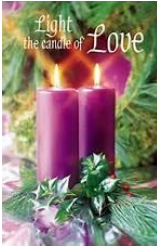


# PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ throughout the Pioneer Valley and in Worship Services at Walkerston, Mirani, Eungella*



**8<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**

**Contact Details: P.O. BOX 152, WALKERSTON 4751**

**Website: [www.pioneervalleyunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.pioneervalleyunitingchurch.org.au)**

**Email: [wallies3113@bigpond.com](mailto:wallies3113@bigpond.com) or [dmcoxwell@bigpond.com](mailto:dmcoxwell@bigpond.com)**

**If you have an enquiry, please phone one of the Elders**

**Elders:** Beth Higham 0428 583 158; Morelle Coxwell 0448 111 265; Bruce Kerr 4966 6924; Lynette Gargano 0408 775 632; Colleen Brown 4954 5470

**Church Council:** Morelle Coxwell (Chairperson); Lynette Gargano (Vice-Chairperson); Michelle Wallin (Secretary); Kerith Noy (Treasurer).



**8.00am Every Sunday**

St Andrew's UCA

Bold Street

**WALKERSTON**



**10.00am Every Sunday**

The Valley UCA

Victoria St

**MIRANI**

**EUNGELLA**

**3.00pm**

*No Services at present*

**EUNGELLA**

*Welcome, we are glad you have joined us in Worship. You are invited to join us for morning tea following the Service.*

## MISSION DONATIONS RECIPIENT – DECEMBER HAMPERS FOR FAMILIES

**Selected Reading: Luke 1:68–79 - 'and all flesh shall see the salvation of God'.**

**Discipleship Thought:** In a time of struggle and oppression, when hope was in short supply, Zechariah, an old man who had lost what hope he had, had a revelation – God was not absent. God was not distant. God was present in the birth of a saviour. We, too, live in times when hope is in short supply; ecological despair and powerlessness are everywhere. Will we change our ways? Will we do it soon enough to avert disaster for ourselves and future generations? What

does it mean to be hopeful in the face of this growing catastrophe? What does it mean to hope for God to be born among us now? What would it mean for us, in this time, to be 'rescued from the hands of our enemies, (so that we) might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days'?

**Prayer:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of the cosmos, you have raised up from your people a mighty saviour, one who speaks your ancient words renewed for this very moment.

One who speaks of your long and faithful commitment to your world throughout the generations.

One who tells of your tender mercies.

One who leads the whole earth out of darkness and into the light.

One who forgives and welcomes.

One who guides our feet in the way of peace.

One who was present before time began and is present with us now.

For this great truth we give you thanks. Amen.

Words for Worship CCLI 386034

Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations.

Remember to uphold one another in prayer.



**Pray for....** Bill, Jim & Judith, Geoff, Dal, Kristie and Brooklyn, Au, Norman & Heather, Deanne, Jessice and Ollie and Helen.

....those who are unwell, awaiting diagnosis, surgery, treatment and test results. Pray for continued healing for Lyn, Frank, Gwen, Margaret H, Rick and the two John's. May they be comforted in the knowledge that God's hands are always upon them in their time of need.

....**individuals and families** who are feeling sad and lonely, the homeless, the bereaved and for those who have lost their employment and income.

....the **Family and Friends of the Late Mr Kevin Crouther**, loving husband of Marion, much loved Father and Father-in-law of Steve & Miriam, Mike & Anna and Cathy & Richard. Cherished and respected Grandad and Grandpa of Jess, Jenny, Sarah, Jeremy, Ange, Sam, Tim and Matt. Highly regarded member and friend of the Congregations of the Pioneer Valley Uniting Churches. I respectfully advise that **Kevin's Funeral Service will be held at 10.00am on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 in The Valley Uniting Church, Mirani.**

....all who have lost loved ones and/or are struggling in their daily lives.

....the work of the **Christian Religious Instruction Alliance** which overseas religious instruction in State Schools.

....**Ian and Lynns'** Missionary Work and missionaries all over the world.

....the work done by **Frontier Services – McKay Patrol.**

....**safe travel** for all who are travelling these school holidays. Continue to pray for Alun & Lesley as they travel.

....**new families** to join our Congregations.

....members of our **Church Council and Property Committee.**

....the Congregations and Ministry Teams of our local Uniting Churches - **St Paul's, Armitage, Calen, Iona West, Northside Worship Centre, Proserpine** and **Sarina**.

....**all Teachers, Teacher's Aides, Students, RE Instructors, School Chaplains and Students** while they are on school holidays. May they all enjoy a restful break and come back refreshed and ready to begin a new year.

....**for the soldiers at war, aid workers, their families, and all who are affected by the devastation of war.**

....**Reach Out Activities.**

....**those who are being affected by the ever-increasing violence in our community, in our nation and in other countries.**

....the members of **Local, State and Federal Governments.**

....for the **emergency services members** and for the **counsellors** who care for the communities in crisis situations.

....**Scripture Union Queensland, School Chaplaincy and Mackay Street Chaplaincy.**



**Give Thanks for....CQ Presbytery Minister - Rev Scott Ballment, Qld Moderator - Rev Bruce Moore.**

....**our families and friends** and for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

....**all Lay Preachers, Retired Ministers and friends of the Parish** who give of their time and talents conducting Worship Services across the Mackay District.

....**the many blessings we receive in our daily lives.**

....**the friendship our congregations share over morning tea each Sunday.**

....**for the joy children and grandchildren bring to our families.**

....**for the volunteers** who give of their time and energy to work with the people in need.

....**for our families and friends** and for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

**A Little Humour:** The Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Christmas pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane.

"What is this?" she asked.

"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.

"Well... who's the fourth person?"

"That's Pontius, the pilot."

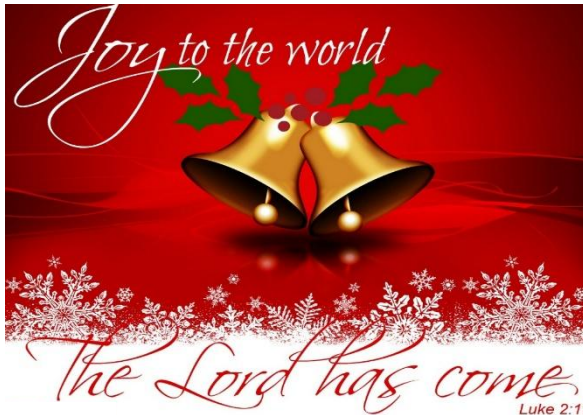


Lyn Gargano (4<sup>th</sup>): Anthony Nielsen (5<sup>th</sup>): Jacob Wallin (13<sup>th</sup>)  
Eliza Bickle (14<sup>th</sup>)

**Mottos for Success:** Love the unlovely. Let love overlook others' faults and shortcomings, always believe the best about them, and never lose hope for them.

## *What's Happening Locally!?*

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TEACHING RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS?:** Save the Date: 2025 Training Day will be held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. More information as it comes to hand.



*The Valley Uniting Church  
Carol Singing, Young Peoples Service,  
Puppets and the Turning on of Church's  
Christmas Lights*

*7.00pm*

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2024*

*Cnr Victoria & Louise Streets, Mirani*

There is **NO MORNING SERVICE** on this day! You are invited to bring a small plate of food to share at Supper after the Service.



Iona West Congregation  
invites you to join them for the  
Annual Community Christmas Carols  
6pm to 8pm  
8th December, 2024  
Activities for the young ones  
FREE BBQ  
7 Brooks Street, West Mackay



*St Andrew's UCA, Walkerston*  
*7.00pm*

*The Valley UCA, Mirani*  
*8.00am*



**Bible Verse:** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."  
Matthew 5:4 NKJV





Thank you to Morelle for the photos from last Sunday Night's Combined Churches Carols Service.



**From Beth** - The Service was well attended and it was wonderful to have Lyn Gargano and Grace Jackson there in the audience. Maggie Kirby was the MC for the evening, Father Gasper gave the Christmas Message and spoke about how he had been introduced to the Ecumenical Gatherings only since being in Australia and how he was enjoying that experience.

The Valley chaplains took part in the readings and also took up a collection at the service.

There was a variety in the performers including the "One Voice Choir" who travelled from Mackay, a children's group, and Reg on the Piano Accordion who lead the singing of "Amazing Grace" and "Joy to the World". Nicky Vella performed 3 Songs including "Mary's Boy Child". Nicky also kindly led the carol singing for the Community Carols.

Rex Frazer was very busy operating the computer and taking part in his church Singing Group performing "Star of the East". Pastor Paul ended the service with prayers and an invitation to Supper. Mingling at the supper afterwards was a great time of catching up and enjoying the company of our friends across all the churches.



Pictured is The Valley Congregation Celebrating Elspeth's Birthday at morning tea last Sunday. Back - Rachel, Gerry, Bruce and Beth. Front - Margaret, Thelma, Morelle Dianne and Manda. Seated - Elspeth  
*Happy Birthday Elspeth!*



**Your impact: Supporting families who are internally displaced In Gaza** – Being committed to acting for peace means being present in the world’s darkest places. Places like war-torn Gaza where people don’t have a safe place to belong.

Tens of thousands of lives have been lost and over 1.9 million\* people have been forcibly displaced. Nearly the entire population lacks access to shelter, food, medical services, clean water, education and income.

During a 3-day ceasefire, the local organisations we support in Gaza were able to operate a psychosocial day for children affected by the conflict.

Since October 2023, there have been relentless attacks on Gaza, including homes, hospitals, clinics, schools and churches. The number of people killed and injured continues to rise each day.

With your support, Act for Peace continues to stand with our long-term partners, the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) and Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), who, despite their own personal losses, have been working tirelessly to provide vital humanitarian assistance and protection to the civilians of Gaza through mobile medical clinics.

Your support can help our local partner continue to provide lifesaving medical care to help respond to this unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

“I want to express my gratitude to you and all our supporters. Your care, concern and generosity are not just bringing back hope but are making a real difference in the lives of those affected by this crisis. Your solidarity reflects shared values of justice, compassion and the fundamental right to live with dignity.” – Nader, Executive Secretary, DSPR



Proud Grandma moment when Richard & Katies’ boys received Awards yesterday at the Marian SS Awards Ceremony. Zander (L) received an Arts Academic Award and HPE Encouragement Award. Huxley (R) received a Bertie Bee Award, Design Technologies Learner Award, HPE Learner Award and an Arts Learner Award.



Pictured at left are Craig and Hugh McGregor. Congratulations also to Hugh who was presented with a ‘Class Encouragement Award at the Marian State School Awards Ceremony. Well done, Hugh!! Keep up the Good Work.



	WALKERSTON			MIRANI		
Date	Preacher	Bible Reader	Prayers	Preacher	Bible Reader	Prayers
8/12	Jim Brown HC	Kerith	Michelle	NO MORNING SERVICE		
8/12	<b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SERVICE – 7PM – MIRANI</b> <b>JIM BROWN – PUPPETS – SUPPER</b> <b>NO MORNING SERVICE</b>					
15/12	Congregation	Colleen	Nicholas	Manda Brits	Elspeth	Beth
22/12	Congregation	Nikhil	Kerith	Noela Thomson	Thelma	Au
24/12	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE – 7PM – WALKERSTON</b>					
	Jim Brown				Kathryn	?
	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY – 8AM - MIRANI</b>					
25/12	Noela Thomson				Morelle	Manda
Please pray 'The Lord's Prayer' at the end of the Prayer for Others except on Holy Communion Sundays						

**Electronic Banking Details – UCA Pioneer Valley – ANZ Bank – BSB: 014-010: Account No: 2115 57247**

**Containers for Change – Parish Registered Number C10195946.**

Alternatively, collect the cash and drop it into the offering plate.

**Newsletter: Kerith Noy: 07 4959 2328: email: glen.noy@bigpond.com** or  
P O Box 346, Walkerston Q 4751

**Prayer Warrior: Vicki Kiem: Mob: 0408 767 331**  
**email: vakmoss@gmail.com**

**KYB (Know Your Bible) – In recess until February, 2025**

**Lectionary Readings:**

8<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 2 Malachi 3:1-4: Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11:  
Luke 3:1-6

15<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 3 - Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

22<sup>nd</sup> December - Advent 4 - Micah 5:2-5a: Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalms 80:1-7:  
Hebrews 10:5-10: Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity1 - Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalms 96: Titus 2:11-14:  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Nativity 2 - Isaiah 62:6-12: Psalms 97: Titus 3:4-7:  
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Nativity 3 - Isaiah 52:7-10: Psalms 98: Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12):  
John 1:1-14

29<sup>th</sup> December - 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26: Psalms 148:  
Colossians 3:12-17: Luke 2:41-52

