

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 and Thursday
10.00 am – 3.00 pm

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:
\$110,548.67
Budget to 30 November:
\$117,700

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 5 December 2021 – Advent 2, Peace

9:00 am – Rev. Dr Debra Tedman, "Prepare the way of the Lord"
Holy Communion.

Scripture readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:1-6

What's on this week:

Tuesday 7 7:00 pm – Ailsa's Home Group by Zoom
7:30 pm – Cuppa & Supper (by Zoom)
Wednesday 8 7:30 pm – TM/JR Bible Study (by Zoom)

Sunday 12 December 2021 – Advent 3, Joy

9:00 am – Rev. Dr Debra Tedman, "Every tree should produce fruit"

Scripture readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

What's on next week:

Sunday 12 3:00 pm – Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

The Second Sunday of Advent

Today is the Second Sunday in Advent! Advent is a time of preparation; for waiting and preparing in faith and peace. We prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

At Advent, the Gospel readings tell us about God's promises to send the world a Saviour - someone who would show the way to God and teach us about God's love and forgiveness. The reading for Advent 2 is Luke 3: 1-6.

The Advent candle we will light this Sunday is the candle of the peace that we have through faith. We are transformed as we persist in peace through faith, without falling away. As the candle is lit, we say "Longing to make an offering to God in righteousness, we light this candle in anticipation of the coming of God's messenger and our willingness to endure the transformation of our lives." Please think about the following questions:

- How are we transformed in our lives through faith in Christ?
- Imagine that you are one of the original listeners to the text in the gospel reading. What would you think and feel after listening to these words?
- After listening to the words in this reading, what would you tell others about the words of the prophet Isaiah?



I would like to remind you of a special ministry of St Paul's Uniting Church Stafford, a **Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance**, which is held each year. This Service is for anyone who has suffered loss of any kind, particularly the loss of a loved one, and for those who would like to support them. At special times of the year, and especially at Christmas, the absence of a loved one from our celebrations may intensify our grief and sadness. During this service, you will have time to remember and give thanks for the life of your loved ones, whose presence you will miss from your Christmas celebrations.

You are invited to attend this Service, which will be held next Sunday, 12 December commencing at 3pm at St Paul's Uniting Church. Due to COVID-19 restrictions it is important you book a seat using this link

<https://ucaqlid.ucareapp.com/events/1076/booknow>

For those who attend this service, may you all find comfort and peace, and be reminded of the hope brought by the Christmas message.

Come and share with others, who also remember someone special.

Yours in Christ
Debra



Navigating Tolerance

The sixteenth of November was World Day of Tolerance. What a great idea, what a great virtue. We are likely to all agree that there is one thing we need, and that is tolerance in a very intolerant world.

Tolerance is an interesting concept as it is basically saying, "You and I might have differences in one way or another, but that's OK. We will accept each other, we won't be too tough on each other, we will try not to become enemies." Does this mean that anything goes? We can peacefully disagree and just let it be? We won't challenge anything, we won't ask questions?

I agree with what Dr Jordan Peterson said in an interview, "Tolerance does not mean anything goes, that's refusal to take responsibility and is a recipe for disaster."

The Oxford Dictionary defines tolerance as "the ability or willingness to tolerate the existence of opinions or behaviour that one dislikes or disagrees with." In other words, all true tolerance requires disagreement. True tolerance is saying "I disagree with what you are saying but I allow you the right to say it."

But I think the world today perceives tolerance differently.

Rev Marius Kruger, Minister at Highfields Community Church

Read Marius's full reflection at: <https://journeyonline.com.au/opinion/navigating-tolerance-for-modern-christians/>

Can you help on the Roster?

The duty roster is attached to this email, and it would be appreciated if you could contact Mavis by office phone or email with the dates you can help.

(Each week, Mavis sends the updated roster by email with the newsletter, so you can check availability of spaces).

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving Sunday 12 December at 3pm



Anyone who will be remembering a loved one and missing their presence in their Christmas celebrations, is invited to attend this Service.

If you know of someone who may not be a member of our congregation, who has lost a loved one during the year, please invite them to attend this Service. They will be most welcome.

Contact Beth for more information. Here is the link to attend the service: <https://ucaqlld.ucareapp.com/events/1076/booknow>

Prayers for:

Our Church Family	Prayer Requests	Prayers for Local Community	Prayers for the Wider Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Stella Ephraims◦ Jean McFarlane◦ Daphne Johns◦ Corrine Rodrigo◦ Thelma Lane◦ Debra Tedman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Kids Hope Children◦ Timothy and his parents◦ Ross & Kathryn◦ Stuart McConnell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ UCA Qld Synod◦ Ministers and Ministry Staff during the festive season◦ All in the medical profession◦ Stafford Heights State School◦ The unemployed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ John Cox◦ Colleen Geyer◦ Alison Cox◦ Mark Cornford◦ Pam Batson◦ Andrew Gunton◦ Jillian Ross◦ Heather den Houting



Happy Birthday to Tricia Menso (TODAY) and to Sandy Webb (8 Dec).

Face to Face Worship

Please click on the new UCare link below and enter your details to book a seat.

Please note that you will need to book on an updated link, which will change every week. Please make a booking for each person attending. See the guide for help.

When your booking has been successful you will receive a message saying you have booked a "ticket" You do not need to print the ticket or show a ticket at the door to come to worship.

Here is the link for Worship on Sunday, 5 December 2021, 9:00 am

<https://ucaqlld.ucareapp.com/events/1083/booknow>

Need help? Please ring me if you are having difficulty or have any questions.

If you are unwell even with mild symptoms, have been in contact with a person with a suspected case of COVID 19 or travelled to a hotspot, you should stay at home and join us via Zoom.

John Cox – Church Council Chair 0439 828 728 chair@stpaulsstafford.org.au



Thanks to everyone who helped yesterday with the Market Day and Advent working bee!



Our Christmas Service Times

Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve: 6:30 pm

Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day: 8:00 am

Sunday 26 December: 9:00 am – worship by Zoom only

Uniting Care Christmas Appeal

Our Giving Tree – to raise funds for families in need over Christmas

You can help by: Donating money or a child's gift.

*Gifts can be placed under the Christmas Tree in the church

*Cash can be placed in the box under the tree, or you can make a

*cashless donation by scanning the code under the tree.

Please see Lynne Pantaur if you have any questions, or phone 0419 662 485.



Christmas Gifts that fight poverty and build hope

UnitingWorld supports people in Bali, who have had their income slashed because of reduced tourist numbers. Many have had to sell some of their goat flock just to survive. Investing in a goat gift today will strengthen more families for the coming year. And who doesn't love a goat for Christmas? Check out the full range of ideas to honour friends and family while beating poverty. Browse gifts online at: everythingincommon.com.au (Christmas cards can also be purchased from this site).



The Vision of Act2 for the UCA - the biggest conversation right now, but why are we having it? What will the future shape of the church be, to enable life-giving communities of faith? See <https://uniting.church/the-vision-of-act2/>