



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH

"...you will know
the truth, and the
truth will set you
free."

John 8:31



FREEDOM

November 2022

Worship Information

9.30 am Sunday Morning

Please join us afterwards for **morning tea** & a chat downstairs in the hall.

You are also welcome to receive **prayer ministry** following worship at the front of the church.

Online Giving

We are thankful that people at TUC are generous givers in more ways than one: giving their time, sharing their gifts and donating financially.

We take up an offering during each worship service on Sundays. These funds are used for the continuation of ministries at TUC.

These days, many of us don't carry cash, so you may like to set up an ongoing, direct-transfer offering through your bank using these details:

National Australia Bank
(NAB)

Uniting Church Toowong
General Parish Fund

BSB: 084424

A/c No: 508563314

Get in Touch

Matt Smith | Lead Minister

0409 917 729 matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au
Please note Matt's day off is Wednesday

Clare Hankamer | Families Pastor

0432 861 841 c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Boram Lee | Office Manager

3870 9684 info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Madeline Kim | Ministries & Communications Coordinator

madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Dianne Hubbard | Care & Connect - Pastoral Care

dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com

Will Stewart | Church Council Chair

walswdes@gmail.com

Kate Green | Congregational Chair

kategreenqld@gmail.com

Sue O'Brien | Congregational Secretary

sobrien868@gmail.com

Toowong Uniting Church

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Hours: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Tue, Wed and Thu

www.toowongunitingchurch.org

www.facebook.com/toowonguniting

www.youtube.com/c/ToowongUnitingChurch

Minister's Letter: WELCOME!

Is there an old photo of yourself, perhaps sun-faded by the years, which captures a sense of independence and freedom you had at that time? Possibly before the demands of responsibility enfolded you, when you had time for travelling parts unknown?

We all want to live with freedom and follow our aspirations, unhindered by the constraints of everyday life. Personal freedom rates near the top in most people's values. A person's freedom to choose their future is considered essential to form their identity and autonomy. (Try making a list of popular songs that take freedom as an anthem, it's our modern mantra.)

Do you remember watching (if you're old enough - it was 1989!) live news reports of East and West Germans freely crossing the boarder, and their elation to stand together on the Berlin Wall. Overnight, the ugly structure that had separated them for 28 years become obsolete.

The lead up to this momentous time included East German churches taking a key role in peaceful protest. Churches were instrumental to this path to freedom, as they were one of the few places where the communist state allowed freedom of assembly. Beginning in 1980, churches began praying weekly for the reunification of their country and initially, a handful of Christians, a few dozen at most, assembled. Gradually, though, the congregations for these prayer meetings began to swell, attracting not just believers but also political dissidents and ordinary citizens. After each meeting the groups would join together and walk through the dark streets of Leipzig, singing hymns and holding candles and banners—a most benign form of political protest. The protests grew to hundreds, then thousands, then 70,000! Why the military did not open fire on the protestors is still debated, but everyone credits the prayer vigils for offering peaceful protests that led to the dismantling of not just the Berlin wall, but the entire communist state.

As the hated wall began to be torn down, a huge banner appeared across a Leipzig strasse: *Wir danken Dir, Kirche* (We thank you, church).

Freedom certainly matters to us, and Jesus promised us his truth will set you free. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8: 36) Let's experience that as our life story and dig into that promise over November.

Our congregational meeting is Sunday 20th November, and an opportunity to hear some of the recent developments and opportunities for mission and outreach to Toowong. Please do bring your ideas and questions, if you can make it.

Shalom! Matt Smith



Matt Smith Lead Minister

Matt and Narelle joined TUC Community 5 years ago. Matt works alongside a dedicated team of staff and volunteers to create and grow a community whose centre is Christ.

For prayer and counselling, please contact Matt on 0409 917 729.

Please note that Matt is not available on Wednesdays.

Bible Readings

Here are our Bible readings for the next few weeks. You might like to read along at home!

- 6 Nov:** John 8: 11 & 31 - 37
- 13 Nov:** Galatians 5: 1 - 14
- 20 Nov:** Mark 5: 1 - 20
- 27 Nov:** Isaiah 42: 1 - 9



Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER

After the service | Church Hall

Please join the meeting as the council updates the congregation on 3rd Ministry Agent Initiative pledges and for the opportunity to share your views and comments.



Dates for TUC Activities

Check out the dates for the TUC activities in November!

English Conversation:

Every Monday 10 am. 7, 14, 21, 28th

Tuesday Bible Study:

Every Tuesday 7 pm
at Kate's place. 8, 15, 22, 29th

Thursday Bible Study:

Every Tuesday 7 pm,
in Church House. 10, 17, 24th

Playgroups:

Every Thu & Fri 9.30 am
3&4, 10&11, 17&18, 24&25th

Youth Group:

Fortnightly Friday 7 pm
4th (18th is Encounter Night)

SafeSpace - Young Adults:

Fortnightly Saturday 5.30 pm
5th & 19th will be the last meet up in 2022.

Who Are Your Council Members?

If you want to get things done, or **have an idea**, speak to one of our friendly Church Council members.

Quest: Find the pictures on the right in the church area.
(hint: foyer)





Clare Hankamer Families Pastor

Clare oversees KATS and Youth and runs the Thursday Playgroup. Clare has a PhD in Horticulture with significant experience in both church and community youth work in the UK and Australia.

Contact Clare for details
0432 861 841

Children's & Youth Ministry

For Parents

You are amazing! I hope you know that Our Father God is with you; loving you and guiding you at this important time of life.

Please know that the whole Church family are supporting you in prayer.

As a parent, I go back to this verse in Isaiah again and again for encouragement:

He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:11)

KATS (Toddlers - Grade 5)

KATS stands for Kids at Toowong on Sunday and is our Sunday morning children's program run during the school term. The children leave after the children's talk to gather in their **Leopard and Lion age groups**. An enthusiastic group of volunteers lead these groups, teaching the children about God in a fun and friendly environment. The Scripture Union Light curriculum is used for KATS.

KATS will meet every Sunday in 2022.

Youth (Grades 6 - 12)

This year we are launching a new look youth group which will combine Junior and Senior Youth Groups and will meet every second Friday night in the Hall. We pray that it will be a great evening to hang out with friends and to spend some time asking the big questions of life and to pray and worship together.

We really love seeing our young people take part in worship on Sundays. We seek to support and encourage them to discover their leadership gifts and to be looking at ways to serve God in the Church and Community.

Children's & Youth Events

A number of events are run during the year, such as the Youth camp, the Moonwalk and the Light Party. Keep checking the newsletter and weekly enews for updates about these events.

Safe Ministry with Children

TUC has adopted the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod's Safe Ministry with Children policy and believes that every person is precious to God and in following Jesus' example, we are committed to providing a safe church for all, particularly those who are vulnerable.

All volunteers working with children at TUC have up-to-date Blue Cards and have completed the Safe Ministry with Children training.



Leopards

Preschool - Grade 2



Lions

Grade 3 - Grade 5



Youth Group

Grades 6 - Grade 12

Season's Greetings

KATS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sun 4 December
During the service

BREMER BRISBANE PRESBYTERY

COMBINED
HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH NIGHT

ENCOUNTER

Indooroopilly Uniting

18TH NOVEMBER 2022

7-9PM
\$5

INDOOROOPILLY UNITING CHURCH

CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE 2022

12th-14th December
9am-3pm each day
Years Prep - 6

- Fun Games
- Great Crafts
- Good Music
- New Friends
- Caring Leaders

Register with the QR code below

\$50 PER PERSON

Questions? You can email christmasadventureiuc@gmail.com

Are you new to TUC?

We'd love you to come to our

CONNECT BRUNCH

Sunday 20 November 2022 at 11:00 am

After the service in the **Church House**.

The Connect Brunch is our way of saying "welcome to TUC".
Please join us if you can to share some food together and get to know each other a little more.

If you have children, they will be supervised for you.

For catering purposes, please let Dianne know if you can attend,
and if you have any special dietary requirements:
dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com | 0410 680 023



We love you and appreciate your support!
Please join us for

The Garden's Friends, Family and Supporter Luncheon

Saturday 12 November
12pm-2pm

The Garden, 259 Hawken Drive, St Lucia
Food and drink provided
RSVP to thegardenbrisbane@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

at **Kate Green's home** in St Lucia

Every Tuesday during school term
(except nights of the Ladies Dinner).

Contact Kate Green for further details.



Express in Your Way

We are collating creative artworks and we are seeking involvement from the hidden artists in the congregation!

Whether you are a professional designer or simply a hobbyist, we are excited to explore the creativity and the gift you have!

The art piece is not limited to just colour paintings, it can be in any form including paintings, photography, embroidery, pottery, patchworks, 3D, literature and more! Share it with us!

Classical Piano

Played by
David Kabakoff

Every Wednesday
12pm - 1pm
Church Hall

Sunday Roster: November 2022

	6 Nov	13 Nov	20 Nov	27 Nov
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	Matt	Matt	Matt	Matt
Kids' Talk	-	Wendy B	Issy W	Eleanor & Emilia
Reader	Warwick B	Eve N	Jane T	Ross H
Pastoral Prayer	Sarah S	Wendy B	Di H	Laurel A
Prayer Ministry	Rob H	Will S	Laurel A	Karen N
Elder	Di H	Will S	-	Ben R
Door	Wendy B Kabir S	Karen N -	Nikki B Will S	Kabir S Carly K
M'Tea	Cynthia T Brendan T	John D Judith D	Jane T -	Michelle S Eve N
Coffee Machine	Hanum L	Carly K Rosanne G	-	Hanum L Brodie S
Offering Counters	Emilia B Rob J	Cynthia T Nadia A	Karen N Rob L	Emilia B Cynthia T
Tech Team	data: Issy sound: - camera: Luke	data: Madeline sound: Eli camera: -	data: - sound: Asher camera: Sam	data: Kahlia sound: Eli camera: Luke
Music Team	James, Eli, Grace	Yohannes, Thadeus, Stephanie	Sue, Adrian, Cynthia	Renata, Geoff, Asher, Jordan

Making God's Good News Known to Australians

scripture
Union
Australia

Support our Local Chappy: Mandy Chiang

Mandy Chiang is our local Scripture Union Chaplain at the Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology in Toowong.

Every week, Mandy runs Breakfast Club for the students before school so they can have a meal and spend some time with one another.

If you'd like to help support Mandy, please bring along some bottles of long life juice and jars of jam to the collection point in the foyer. We have it on good authority that the students prefer apple juice to orange!

Apple Juice & Jam for Breakfast Club!

November 2022

- 4 Fri** Youth Group
- 5 Sat** Prayer Breakfast
Moon Walk
- 13 Sun** Congregational meeting
- 16 Wed** Church Council
- 18 Fri** Encounter Youth Night
- 20 Sun** Thanksgiving Service
Communion Sunday
Connect Brunch
- 27 Sun** Advent 1

December 2022

- 2 Fri** Youth Group
- 4 Sun** Advent II KATS Christmas
- 11, 18 Sun** Advent III and IV
- 14 Wed** Church Council
- 24 Sat** Christmas Eve
- 25 Sun** Christmas Day

Weekly Events

Prayer Meeting

8.30 - 9.30 am Tuesdays on Zoom
contact Matt:

matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

English Conversation

10 - 11.30 am Mondays
during the school term, in the hall
contact Boram:

info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Bible Study

7 - 8.30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays
during the school term, in the church house
contact Ross: ross.homel@icloud.com

Playgroup

9.30 - 11.00 am Thursdays

9.30 - 11.00 am Fridays

during the school term, in the hall

contact Clare: c_hankamer@hotmail.com



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