



the grapevine

28 AUGUST 2022

a weekly bulletin of the Ettalong and Umina Uniting Churches

the in between

There are so many conversations around identity today, around gender, sexuality, political party affiliations, nationalities vs ethnicities, book readers vs movie watchers vs music listeners, the list goes on.

We don't realise that it's okay to be different, to not be the same. To learn that we are made up of all these different parts and that there is nothing wrong with that. That this is actually a blessing.

Jesus was fully divine and fully human. He would have seen the world both as God intended it to be and as it was in community with other human beings.

Jesus experienced life among people who were not perfect, but instead of condemning and hating them, he taught and he loved.



As we live life experiencing the in between, the good and the bad of it all, we also learn that we walk different paths than others do. The generation of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents have grown up in a time where it wasn't as obvious to live through different lenses.

So how do we listen to their experiences and learn from that?

How do we use our voice to share how different aspects of

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life in different communities cause harm, or oppress others?

How do we then teach from what we learn by living through different worlds?

How do we do this in ways that still show the love of Christ?

It isn't easy navigating through the journey of finding who you are, but find comfort in Christ also being an in between.

Know that God has you through this too, just like with everything in life.

And don't be afraid to talk to others about this. Whether they're your struggles or learnings, light bulb moments or moments of doubt, trust in your parents, a guardian, a youth leader or mentor about your journey of identity and of faith. You don't have to do this alone.

Let us be empowered to live our lives to the fullest in the in between.

Written by

Ofa Foiakau, the Youth/High School Ministry Lead and Field Officer (Central/West) within the PULSE team.

worship services & regular activities

this week

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST

Family Fun Night

Umina Church 4:45pm
A time aimed at families with young children - worship, activities, and a light meal.

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST

Morning Worship

Umina Church 9:30am
Led by Rev Lorna Martin
Baptism of Nina Maria Tree

next week

MONDAY 29 AUGUST

Monday Prayer Meeting

Zoom 9:00am

Monday Bible Study

Umina meeting room 10:30am

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

BeeBay Playgroup

Umina 9:30am - 11:30am

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Friday Family Fun Night

Umina Church 4:45pm

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Morning Worship

Umina Church 9:30am

Lord, help me remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together can't handle. Amen.

scripture readings

	SUNDAY 28 AUGUST	SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
FIRST READING	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Proverbs 25:6-7	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
PSALM	Psalms 81:1, 10-16 Psalm 112	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 Psalm 1
SECOND READING	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Philemon 1:1-21
GOSPEL	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Luke 14:25-33

prayer

A Prayer for the Holy Child

Holy child of Bethlehem, born in a stable:

help us to remember all those children living in poverty or even abandoned by their parents.

Holy child of Bethlehem, whom Herod sought to kill:

help us to remember all those holy innocents of our own time who suffer abuse or neglect in so many different ways.

Holy child of Bethlehem, a refugee in Egypt:

help us to care for all those children who are forced to live far away from their homes.

May the God of love bless all of you,
your families and our nation with his gift of peace and happiness.
Amen.

(From the Christmas message of the Most Rev. Robert P. Ellison CSSp, Bishop of Banjul.)

we pray...

- with St Matthews Lutheran Church
- with Terrigal Uniting Church
- for those who are sick and others with special needs, including Fred Waqa, Joice Tee, Yvonne and Doug Howson, Wil and Don Davies, Connie Watts, Debra Stewart, Phil Juratowitch and their families
- and give thanks for our COVID Marshals
- and give thanks for Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and leaders
- with people from Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal
- for John Farnham while he undergoes cancer treatment

news

Bruce Stephens has been in Brisbane Waters Hospital for six weeks having rehab after an injury. He may be discharged home in a week and he hopes to come back to church soon. Eventually he will be transferred to a Retirement Village south of Sydney near his three adult daughters who live in Sydney.

Bruce tells me that Jim Oldfield died recently. His wife Clare passed on many years ago.

David Fulton

giving

Giving to the church **In person** at worship.

To give by **Direct Debit** speak to Wayne Read or Margaret Gregory to set this up.

Electronic transfers, i.e. internet banking can be made to our account:
Account Name:
Broken Bay Uniting Church
BSB: 634 634
Account Number: 100018346
Please identify deposit as:
Offering, REM /Youthlife,
Lent Event etc.

For information on leaving a **bequest**, please speak with Margaret Read.



broken bay uniting church

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