

14 February 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Again and Again



In 2021, Wednesday 17th February marks the beginning of the season of Lent. This is a season of preparation and discipline that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, we remember the life and ministry of Jesus and renew our commitment to him in discipleship. This Lent our theme will be ***"Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain."***

In Lent, we're reminded that, ***again and again***, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the

cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward. This theme provides us with a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. We come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even as we live in this current climate of social distancing, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. The sub-theme, ***"A Lenten Refrain,"*** speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. "Refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits. As we engage in this Lenten journey together, we will consider creative and artistic mediums in our gathered worship designed to lead us on this path towards Easter. May you open your heart and spirit to God's leading in these days of Lent.

Grace and peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church: 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Monday to Fridays 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Upcoming events...

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 16th February 10:30am at Bangalow Uniting Church

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 14 February: Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Week of 21 February: France, Germany, Monaco

Prayer Points:

- Our Lenten journey beginning on Ash Wednesday, 17th February. May our theme **'Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain'** help us to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus and help us as we prepare for Easter.
- The upcoming Synod 2021: "Where The Wild God Is," which runs throughout the year in a new online format. For our Moderator, General Secretary and other Synod leaders as they prepare.
- People who have lost their homes in the Perth bushfires, those fighting the blazes and helping those affected.
- For peace and safety for the people of Myanmar after the recent military coup.

Ash Wednesday "Into the Wilderness" (A Synod 2021 Event)

As part of Synod 2021: "Where the Wild God is" there will be a series of whole church online events. This is a way for us all to be engaged in our Synod this year. The first of these events takes place at Terrigal Uniting Church and will be live-streamed at **7:30pm on Wednesday, 17 February 2021**. This can be viewed live on the Synod's Facebook page or Youtube channel by following this link: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/live>

Byron Bay Op Shop

Our Op Shop is now back up and running every weekday again after a staged re-opening following COVID lockdown in 2020. The volunteer team have done an amazing job in setting up a COVIDSafe environment and procedures to re-open and have now moved back into a full weekly operation in 2021. We are so thankful for our Op Shop team and the way that they serve our community and engage in the ministry of our Church in such a practical and loving way.

Synod Climate Action Conference - Saturday March 20, 9.00am - 5.00pm

In 2019 the Synod meeting initiated the Synod Climate Action Strategy. The strategy grew from our church's long standing commitment to care for creation. This conference is being organised at the Centre For Ministry and online to progress this thinking and bring this strategy to life. There will be a range of speakers and workshops to stimulate thinking on climate issues. If you want to be part of this process and the action that results, then please register for this conference. For information on registering follow this link:

<https://www.insights.uca.org.au/save-the-date-for-the-synod-climate-action-conference/>

Growing Young

The Pulse Team of our Synod has suggested a resource for churches to consider in terms of their engagement with younger people and growth. This revolves around a book called "*Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies To Help Young People Discover And Love Your Church.*" Our Church Council has decided to engage in this process and this would take the form of working with a small group within our congregation who would read this book (like a book club/small group) and then meet fortnightly to discuss the content, eventually developing an approach for our own church. This would be done in partnership with Pastor Steve (Molk) Molkentin and the Pulse Team. We have purchased 10 copies of the book and would like to form a group to begin meeting in February 2021. If you would like to be part of this group then please contact Rev Phil. For more details on Growing Young try this link:



<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/growing-young/>

Vision Task Group

In recent times we have been encouraged by our Synod to develop plans for our ministry and mission into the future. It feels like now is the season to spend focused time in prayer, dreaming and visioning for the future of our congregation. At our last Church Council meeting, the Council approved the creation of a Vision Task Group who will meet regularly to discuss possibilities and work towards creating a Mission Plan for the future. Initially this group would meet once a month to discuss ideas, review our current Mission Plan and then develop a plan for the future. If you would like to be part of this group that will begin meeting in February 2021, please contact Rev Phil.

Gathered Worship

Sunday 14th February	5pm (Bangalow)	Rev Phil
Sunday 21st February	5pm (Bangalow)	Again & Again, God Meets Us - Rev Phil
Sunday 28th February	5pm (Bangalow)	Again & Again, We Are Called To Listen - Rev Phil

Lectionary Readings

14 February	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalms 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
21 February	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-1
28 February	Genesis 17:1-7	Psalms 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
7 March	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6685 1708

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>



<https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.