

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

St Paul's Stafford Uniting Church

(Webster Road)
PO Box 5540
Rode Shopping Centre
Stafford Heights 4053

Minister

Rev. Dr Debra Tedman
phone 0468 406 020
email: dktedman@gmail.com
(Debra's day off is Friday.
Please respect this except in
an emergency).

Office phone 3356 9465
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
(these hours are flexible during the
coronavirus crisis)
e-mail address:
admin@stpaulsstafford.org.au

Welcome!

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to our website, including those following our worship services on Zoom

Pastoral Care Aims

We really want to show our Christian love and care for all our church family.
You can help!

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need, please contact their Elder or Pastoral Carer

Our Offering Commitment

Offerings year to date:
\$109,537.21 😊
Budget to 31 October:
\$107,000.00

A/c Name: UCA St Paul's Stafford.
BSB 014-010
Account No. 191608544

Check out our
"St Paul's at Stafford" website at
<https://stpaulsstafford.org.au/>



Newsletter



Sunday 18 October 2020

8:15 am – Kids' Time on Zoom

9:00 am – Rev. Dr Debra Tedman, "Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar"

Scripture readings: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

What's on this week:

Monday 19 7:30 pm – Church Council by Zoom
Tuesday 20 7:00 pm – Ailsa's Home Group by Zoom
7:30 pm – Cuppa & Supper by Zoom
Thursday 22 7:30 pm – TM/JR Bible Study by Zoom
Friday 23 Synod begins today

Sunday 25 October 2020

9:00 am – Rev. Bob Warrick, "The Greatest Commandment"

Scripture readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; **Matthew 22:34-46**

What's on next week:

Tuesday 27 7:00 pm – Ailsa's Home Group by Zoom
Friday 30 9:30 am – MOPS (at the church)

Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

A first look at the title of the Gospel reading for Sunday "Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar" (Matthew 22:15-22), might leave us feeling a bit uninspired, because who is really excited about paying tax? The disciples and others listening to Jesus also did not like paying tax to Caesar. Therefore, when the Pharisees and Herodians asked Jesus whether he believed it was right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not, they were together trying to trap him in front of his own people. If Jesus said yes, he might lose the support of the people and if he said no, he would be charged with treason.

However, Jesus' response was brilliant. Turning the question and answer situation around to involve those asking the question in formulating the answer, shows genius. This strategy, which is often used by gifted teachers to enable those posing the question to formulate their own answers, is very empowering.

Even though the Pharisees and Herodians had seen the many miracles of Jesus, they did not see his identity, so they were unable to be empowered by Jesus, putting their own position and privilege above equitable human flourishing. They told Jesus that the image on the coin was that of Caesar, so it was the mark of his property. Consequently, Jesus said, "give Caesar this money; it is his." He was not sanctioning the payment of taxes to Caesar, but noting that Caesar, having created money, was its master. Jesus, in effect, called into question the motivations of his questioners. At the end of the reading Jesus gave the direction, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

In the other reading for Sunday (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10), Paul affirmed the Thessalonians for their "steadfastness of hope" (1 Thess.1:3) and for the example they were to others. He commended them for being "... what it means to be a community under the Lord Jesus Christ". This letter to the Thessalonians is joyful, encouraging these early Christians to remain faithful and inspiring endurance by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Hope along with faith and love, enable persistence, determination, and steadfastness for us today as well as for these early Christians. This has certainly been the case at times in my life when I have travelled through difficult times. When have you been sustained by faith, hope and the love of Christ? I imagine that one of the answers to this question would be "now with the challenges presented to us by the COVID-19 pandemic". I am delighted with the work that our church has done, and the journey we have undergone, as the body of Christ, to support and build each other up during this challenging time. We have continued serving God in the way that members of our congregation have interacted with each other and used their gifts to help us meet our spiritual and pastoral needs, as an exemplary church community. I will speak with you about this on Sunday.

(continued on next page....)



Monday Morning Prayer

Loving God,
We lift up to you the women and men meeting for the 35th Synod: Bless them with discernment, humility and faith as they do their work together.
Amen (Rev. David Baker)

New Duty Roster!

If you are able to help with the children's address, prayers or scripture reading during our worship by Zoom any Sunday until the end of the year, please contact Mavis in the office by phone or email.

Need help with this?

You can pre-record prayers, Bible readings and children's address if you have a smart phone or tablet device (like iPad). If you would like assistance on how to do this, please contact Tricia. Debra is happy to read a draft and give feedback if you would like, or assistance to write a prayer for the first time. For a copy of the prayer framework, please contact the office.

Can't do your roster after all?

If, for one reason or another, you find you are unable to fulfil your promised spot on the roster, it would be much appreciated if you could personally arrange for someone else to take your place.

Faith at Home

There are new ideas being added to the website most weeks. Find ideas for your family at <https://www.moretonriverspresbytery.org.au/faith-at-home/>

Celebration service and induction of Rev. Andrew Gunton

The celebration service and induction of Rev. Andrew Gunton as moderator of the Queensland Synod will be held on Thursday 22 October from 7pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a limited number of people are able to attend this event in person. Members of the church are invited to livestream the service. Details of the livestream will be made available soon.

Prayers for:

Our Church Family	Prayer Requests	Prayers for Local Community	Prayers for the Wider Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Stella E◦ Di D◦ Jean McF◦ Elizabeth B◦ Edris S◦ Daphne J	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Kids Hope Children◦ Timothy and his parents◦ Ross & Kathryn◦ Stuart McC◦ Bruce P◦ Nerrida◦ Synod next weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ UCA Qld Synod◦ All ministry agents◦ All in the medical profession◦ Stafford Heights State School◦ Those who are unemployed◦ Communities/people who are struggling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ John C◦ Colleen G◦ David B◦ Alison C◦ Mark C◦ Pam B◦ Andrew G◦ Jillian R



Happy Birthday to Rebecca N for 23 October.

National Young Adult Leaders Gathering

With the cancellation of the National Youth Adult Leaders Gathering in Adelaide in January 2021, UCA Assembly President Dr Deidre Palmer is hosting a series of online gatherings for Uniting Church young adults. The aim is to hear how they are going during this pandemic, to hear their reflections on how to be the church in this time, and to encourage and support them. This event will be held tomorrow, Monday 19 October from 7:30pm to 9pm AEDT. To register, email nerylm@nat.uca.org.au

Please contact your pastoral carer if you need contactless food drops, or any other support or information.



No stall in November

After much research and consideration about COVID-19 regulations, it has been decided not to hold our proposed stall at Stafford City in November. Some of the usual goods will still be available for purchase, and proceeds will go to church funds. If you would like to buy, Beth has relish and chutneys (phone 3356 4959) and Robyn has jams (phone 3353 2284). Pick-up or delivery can be arranged when you ring. Barbara is very generously donating net proceeds from sales of her jewellery and other items. To purchase, please see Barbara and her crafts at the Kedron Arts Group's stall at Brookside every day this week.



Project Plenty update

From many things, big things grow—in just a few days our *Shared Life. Flourishing communities* document from our work together as part of Project Plenty will be considered at the 35th Synod in Session.

You are invited to **read the document** (see the project plenty link below) and prayerfully consider where you can give life to local expression of the mission priorities and directions in ways that are real and authentic to you. <https://ucaqld.com.au/projects/projectplenty/>

(Continuing Debra's message from front page):

1. To you, what are some of scripture's most beautiful words in the readings for Sunday? Why do these words hold such assurance for your life?
2. What does "hope" mean to you? How has this quality affected your life?
3. Do you recognise Jesus' direction at the end of the Gospel reading as a warning against yielding to the "emperors" of this day and inspiring loyalty to the kingdom of God?

Yours in Christ,
Debra

