



## *The Season of Creation...*

***"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world." (Psalm 19: 1-4)***

God's majesty and grandeur is displayed in creation. As we look at the cosmos around us God is revealed as an amazing Creator. Living in the Byron Shire we are truly blessed with the beauty of God's creation all around us. As we drive between towns, walk along



## **SEASON OF CREATION**

the beaches, through the forest trails or plunge ourselves into the rivers or ocean we engage with the world God has created for us to enjoy. In this Season of Creation we are invited to reflect upon the creation around us with gratitude and to be moved to wonder and awe at the works of God. In so doing, we are also invited to pause and listen to the voice of creation. What can we learn about God through creation's voice? How do we attend to this voice of creation that speaks constantly?

In this season we are also reminded of our calling to be caretakers and stewards of creation. Many interpret the opening passages of Genesis in the Bible as a mandate for humanity to responsibly care for creation. For many of us there has been a growing awareness that humanity as a whole have not taken to this task in a positive way and have instead sought to plunder, destroy and drain the resources of creation for our own purposes, without thought to preservation, conservation and sustainability. How do we respond to this in a way that proactively seeks to take this responsibility seriously for ourselves and for the generations to come? The current younger generations have been extremely vocal about their growing concerns for our planet and the effects of climate change that can be seen around us. They have led the charge in reminding us of the importance of caring for God's creation. Maybe it is time for us to also hear their voices as those who will take on the mantle of responsibility into the future.

May we be open to hearing God's voice through creation during this season. May we be inspired in our recognition of God's glory demonstrated in creation and take seriously our responsibility to care for creation.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

# 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

**Scripture:** Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (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...

**FAMRIC Field Trip:** Friday 9th-Monday 12th September @ Bellingen - Rev Phil

**Family Gathering: "Creation":** Sunday 18th September, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

**Church Council Quarterly Meeting:** Tuesday 22nd November, 11am @ Byron Bay UCA

**Fair Trade Fair:** Saturday 3rd December @ Bangalow UCA

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Sunday 4th December (after gatherings)

## 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)



## FAMRIC & Field Trip for Rev Phil

In December 2021 Rev Phil was invited to join a committee established by the Mid-North Coast Presbytery called the Forest Advocate Ministry Role Implementation Committee (FAMRIC). This is a committee working towards creating a ministry placement focused on working with environmental activists, establishing new faith communities and creating a vibrant Christian presence – prophetic, relational and pastoral – in efforts for forest protection in NSW. This role will also resource the wider church in developing material for the Season of Creation and in so doing bringing encouragement, connection and unity to the scattered church. Rev Phil’s involvement is to provide a voice from the Far North Coast region, as this role’s scope would extend from the QLD border to the Hunter River. On the weekend 9th-12th September, Rev Phil will be attending a Field Trip to the forests surrounding Bellingen. This will include meeting with the FAMRIC Committee, planned worship activities in the forests, visiting activists and those engaged in environmental work and joining with the local UCA for Sunday worship.



### The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

We are now well into planning for a new event called: ***"The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival"***. Approved by the Church Council, this event will run in an exhibition style in the Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd December.

We have invited a range of community groups in the Bangalow community to participate by designing and creating a Christmas Tree that reflects their group. These trees will be displayed in the Bangalow Church for this period and the church will be open each evening for people to come and enjoy. We also aim to have musical groups and choirs singing and playing Christmas Carols to add to the festivities. At this stage we have received a fantastic response from a range of groups who have accepted the invitation, including the CWA, Police Station, Bangalow Public School, Bangalow Men’s Shed, Red Cross, Bangalow Koalas, Bangalow Anglican and Mirabelle Preschool, with hopefully more to join us. We see this as a great opportunity to serve our neighbours, through providing an opportunity to join together as community and celebrate at Christmas time. Our own Christmas tree is already being designed and planned. To help with this we would like to take a photo of each person that we will use to decorate the tree. Please see Rev Phil after a gathering in the next few weeks as he is organising these photos.

### Lectionary Readings

<b>4 September</b>	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
<b>11 September</b>	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalm 14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
<b>18 September</b>	Jeremiah 8:18 -9:1	Psalm 79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
<b>25 September</b>	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

# Gathered Worship

<b>Sunday 4th September</b>	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion and Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 11th September</b>	5pm Bangalow (Only one worship gathering today)	- Shared Leading
<b>Sunday 18th September</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering: "Creation"	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 25th September</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil

## ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 4 September: Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

Week of 11 September: Ghana, Nigeria

### Prayer Points:

- This *Season of Creation* (Sept 1-October 4). May we listen to the voice of creation and be filled with gratitude at the beauty of God's creation. May we also respond in recognising our role in caring for creation.
- First Nations Leaders from Uniting Care Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) as they prepare to gather for the third First Peoples Gathering, working together to raise a First Peoples Voice within the UCA.
- The pre-gatherings of the World Council of Churches 11th Assembly which take place this weekend.
- Safe, empowering and inclusive communities of belonging for LGBTIQA+ young people.



**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.