



# BUNDABERG UNITING CHURCH

---

P.O. BOX 553 Bundaberg 4670 ❖ Bundaberg City/Coral Coast

❖ Ph. 4167 0670 ❖ E-Mail [city@bundy.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:city@bundy.unitingchurch.org.au) ❖

15 March 2020

## **Coronavirus Update**

Dear Friends.

We have received updated instructions from Synod, and with the first case of Coronavirus confirmed in the Wide Bay, we would like to keep you informed as to the life and functioning of the church and also hopefully set your mind at ease knowing that we are doing all that we can to adhere to health directives as well as doing our part to slow down infection rates and help contain the spread of the virus.

I believe that the church can set the example in being sensible, not panicking, maintaining hygiene and exercising common sense. To this end, the Bundaberg Uniting Church (BUC) will operate and hold services as we usually do until we are directed otherwise. However, we will also continue to modify our practices as needed. We are people whose aim is to love God and love others, and in the case of the Coronavirus, the best way to love others is to do our bit to keep them healthy even if it means adjusting some time honoured traditions along the way. Synod has also given us instructions that will help the community see that the Church is leading by example and doing its bit to help the in the fight against the Coronavirus.

## **Minimising Physical Contact.**

While I enjoy a good handshake and a warm hug, we need to take steps to minimise physical contact. This means that our greeters will welcome you with the warmest of smiles and friendliest of faces, but won't shake hands or hug you. When we pass the peace, we will also do so just by saying to one another, "The peace of the Lord be with you," and responding with, "and also with you." The fact that we will skip the handshakes and hugs in no way diminishes the sincerity of the words and demonstrates only that for a period of time, our most loving and peaceful act to another is to not physically touch. After the service, I won't shake hands at the door, but I will greet you warmly out on the deck and would love to engage in conversation about all the things we usually talk about, ...after all, normal life and its other issues still continue. (Plus we can share tips on where to buy loo paper. ;-)

## **Worship Services and Communication.**

...and because life continues, the Church will do all in its power to continue to provide, love, support, care, kindness, and worship during these difficult times. For now, our regular services will continue, but we have a range of contingency plans if we are unable to gather together. Should this happen, we will live-stream the service through Facebook (please like our page) as well as record it and post it online on our website. For those unable to access the Internet, we will email you a copy of the sermon, and for those without email, we will post it to you. We will also be available telephonically and will conduct pastoral care and prayer for people this way if need be. Being ministered to and prayed for over the phone may take a little getting used to, but God's signal is never engaged and He doesn't mind if we are not physically together when bringing our needs and difficulties to Him.

## **Giving**

While always an emotive topic, an important part of our services is our worship of God with our giving of offerings and tithes. Whether we gather together or not, the costs of running the church are ongoing and so our continued giving will enable ministry to continue in these difficult times when ministry is most definitely needed. We would ask you to please seriously consider online giving through internet banking, or debit order giving, so that your

---

❖ "Embracing the Future" ❖

❖ BUNDABERG UNITING CHURCH ❖



# BUNDABERG UNITING CHURCH

---

P.O. BOX 553 Bundaberg 4670 ❖ Bundaberg City/Coral Coast

❖ Ph. 4167 0670 ❖ E-Mail [city@bundy.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:city@bundy.unitingchurch.org.au) ❖

giving to God and support of the work of the Church is not dependant on whether or not we meet for services, because as we've mentioned above, ministry will continue in one form or another even if we can't meet. I know that this method of giving may not be your preferred method, but as I mentioned, extraordinary times may call for an adjustment in our thinking and in some time-honoured traditions. Our bank details, for your convenience, are Bundaberg Uniting Church, BSB: 014010, Account number: 191907691. Simply mark your gift, "City Offering" and leave your name out.

## **Hand Sanitiser.**

We know that hand washing and good hand hygiene is essential in curbing the infection rate, and we will have hand sanitiser available for you to use in the church and hall and wherever we meet. Please feel free to use a squirt or two in helping you maintain clean hands. We will also use hand sanitiser prior to serving Holy Communion.

## **Communion.**

On the subject of communion, we have also made small changes to ensure that this is not a time for the virus to spread. Our elders who prepare communion elements will take special care to be extra hygienic when doing so. All servers will use hand sanitiser prior to serving and as you take communion, individual wafers (gluten free) will be used instead of bread for the time being. These wafers will be laid out so that in taking one, you will only come into contact with the wafer you will take. The same is true of the little cups.

## **A VERY important last note:**

To keep you updated with the latest information from the Church, please make sure that we have your latest and correct email address. We have recently had several changes to our computer system and we want to ensure that we have the correct details, ...so even if you think we have it, please do one of the following:

- 1.) Please send an email to [city@bundy.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:city@bundy.unitingchurch.org.au) with "Correct email address" in the subject line. Please include your mobile number(s) in the email.
- 2.) If you don't use email, please phone the office (*note the new number - 4167 0670*) this week (Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 1:30pm) and give us your postal address and best contact numbers.
- 3.) Let your friends who may have missed today's service know to send an email or call us, or if they so desire, please notify us on their behalf.

As always we adhere to the strictest privacy protocols in regard to your details.

In taking all of these steps, we are not being fearful or panic driven, but we believe that we are being responsible and caring as we seek to play our part slowing this disease, taking pressure off our health resources and being loving and caring to one another. Our motivation in all of this is to honour God in keeping ministering as effectively as possible and providing you with every kind of support that may be needed at this time. Please be assured of our prayers for you, and indeed all of Australia and the world. We do serve a mighty and powerful God; our hope and trust is in Him and we give thanks for the wisdom that we are blessed with and we pray for those in the medical field who God is using to bring healing and for those in the scientific field who need wisdom as they work towards a vaccine that will bring an end to the virus.

Stay healthy and God bless,

Rev Stuart Bosch  
Resident Minister

Mrs Ann Vautin  
Church Council Chair

---

❖ "Embracing the Future" ❖

❖ BUNDABERG UNITING CHURCH ❖