm, measured, eternally patient voice: "Do a U-turn when possible", is repeated for the umpteenth time. It would keep repeating that phrase for as long as I kept heading in the wrong direction.

Somewhere along the way, I got to thinking about the parallel with Jesus' reflections on forgiveness that we read in Matthew 18. Peter comes looking for some advice, or perhaps for some kudos for his very generous spirit: "Should I forgive my brother seven times?" he asked? Seven? That's a lot of forgiveness. The perfect number. More than double the oft-quoted number of three from a story in Amos. Seven times. Go, Peter!

Jesus, though redefines grace. Redefines generosity. Redefines forgiveness. "Not seven times, but seventy-seven" (or seventy times seven, depending on how it's translated). The point is not that we should keep count until we get to that impossibly large number and finally refuse further forgiveness. The point, of course, is that God's grace and forgiveness are extraordinary, unending even – and that we should strive to be likewise.

Jesus immediately illustrates the point with the parable of the unmerciful servant. We are familiar with the story: forgiven much, the servant cannot pass on that same measure of grace.

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us", we pray. How bold to pray that God would help me to forgive others in the same way God forgives me? How challenging to live up to?

In our society today, I think we can make the case that grace, mercy, and forgiveness aren't always in full supply. We're a society that constantly reinforces the notion of my rights and my concerns over the power and value of grace and forgiveness. Outrage is our currency. Anger our language.

Sometimes that even leaks into the church. What if we collectively determined that it couldn't, shouldn't, wouldn't? What if forgiveness was our currency, grace our language? That's a church I'd like to be part of.

My GPS, eternally patient, would go on to forgive me more than seven times as we travelled that day before I finally relented and realised I was lost. I reckon if I set the GPS to plot a course for Cairns and then started heading south toward Sydney, we'd easily crack the seventy...and probably the seventy-times seven.

May I forgive with the patience of my GPS.

Scott Guyatt

Vision & Mission Planning Day

June 4th Saturday
9 am – 3 pm

Everyone is invited to join Vision & Mission Planning Day!
As an extension of the AGM in March, we will discern together
God's leading and work towards making vision become reality.

Lunch & Morning tea is provided.

Pentecost 24 Hour Prayer Relay

PRAY ALL DAY

WHEN

8 AM Saturday 4th
– 8 AM Sunday 5th June

WHERE

TUC Prayer Room
(under the church house)

Pentecost is celebrated on the 7th Sunday after Easter to commemorate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the 12 Apostles and many other followers of Jesus while they were praying together in Jerusalem. This saw the birth of the early Christian church as the apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit, spread the good news about Jesus and performed many signs in his name.

This Pentecost, we ask you to join with us in our 24 hour prayer relay. Let's pray together for a pouring out of the Holy Spirit on our church and for God's vision and guidance as we look to the future.

Simply sign up for a one hour block at the foyer, then come along to the prayer room at your allocated time.



#24hourprayertoowong #prayallday #passtheprayer
inquiries : madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Democracy Sausage Sizzle

9 am – 3 pm Saturday 21 May 2022

on the lawn at the Sherwood Rd entrance

Vegan friendly options are available

Would you be available for **one hour** between
8 am and 3 pm to help?

If **you can help out**, please fill in your name
on our **google doc**, or email us to let us know:
info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au



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!

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

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.

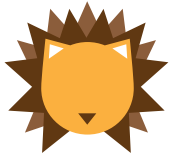
What does this mean?

- ✓ 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*).



Leopards

Preschool - Grade 2



Lions

Grade 3 - Grade 5



Youth Group

Grades 6 - Grade 12

Sunday Roster: May 2022

	8 May	15 May	22 May	29 May	5 June
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	Matt S	-	Matt S	Matt S	
Reader	Grace T	Rob H	Cynthia T	Kabir S	
Pastoral Prayer	Rob H	Laurel A	Will S	Kate G	
Prayer Ministry	Will S	-	Dianne H	Rob H	
Elder	Will S	Ben R	Jo R	Bev H	
Kids' Talk	-	Clare H	Jo R	-	
Door	Gary O Jo R	Ray M Kelvin W	- Ray M	Jane T -	
Bathroom Cleaner	Ben R	-	Clare H	Will S	TBA
M'Tea	Dianne H Karen N	Brendan T -	Grace T-	- -	
Coffee Machine	Brad M Haneum L	Carly K Brodie S	Haneum L Brad M	Rosanne G Carly K	
Offering Counters	Kelvin W Rob L	Grace T Karen N	Karen N Rob J	Kelvin W Emilia B	
Tech Team	data: Bill sound: Samuel camera: Eli	data: Kabir sound: Jack camera: -	data: Madeline sound: - camera: -	data: Issy sound: Asher camera: Eli	
Music Team	Cynthia, Luke, Asher, Adrian, Kahlia	Sue, Amelia, Thadeus, Yohannes, Jordan	Matt, Eli, Boram, Issy	Scott, Mitch, Brad, Adrian	

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



Support our Local Chappy: Mandy Chiang

Apple Juice & Jam for Breakfast Club!

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!

Serving at TUC

Can you help?

Worship and Tech Team

Bible Reader

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Ministry

Door Welcomers

Serving Morning Tea

Cleaning

Running the Coffee Machine

Doing the Kid's Talks

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

May 2022

- 2 Mon** English Conversation recommence
- 6 Fri** Youth Group
- 18 Wed** Church Council meeting
- 20 Fri** Youth Group
- 21 Sat** Democracy Sausage Sizzle
- 27 Fri** Youth Group

June 2022

- 3 Fri** Encounter Forest Lake UC
- 4 Sat** Vision & Mission Planning Day
Pentecost 24hr Prayer begins
- 5 Sun** Pentecost
- 12 Sun** 2021 Budget Congregation Meeting
- 15 Wed** Church Council
- 17 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