

2 October 2022

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



How do we respond?...



As the Season of Creation for 2022 draws to a close we all have the opportunity to actively respond to this time and to not allow this to become a window of reflection without a concrete response. How have you engaged with this year's theme which has been a strong call to **"Listen to the Voice of Creation?"** Have you been able to spend more time in creation in a contemplative way that recognises God's handiwork and creativity? What steps will you take to respond to this call and to proactively seek out ways to exercise your responsibility in caring for Creation?

One present and important opportunity is a new ministry that is being created by a group of people from the Uniting Church (including myself) who have made great progress in developing a ministry role for a Forest Advocate. After spending much of this past year planning and a recent weekend field trip to the forests in the Bellingen

region/Gumbaynggirr country, this ministry is actively seeking to end industrial native forest logging, as one means of caring for God's creation and addressing the effects of climate change. The role would also see much needed pastoral support provided for local residents who have experienced trauma and anxiety as a result of the devastation to the forests and ecosystems they have witnessed in their 'backyard.' This is a fantastic way of engaging with this Season, by actively contributing to this important work. For more information about this ministry, please check out <https://www.unitingearthweb.org.au/forests/>

An active way you can support this ministry is by donating financially towards the establishment of this work through <https://www.gofundme.com/f/forest-advocacy-ministry>. This role will offer support to forest friends and protectors, engage the wider church in the importance of caretaking our environment (especially forests) and provide key resources for connecting with Creation. Please feel free to chat with me about this if you have any questions. Also, be sure to look for local groups in our own region who are actively involved in caring for the environment and engage with them or join them, as it is important that we, as those seeking to follow the way of Christ, are involved in our community in this way.

It is my prayer that this Season of Creation focus over the past few weeks has been inspiring for us all, reminding us of the majesty, grandeur and creativity of God and of the important responsibility we have to care for God's beautiful creation.

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

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...

Growing Young: Monday 10th October, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Phase 3 Minister's Retreat: October 17th-19th @ Kincumber (Rev Phil)

Family Gathering: Sunday 30th October, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

Minister's Annual Leave (Rev Phil): Monday November 7th - Sunday November 20th

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

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692

email: allthenashes@gmail.com



Wet Weather Shelter Project Ends

For a number of years now we have collaborated with the Byron Community Centre to host the Severe Wet Weather Shelter in our Byron Bay building. Over this time the church building was used numerous times to create a safe space for the rough sleepers in our region and we were able to generously offer our resources to those in our community who struggle and live on the margins. Recently, the decision was made by the Byron Community Centre to stop this project based on the logistical complexity and funding needed to maintain it. Thank you to everyone in our congregation who supported this project and as a congregation we should be pleased with our ability to be flexible and to maintain our facilities so that they could be used for such an important venture. Of course this means there will be a shortage of options for rough sleepers when severe weather comes and it would be good for us as a congregation to consider what role we might play in this space into the future.

Walking Together Conference - 22nd October, Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney

The Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT's inaugural First Peoples Conference - Walking Together - comes at a crucial time as the Prime Minister recently outlined plans to enshrine a First Nations Voice into the constitution. We encourage people to engage and support an enduring and constitutionally guaranteed Voice to Parliament - a way we can both honour the place of First Nations people at the heart of the nation, lift their voice and fully understand the theological implications for Australia and the church. For more information see <https://walkingtogether.uca.org.au>



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

2 October	Lamentations 1:1-6	Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
9 October	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Psalm 66:1-12	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
16 October	Jeremiah 31:27-34	Psalm 119:97-104	2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5	Luke 18:1-8
23 October	Jl 2:23-32	Psalm 65	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14

Gathered Worship

Sunday 2nd October	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 9th October	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 16th October	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 23rd October	5pm Bangalow	- Shared Leading



ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 2 October: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

Week of 9 October: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

Prayer Points:

- All of the earth's creatures impacted by the loss of habitat and environmental degradation. We pray for courage and commitment to seek new ways of living that will limit our impact on the earth and renew the land and waters around us.
- May we continue to **Listen to the Voice of Creation** in the days ahead and may we respond in both praise of God and active involvement in caring for God's beautiful creation.
- For those who are facing health and wellbeing issues in our congregation and those unable to join our worship gatherings at this time. May they experience God's peace and healing.
- For the Talking About Salt Conversations. May the conversations, discussions and ideas that have flowed be used by God as we consider the future directions of our congregation and ministry in this region.

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.