



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 10 May 2026

A message from  
Rev. Aaron Moad



## Loving Presence, Living Truth, Courageous Witness, and a Searching World

*John 14:15–21; Acts 17:22–31*

Life has a way of pulling us in different directions. We want peace and stability, but we live in a world that often feels uncertain and unsettled. In John 14 and Acts 17, we are invited into both of these realities at once: the quiet, personal promise of Jesus' presence with His followers, and the public, searching questions of a world trying to make sense of God.

### The Love that Obeys

In John 14, Jesus says something simple, but it cuts right to the heart: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." At first that might sound like a command about behaviour. But Jesus is really speaking about relationship. He's describing what love naturally looks like when it's real. Love shows itself. It takes shape in how we live, how we speak, how we treat people, how we respond when things get difficult. It shows up in the everyday, often unnoticed moments of life.

And it's important to notice the order Jesus gives. He doesn't say, "Obey me so that I will love you." He starts with love. Obedience flows out of relationship, not obligation. To love Christ is to let His life shape ours. And His commandments, loving God and loving others, become less like a burden and more like a way of life that reflects who He is.

### The Gift of Presence

But Jesus also knows something we often forget: we can't live this life on our own. So, He makes a promise. He says the Father will send "another Advocate" the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever. This is a promise of presence, not distance. "I will not leave you orphaned," Jesus says. Even when things feel uncertain or like something is missing, His presence remains.

What changes here is huge. The presence of God is no longer something external we look toward, it becomes something internal we live with and in. Christ is not just near us, but within us. Through the Spirit, God continues to guide, strengthen, and shape us from the inside out. Faith is no longer just about following teachings; it

becomes a relationship with the living Christ. And that means we don't have to carry everything ourselves.

### The God Who Is Near

In Acts 17, we move from the intimacy of the upper room to the busy streets of Athens. It's a very different setting, not unlike our world today Athens was full of ideas, questions, and spiritual searching.

Paul notices an altar with the words "To an unknown god," and he uses it as a starting point. Not to criticise, but to connect. What they are reaching for without knowing, Paul says, is actually close. God is not distant or detached. "In Him we live and move and have our being." That's a powerful way of describing reality. Life itself is held within the presence of God. And yet, many don't recognise Him.

Here we see something important: God is not only present within believers through the Spirit, He is also already at work in the world, stirring hearts and drawing people toward Himself.

### Living as People of Presence and Witness

So what does this mean for us day to day?

First, it means letting love become visible, allowing Christ to shape how we live, speak, and respond in ordinary life.

Second, it means learning to rely on the Holy Spirit. Not trying harder on our own, but living in awareness that God is already with us, helping us in real time.

And third, it means recognising that God is already at work in the world around us. Like Paul, we are called to notice, to listen, and to point gently and honestly to Christ.

We don't go as people who have everything figured out. We go as people who know Someone who is near. And that changes everything. Our lives become a quiet example or reflection of Christ, not perfect, but real. Not self-made, but Spirit-shaped. We're not alone. We're not empty-handed. We live in His presence, and we step into the world with His presence still with us.

**Grace and peace**  
Rev. Aaron

**MINISTER:** Rev. Aaron Moad  
Phone: 0411 325 527

**Church Office:**  
63 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW, 2486  
Phone: 07 5524 9035  
Email: bpt.uchurch@gmail.com

### 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

Acts 17:22-31 & John 14:15-21

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am Book Club 1.30pm Elders' Meeting 4pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am Fellowship Lunch 12 noon
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 9am CWCI (KYB) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm

## **Church Roster**

	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
Duty Elder	Robyn	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Audrey & Mel	Mel
Greeters	Joyce & Denise	Sylvia & Nigel
Bible Readers	Lumiere & Noah	Yesha & Joyce
Prayers for Others	Joyce	Audrey
Morning Tea	Sylvia & Stephanie	Pat & Hazel
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Nigel
Sound Room	Nigel	Ross
Cleaning	Craft Club	Lynn & ?

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

**Chaira Companions** 17 May 12 noon  
**Mainly Music** 19 May 9.30am  
**Book Club** 19 May 1.30pm  
**TCCEA Prayer Meeting** 19 May 4pm  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 20 May 9.30am  
**Craft Club** 22 May 9am  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** 29 May 9.30am  
**Men's Breakfast** 30 May 8am  
**Church Council Meeting** 9 June 7pm  
**Fellowship Lunch** 10 June 12 noon  
**Elders' Meeting** 14 July 4pm

## Church Duty Roster

**We need your help please!** We are looking for more volunteers to help with our duty roster. We have a particular need regarding the hall set up, but if you can help in any way, please do talk to Janice. Thank you.

## Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 13 May in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 11 May.

## With Love to the World

The latest edition (Pentecost), has now reached us. Can all those who have subscribed to this publication please collect your copy from the **table in the front foyer** today? Thank you.

## TCCEA Prayer Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend our church on **Tuesday 19 May at 4pm**, when we will hear updates about Special Religious Education in our local high schools. Following that, a time of prayer for our teachers, the students, schools and all involved in this vital ministry. If you require any further information – please see Elizabeth.

## **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 Shane Hambling 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