



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 29 September 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Part 1: Love, Joy, and Peace – Living in Harmony with the Spirit

In Galatians 5:22-23, the Apostle Paul describes the qualities that should define our lives as believers: the **Fruits of the Spirit** which are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. Over the next three weeks, we'll explore how these virtues—produced by the Holy Spirit—can be lived out in our daily lives. This week, we begin with **Love, Joy, and Peace**.

Love: It's no accident that Paul mentions love first in his list of fruits, love is at the heart of Christian life and not just any kind of love, but **agape** love—selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional. Jesus said in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." This love isn't just an emotion, but an action—a selfless, sacrificial love puts the needs of others above our wants and desires. How do we live this love daily? It starts with small acts of kindness toward those around us—our family, friends, coworkers, and even strangers. It's easy to love those who love us back, but true Spirit-filled love extends even to those who hurt us, irritate us, or are difficult to be around. Love is a choice to act in others' best interests, even when it's difficult. In moments of frustration, love helps us respond with grace. In times of disagreement, love enables us to seek understanding rather than victory. As Christians, our calling is to love others as Christ loved us.

Joy: Joy is often confused with happiness, but it goes deeper than happiness; joy is a profound sense of well-being and contentment rooted in our relationship with God. Happiness is circumstantial and fleeting, dependent on worldly, external factors like success, comfort, or pleasure. But joy, goes much deeper. It's a sense of gladness and contentment that comes from knowing and trusting God, regardless of the circumstances around us. Joy is grounded in the assurance of God's love, salvation, and eternal promises. In Philippians

4:4, Paul urges us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." This kind of joy can coexist with sorrow, pain, and hardship because it is anchored in the truth that God is with us. How can we cultivate joy in our daily lives? By practicing gratitude, as we focus on our blessings, we begin to see life differently. Joy is also contagious. Sharing joy through encouraging words or actions can lift others' spirits and draw them closer to God.

Peace: In a world filled with anxiety, division, and uncertainty, peace is one of the most sought-after yet elusive qualities. The peace that God (shalom) offers isn't just the absence of conflict or turmoil; it's the presence of wholeness, tranquillity, and well-being that comes from knowing that God is with us. In Philippians 4:7, we're told that the peace of God surpasses all understanding and will guard our hearts and minds. How can we live out peace daily? It starts with surrender—trusting God with our worries, knowing that He is in control. Daily prayer and meditation on the Scriptures help us stay grounded in this peace. Peace is not only something we experience internally but something we are called to extend to others. As we experience God's peace, we are called to be peacemakers, extending that same peace to others through reconciliation, forgiveness, and love.

Next week we will look at the next three **Fruits of the Spirit: Patience, Kindness, and Goodness**. But as we reflect on these first three Fruits—**love, joy, and peace**—let's ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate them in our lives in greater measure. They're not something we can produce on our own, but as we walk with the Spirit, He will grow them in us, enabling us to reflect the character of Christ in a world that desperately needs to see His love, joy, and peace.

Grace and peace
Rev. Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

Psalm 65

Romans 8:19-25

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am

School Holiday Recess

As you can see from the above, a number of our activities are in recess for the NSW school holidays. Their return dates are detailed in the other upcoming events list.

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	All Age Service	N/A
Duty Elder	Robyn	Walter
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Audrey & Mel
Greeters	Joyce & Marshall	Noah & Lorraine W
Bible Readers	Elspeth & Noah	Nigel & Terryll
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Elizabeth
Morning Tea	Mary & Chris	Shirley T & Dorothy McA
Hall Set Up	Brian	Ross
Sound Room	Ross	Nathan
Cleaning	Terryll & Lynn	Lorraine & Helene

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

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;
Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527
or Your Pastoral Carer

Other upcoming events for your diary

Church Council Meeting 8 October 7pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9 October 9.30am
Fellowship Lunch 9 October 12 Noon
Evening Bible Study 17 October 6.30pm
Craft Club 18 October 9am
Chaira Companions 20 October 1.30pm
Mainly Music 22 October 9.30am
Men's Breakfast 26 October 8am
Pastoral Care Meeting 8 November 10.15am
Elder's Meeting 12 November 4.30pm
Church Fete 23 November 8am
BCC Family Fun Day 7 December 3pm

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child

Many thanks to everyone who has taken a box to fill. This is a wonderful project, and we encourage you to be a part of it. It would be lovely if we could fill all our boxes, and there are still some available in the foyer and in our hall. Please also see the leaflets which explain the project and give very good gift ideas. A donation to cover project costs per shoebox is detailed on the leaflet and is strongly encouraged please. **Final date for the return of the boxes is Sunday 13 October.**

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 12 noon on Wednesday 9 October in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 7 October.

Church Fete

We now have just 8 weeks to go until our Church Fete takes place. We are therefore appealing for donations of saleable items for the fete. Any help you can give us will be much appreciated. There will be Pointer inserts in the coming weeks with more details.

Fashion Parade

Many thanks to everyone that helped and supported this week's Fashion Parade. It was an incredible success with record numbers attending!

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church 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