



***"As I have loved you..."***



***'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'* - John 13:34**

With those words, Jesus presents a new commandment to his disciples shortly before his arrest, following that final meal with them and his servant act of washing their feet. But what is new?

I wonder if you have stopped to consider this. After all, in the Old Testament Law, God's people were already commanded to love God

and to love their neighbours as themselves. And in his teaching Jesus himself had already affirmed this as the ultimate aim of humanity - the greatest commandment. Love God with your whole being and love others as yourself closely follows. These two commandments sum up the whole Old Testament Law according to Jesus. So Jesus had already made it pretty clear that the great commandments are to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Surely that would include loving others in your own close circle, your own community.

So what is new here? Jesus is calling people to not just love others as themselves, but to love as he, Jesus, loves them. That is what is new - *"As I have loved you."* Jesus is seeking to develop a covenant within the community of his followers, that they would love one another as Jesus has loved them. This is a sacred and high calling! It is a calling to live in community with one another and to love in community with one another. To share with one another, to serve one another, to not be judging, condemning or ostracising. But to be loving, forgiving, accepting and welcoming.

There were so many different ways that Jesus expressed love during his ministry. The humble service of washing feet and the ultimate sacrifice which Jesus made on the cross are both in the forefront here in John Chapter 13. But of course there were many other ways that Jesus expressed love. This included healing people, restoring people to community, sharing meals with those whom society considered unworthy, associating with those whom society frowned upon and displaying heart-felt compassion for those in need, amongst others.

History sadly tells us that too often those who profess Jesus have fallen short of this calling. Echoing down through two millennia, these words continue to challenge us to examine whether our own attitudes and practices as a community who seek to follow Jesus, genuinely display such love for one another. What would it truly look like to love one another as Christ has loved us?

How can we show love for one another like this today? How can we grow as a community by making this new commandment of Jesus our focus in these days?

As we continue in this Easter season, may we recognise with gratitude how Jesus has loved us and may we in turn love one another. As he has loved us, may we love one another!

Grace & 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...

**Open Church:** Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

**Cuppa & Conversation:** Wednesday 10:00am-11.30am @ Bangalow UCA

**Scripture:** Thursday 12pm-2pm at Byron Bay PS (Rev Phil)

**Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM):** Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

## Now Operating...

**Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:**

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

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

**Growing Young Group:** every fortnight (details below)

## Upcoming events...

**Growing Young:** Monday 23rd May, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

**Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday 24th May, 11.30am @ Byron Bay UCA

**Family Gathering - "Be Brave":** Sunday 29th May, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

## 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: 6601 2010

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

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

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // [phild@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:phild@nswact.uca.org.au)

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692  
email: [allthenashes@gmail.com](mailto:allthenashes@gmail.com)



## Brunswick Valley & Tweed Valley UCA Minister Induction

**Sunday 5th June, 3pm**

The Induction of Rev Kyung Tae Lee (to be known as Rev Tay Lee) into the placement of Brunswick Valley UCA & Tweed Valley UCA, will take place at 3pm on Sunday 5th June at the Mullumbimby UCA. All are invited and welcome to join in this special service for Rev Tay and these congregations, as they begin a new season together. Tay will be ordained on May 28th at 12pm at Sydney Cheil Church in Concord, Sydney. Tay is married to Jiwan Choi and they have two children: Joeun (daughter) nine years and Ian (son) six years of age. Tay has a background as an accountant, and he and his family have been in Australia for over 12 years. They have trained and served with YWAM in Australia and then following a period of discernment, Tay completed his study and formation program for Minister of the Word through UTC, North Parramatta.

### **Family Gathering: "Be Brave" - May 29th, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA**

Our next Family Gathering is being held on Sunday 29th May at 5pm at Bangalow UCA. The theme for this gathering is "**Be Brave.**" During this creative and family-friendly gathering we will explore the biblical story of Queen Esther and also recognise National Reconciliation Week. Please mark this on your calendar and we encourage you to invite any families and young people you have connections with to enjoy this gathering with us.

## Lectionary Readings

<b>22 May</b>	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
<b>29 May</b>	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelations 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
<b>5 June</b>	Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17, (25-27)
<b>12 June</b>	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

# Gathered Worship

<b>Sunday 22nd May</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 29th May</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering: "Be Brave"	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 5th June</b>	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 12th June</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil

## ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 22 May: Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros,  
Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles

Week of 29 May: Angola, Mozambique

### Prayer Points:

- The ongoing work of the UCA National Assembly and members of the 16th Assembly as they carry stories and decisions back to their communities.
- The faithful and life-changing work of our UCA agencies, including Frontier Services and Uniting World.
- The results of the Federal Election and all those who have been elected to represent their regions. We pray for our local representative and for the government, as they make important decisions for the future. May they have wisdom and an awareness and concern for those on the margins and those who are struggling, as they make policies and consider funding allocations.
- The homelessness situation in the Byron Shire. Help us as we consider our role as a congregation in the midst of this housing crisis. May we show love and compassion and may those seeking shelter or support from us receive appropriate assistance and care.



**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.