

The Banora Pointer



Don't be Afraid As The Lord Is With You

We hope you enjoy your time acknowledging the Lords
direction and support in these trying times

Preacher: Pastor Debra Pinkerton

Sunday 10 January 2021

Baptism Of Jesus



PRAYER
in action

CALLING OUR COMMUNITY TO PRAY

Our Mission: to love God and love our neighbours

The Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledge the indigenous traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Goori people and their Elders, past, present and future.

Banora Point Uniting Church

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Message from Pastor Debra Pinkerton

To Be Human Is To Pray

Very early in the morn-ing, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. – Mark 1:35 NIV

Jesus, the greatest person who ever lived, was pre-eminently a man of prayer. Before launch-ing out in public ministry, he fast-ed for more than a month in the wilderness. Before choosing his twelve disciples, he prayed all night. When he heard the devastating news that his cousin, John, had been executed, “he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place” Matthew 14:13. After feeding five thousand people, he was understandably tired, but his response was to climb a mountain to pray.

When the pressures of fame threat-ened to crush him, Jesus prayed. When he was facing his own death in the garden of Gethsemane, bleeding with fear and failed by his friends, he prayed. Even during those unimaginable hours of physical and spiritual torment on the cross, Jesus cried out to the one who had apparently forsaken him.

Jesus prayed and he prayed and he prayed.

But it didn't stop there. After his resurrection, Jesus commanded his disciples to follow his example so that the church was eventually born as “they all joined together constantly in prayer” Acts 1:14.

And then, as it began to grow exponentially, the apostles continued to follow their Lord's example, resolutely prioritising prayer above the clamour of pressing leadership responsibilities.

When Peter went up on the roof to pray in the city of Joppa he received a shocking vision of nonkosher animals presented as food, an epochdefining epiphany that would catapult the gospel out from its Jewish cradle into the vast harvestfields of the Gentile world.

Paul's epistles bubble and fizz with petition, with spontaneous doxologies and passionate exhortations to pray. We are engaged, he reminds the Ephesians, in active warfare against dark spiritual powers. We are caught up, he tells the Romans, in an intense heavenly prayer meeting. We are edified, he tells the Corinthians, in truths revealed to us only through prayer... But a commitment to pray does not belong to some other time in history, nor to some other type of person more spiritual or disciplined or experienced than you and me.

“Prayer is more than a lighted candle,” insists the theologian George A. Buttrick. “It is the contagion of health. It is the pulse of Life.” A real relationship with God means walking with him daily, like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It means talking with him intimately, like Moses, with whom “the Lord would speak ... face to face, as one speaks to a friend” Exodus 33:11. And it means listening attentively to his voice because, as Jesus said, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” John 10:27.

~ Excerpt from *How To Pray* by Pete Grieg.

Pastor Debra Pinkerton



A Message From Elizabeth

Welcome to 2021! A new day, a new year, a new beginning. What exciting and interesting times are ahead of us at Banora Point Uniting Church.

The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) is looking forward to meeting as soon as the chairperson, Rev Ralph Mayhew convenes our first meeting for 2021. Rev Ralph is the minister at Burleigh Heads Village Church and Burleigh Heads Uniting Church. The other Presbytery Representative on the JNC is Rev Ian Lord (retired UCA minister). Some of you had the opportunity to meet Ian as he led our worship service on Sunday 27 December 2020.

At the Church Council/Elders meeting on 14 December 2020 it was determined that anyone wanting to raise a matter with the Church Council/Elders, need to provide the issue/concern etc, in writing and hand to Leslie Goodman (Admin Officer) or via email to bpuchurch@optus.net.au. This ensures that no-one should feel that matters raised by them are not brought to the attention of all councillors/elders.

I trust that you are continuing to pray each day for the ways and means that BPUC will experience as we embark on a journey of Regeneration. Perhaps you would like to join me in this prayer, "Endings and Beginnings" written by the late Rev Bruce Prewer (Australian Prayers - revised 2002)

God of things old and things new, of precious memories and exciting hopes, help us to complete this old phase of our life and to begin the new in the peace, joy and courage to be which is your personal gift to all who will receive it. through Christ Jesus, the hope of yesterday, today and forever. Amen

God Bless you

Elizabeth Wells,

BPUC Church Council Chairperson

Updating Of Contact Details

Please ensure you have brought back or sent in your "Update of Details" forms. If you have not done so, please bring the completed form into Les, Admin officer, either Thursdays between 10am & 1pm or Sunday mornings. Or alternatively you can email your details to the Banora Point Uniting Church bpuchurch@optusnet.com.au. This is to make sure our records are accurate and up to date. If you have not received one and would like one, please contact Les at the church to organize a form to be sent to you.

Sunday Church Services

If you wish to join in the Sunday Service, please contact Les (Admin Officer) on (07) 5524 9035 between 10am and 1pm on the Thursday prior to the Sunday Service



A Treasurers Message To The Congregation

Friends,

Thank you all for your marvelous support and love during these difficult times. Please continue to direct debit/credit directly into your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch, or take advantage of my offer to pick up offerings from homes within the Banora/Tweed area.

Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church

(Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611

Account No: 10120762

Most importantly- please keep safe.

My prayers go out to each and everyone of you.

Neil Rackham

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday service will be available on YouTube from Pastor Debra Pinkerton via email to your personal email address, the BPUC YouTube Channel or by clicking the link on the Banora Point Uniting Church Website: www.banorapointunitingchurch.org.au

"The Ultimate Affirmation" ~ Mark 1:4-11

If you have not received any emails and would like to keep updated via this method, please call Leslie or Pastor Debra or email: bpuchurch@optusnet.com.au

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