

The Banora Pointer



Don't be Afraid As The Lord Is With You

We hope you enjoy your time acknowledging the Lord's direction and support in these trying times.

Preacher: Rev. Aaron Moad

Sunday 15 August 2021

Pentecost 12



Faith Without Works

JAMES 2:14-26

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 Reverend Aaron Moad

This week's Gospel reading was Matthew 21:23-32. In it we see that Jesus' authority was questioned by the chief priests and the elders in the Temple. Jesus answers the question of his authority with a parable about two sons. A father asks both of his sons to help him in the vineyard one son flat out refuses and the other son says he will help. The first son the one who refused seemed to have a change of heart and goes out and helps but the other the one who said, yes, I'll help never does.

What is Jesus getting at with this parable? I think that this parable is about repentance, obedience, and how actions speak louder than words. I think Jesus is saying that God doesn't want polite words and appearances he wants genuine, heartfelt repentance.

To repent means to change our hearts and our lives and act accordingly. John the Baptist came preaching repentance. Jesus came preaching repentance. The early apostles came preaching repentance. The Gospel is about transformation, about being changed to be something more like Christ. That kind of change requires the power of the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever felt compelled to do something, speak to someone or go somewhere and you knew deep down that it was the right thing to do but didn't know why?

We may not always understand why God chooses us to do certain things, but God's plan is always greater than any of our own plans.

Go out and work for the Father today.

Don't wait around go and answer the God's call.

I love the Nike slogan "Just Do It".

Spend time with God, hear his call and go out and do it, even if it is uncomfortable, even if you don't quite understand why. Trust God and just do it. This is my prayer for us.

Almighty and loving God, please be patient with us but give us a push when we need it. Send your Spirit to do its work of transformation in our lives. We want to live to honour you, do what you want us to do, and more closely reflect the character and grace of Jesus. Please give us wisdom to know your will, courage to do what you call us to do, and a willing heart to seek after you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

A Message From Elizabeth

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

As I write my message for "The Pointer" on a Tuesday evening, I do not know, in these uncertain times, what the next few days may bring. If ever there has been a time to "trust and obey" it is now! This week, during my time spent in prayer and meditation, I came across the following prayer from Rev Ann Perrin, who is a minister in the NSW/ACT Synod. I encourage you to reflect on the words of this prayer, not only because of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, but also because of our ongoing commitment to **Regeneration** at BPUC.

A prayer by Rev Ann Perrin

Ever-living, ever-present God.

You are with us. We come before you this day knowing we are to be dispersed, sent out into your world to be your church in new ways.

If we are resistant to this change Lord, hear our prayer of confession and bless us with forgiveness, patience and resilience for we are committed to care for each other as we care for ourselves.

So help us to discover new ways to share why we live our lives committed to sharing the promised of the gospel.

During this time of upheaval, we will remember those whose groups who met in our building that are no longer available to them and the new ways they will need to be community.

We remember those for who this time is one of uncertainty and challenge, those who now live with fear and in isolation, and those for whom this time is one of anguish and death. Hold all those in need of your love at this time.

Holy God, you encourage us when doubtful to draw closer to you. Allow us to recognise the Holy Spirit as our guide, comforter and companion. And so with the hope you instill in us and when the time is right, we will return as your gathered community with the joy of Easter Day, celebrating our resilience, knowing our communities are stronger than ever to continue your work to help build a flourishing world where ever we find ourselves.

Amen.

God bless you

Elizabeth Wells,

BPUC Church Council Chairperson

Church Council/Elders Meeting

Church Council/Elders meeting has been postponed until next Monday, 23 August 2021, at 7pm.

What's Happening Next Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Fellowship Lunch 11:45am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 9am CWCI Bible Study 10am Thursday Evening Bible Study 6:30pm
Next Sunday	Worship Service 9am

Church Roster

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>
Bible Reader	— — — — —	Jill & Stephanie
Prayer	— — — — —	Robyn
Organist	— — — — —	Audrey
Pianist	— — — — —	Jan
Morning Tea	— — — — —	Sylvia & Kristine
Hall Set Up	— — — — —	Nigel & Peter

If you are unable to do your roster, please organize a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.

Are You Willing To Help?

From the beginning of September 2021 the duties of greeter/sign in person and church/hall cleaner, will be included in the monthly rosters.

If you would like to know what is involved in either of these roles, please speak to Elizabeth Wells.

If you are able to assist in either of these roles, please contact Janice Monk so that she can include you on the Roster.

Many hands make light work – So thank in advance for your help.

Tithes

Please continue to direct debit/credit directly into your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch or Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

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