



# the grapevine

27 MARCH 2022

a weekly bulletin of the Ettalong and Umina Uniting Churches

## notes from Patty

I have recently been asked about the Uniting Church stance on some issues. If you would like to know about any aspect of the Uniting Church belief, statements, or procedures, please ask, and I will do my best to answer. The Uniting Church does not have a statement on every issue. Two I have been asked about are Purgatory and Euthanasia. The first is easy, we don't believe in purgatory [a place or state of punishment wherein according to Roman Catholic doctrine the souls of those who die in God's grace may make satisfaction for past sins and so become fit for heaven].

From my searching, the UCA does not have a statement on Euthanasia, sometimes called Voluntary Assisted Dying. There was a proposal at the Assembly meeting in July 2018, requesting

a twelve-month process of consultation and discussion across the life of the Church to discern the Church's approaches to voluntary assisted dying, but I cannot find that in the minutes.

One interesting paper I came across in my searching is Our Vision for a Just Australia 2021 <https://ucaassembly.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/711?keywords=> it is 42 pages long, so not a quick read. The paper includes 16 points on what we believe are key to building a just and compassionate Australia. It includes discussion questions and resources.

*Rev Patty Lawrence*

Broken Bay  
Uniting Church

**PLEASE SEND ALL GRAPEVINE ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS TO THE BELOW EMAIL ADDRESS BY NOON WEDNESDAY. BEFORE ADDING ANYONE TO THE PRAYER OR BIRTHDAY LIST, YOU MUST GET THEIR PERMISSION.**

**[grapevineuniting@gmail.com](mailto:grapevineuniting@gmail.com)**



## worship services & regular activities

Friday Family Fun Night (FFFN) is a time aimed at families with young children – worship, activities, and a light meal.

### **FRIDAY 25 MARCH**

#### **Friday Family Fun Night**

Umina Church 4:45pm

### **SUNDAY 27 MARCH**

#### **Morning Worship**

Umina Church 9:30am

Lent 4 • Full to the Brim –  
Prodigal Grace

### **MONDAY 28 MARCH**

#### **Monday Prayer Meeting**

Zoom 9:00am

#### **Monday Bible Study**

Umina meeting  
room 10:30am

(This is the final Bible Study  
for this term. Resumes May 2)

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## next week

### **THURSDAY 31 MARCH**

#### **Playgroup**

Umina 9:30–11:30am

BYO snacks and drink

### **FRIDAY 1 APRIL**

#### **Friday Family Fun Night**

Umina Church 4:45pm

### **SUNDAY 3 APRIL**

#### **Morning Worship**

Umina Church 9:30am

Lent 5 • Full to the Brim –  
Brazen Acts of Beauty

## prayer

Oh sweet Christ,  
draw us who are weak to you,  
since we cannot follow you if  
you do not draw us on.  
Give us a brave, resourceful  
spirit, and, if the body is feeble,  
may your grace precede,  
mediate and follow,  
because without you we can  
do nothing and we are nothing.  
Give us resolute spirits, fearless  
hearts, true faith, firm hope  
and perfect love,  
that we may patiently  
and joyfully lay down our  
lives for you.

(Prayer by John Hus)

## we pray...

- with REM/Youthlife
- with Kincumber Uniting Faith Community
- for those who are sick and others with special needs, including Wil Davies, Coral Tauro, Connie Watts, Debra Stewart, Joice Tee and Val Juratowitch
- for those who have lost loved ones
- and give thanks for those who bring worship to life
- for Tertiary chaplains
- with people from Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia
- for the people of Mariupol, Ukraine

# scripture readings

	SUNDAY 27 MARCH	SUNDAY 3 APRIL
FIRST READING	Joshua 5:9-12	Isaiah 43:16-21
PSALM	Psalms 32	Psalms 126
SECOND READING	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14
GOSPEL	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	John 12:1-8

## full to the brim - prodigal grace

The word “prodigal” is commonly used to describe the son who squanders his inheritance. Yet, this parable invites us to consider how God’s grace is also prodigal—extravagant, lavish, illogical. This parable disrupts and expands our definitions of grace.

Once again, grace is not earned. After wasting his resources, the younger son becomes destitute and returns home to his father, saying, “I am no longer worthy” (Luke 15:21). In response, his father welcomes him with a celebration and the fatted calf. The older son, in contrast, has done everything “right”—he’s tried to perform, work hard, check all the boxes—but he forgets how to celebrate.

How might you receive and extend prodigal grace?

From Sanctified Art Full to The Brim Sermon Planning Guide

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



Don't forget to turn your clock back on the night of the 2nd April so you'll get to Church on time!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to  
**Win Selwood  
& Nathaniel**

*May your day be filled with love and happiness.*



# VAL & PHIL JURATOWITCH

# h♥ppy

# annivers♥ry

# 65 YEARS

thank you!

Thank you Cathy for organising my 80th Birthday at the Diggers, and thank you for all the cards and presents from all the friends there, and those who couldn't be there.



Lots of love and blessings, *Evol*



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