

December 2021

5 Sun: KATS (during service)

6 Mon: 10 A.M. English Conversation

7 Tues: 7 P.M. Pastorate (church house)

9 Thurs: 9.30 A.M. Playgroup

10 Fri: 9.30 A.M. Playgroup

15 Wed: 7.30 P.M. Church Council

Weekly Events

Prayer Meeting

8.30 - 9.30 A.M. Tuesdays on Zoom
contact Matt:

matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

English Conversation

10 - 11.45 A.M. Mondays
during the school term, in the hall

contact Jane: **jfrewern@gmail.com**

Playgroup

9.30 - 11.00 A.M. Thursdays

9.30 - 11.00 A.M. Fridays

during the school term, in the hall

contact Clare: **c_hankamer@hotmail.com**



LOVING GOD • LOVING ONE ANOTHER • LOVING TOOWONG



DECEMBER 2021



Worship Information

9.30 A.M. 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 the following 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

Garry Jennings | Office Manager

3870 9684 info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Grace Tan | Office Assistant

0478 598 441

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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Office: 11 Grove Street, Toowong, QLD, 4066

Phone: 3870 9684

Email: info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Hours: 9.00 A.M. - 2.00 P.M. (Mon, Wed and Fri)

www.toowongunitingchurch.org

www.facebook.com/toowonguniting

www.youtube.com/c/ToowongUnitingChurch

Sunday Roster: December 2021

	5 Dec	12 Dec	19 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec
	9.30 A.M.	9.30 A.M.	9.30 A.M.	6 P.M.	8 A.M.
Speaker	Ross	Warwick	Matt	Matt	Matt
Elder	Will S	Dianne H	Ben R	TBA	Will S
Reader	Rob H	Will S	Grace T	TBA	Jane T
Pastoral Prayer	-	Kate G	Laurel A	-	-
Door	Jo R, Jane T	Gary O', Sue O'	Kelvin W, Carly K	Jane T, Will S	TBA
Bathroom Cleaner	Grace T	Jane T	Dianne H	Dianne H	TBA
Coffee Machine	-	-	-	-	-
M'Tea	Grace T, Brendan T	Karen N, Mex B	Karen B, Wendy B	-	-
Prayer Ministry	Beverley H	Neil D	Will S	-	-
Offering Counters	Rob J	Rob L Grace T	Jane T, Karen N	TBA	TBA
Tech Team	data: Issy sound: Luke camera: Eli	data: Brad sound: Asher camera: Kelvin	data: Bill sound: Jack camera: Luke	data: TBA sound: Adrian camera: Eli	data: TBA sound: TBA camera: TBA
Music Team	Renata, Asher, Adrian	Hamish, Luke, Thadeus, Yohannes	Jisu, Brad, Grace	Mitch, Luke, Brad, Yohannes, Thadeus	John, Asher, Adrian, Issy



An eight week journey through the Lord's Prayer

Started on 23 August in small groups
www.prayercourse.org

Some of our groups have completed The Prayer Course at TUC! This eight week course is run by the 24-7 Prayer group, and you can find all the resources you will need to run the course in your small group on the website above.

That's right, instead of just running this course from one location at TUC, we are asking you to start up small groups in your homes and lead the course yourselves. We think this will be a great opportunity to all be working through this course together as we grow deeper in our praying relationship with God and strengthen relationships with one another.

Here's what to do:

1. Let us know if you would like to lead a small group.

You can invite whoever you like to your group, and keep it as big or small as you like. Why not even invite friends and family from outside TUC to come along? You can choose when you meet with your group over the 8 weeks e.g. maybe every Sunday afternoon, or maybe on a weeknight, whatever suits you and your group best. You could choose to meet always in your home, or in a different home each time. You could also run each week's session on Zoom. Each session goes for an hour, and the website has all the videos, discussion questions and ideas for how to run each session - just follow along.

2. Let us know if you would like to be placed with a group.

We will get in touch with the group leaders and help connect you with a group. If you're interested in joining or setting up a group, contact Clare or Matt.

Welcome!

Merry Christmas TUC

"Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home. As soon as you see them, your heart will throb and swell for joy."
(Isaiah 60: 4 -5)

While Covid continues to threaten our travel plans leaving anticipated reunions uncertain, the longing to see friends and family after years of forced separation is surely intensified. Perhaps more so now than other times, we think of coming home. Returning to the family home or the gathering place isn't just about tradition or expectation, it crucially involves having an experience of welcome and acceptance that comes from being deeply known, flaws and all. For many families, that reunion includes complicated and imperfect relationships, long remembered hurts and sometimes the resuming of past hostilities. If there's no space for grace, we are all inevitably going to re-open old wounds and further barricade our own hearts. 'Home' may not feel that homely after all. Where grace can enter the room, there's opportunity for new starts and allowance for gaffes. People are afforded the same chance for redemption that we ask for. Forgiveness pays her dividends re-engaging harmony almost immediately.

A great theme of the gospel story is all of us leaving home, then returning – perhaps even reluctantly - as the child who receives a joyous welcome and an embrace that assures them they are beloved. The scriptures keep returning to this theme, its found all through both Old and New Testaments, and it reveals God's heart to welcome home even those who left without looking back. Christmas reunions can be joyous but they can also be difficult and sad. There will be those missing from the table that we would give anything to have them with us. There will be those who chose to stay away, preferring to be with others. Some will not be able to travel to see the people we desperately miss. No doubt, this Christmas will be tough for many.

The final story of the bible is the great table of the wedding feast for the King and his Bride. All the nations of the earth will be there, and what a reunion that will be. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

Matt Smith



Matt Smith
Lead Minister

Matt and Narelle are excited to be growing into the TUC community. Matt is constantly thankful for the dedicated staff team he is part of.

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

Bible Readings

Here are our Bible readings for December.
You might like to read along at home.

5 December: John 1: 1-18; Philippians 1: 3-11

12 December: Matthew 1: 1-17

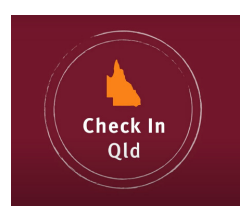
19 December: Deuteronomy 30: 1-6

24 December: Revelation 19: 6-10

25 December: Luke 15: 1-7; Matthew 2: 1-12



Check In Qld App



In addition to pre-booking, we are required to check in upon arrival on Sundays with the "Check In Qld App":

Please continue to book in to attend Sunday worship by 4.00 P.M. each Saturday. Click the link in the weekly email, or head to the website to book: www.toowongunitingchurch.org

We will send out the seating chart on Saturday night or before the service on Sunday.

Please check in with the Check In Qld App when you arrive on Sunday morning, before moving to your allocated seat/s.

You can download the Check In Qld App from the App Store or Google Play. Register your details in the App. You may already have this on your phone, because the App is already being used at many establishments.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

A call for the Ministry of Elder

The Ministry of Elder is described in 1 Timothy 3:1-10, as essential to church leadership. TUC is seeking a new elder for the church council. Anyone interested in discussing further this expression of leadership in the church, please contact Matt Smith or Will Stewart.

Membership

What does it mean to 'belong'? People come to TUC for a variety of reasons. Whatever brings you to TUC, we want you to know that you are welcome and, for whatever period of time you might be with us, you are part of the family. As a Uniting Church, TUC operates within the regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia, following a number of processes and procedures to enable good governance. Accordingly, the UC regulations define 'membership' in Uniting churches to allow baptised believers to fully participate in ministry activities and the more formal decision-making processes of the church.

If you would like to be a member of TUC, please feel free to contact office via info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au.




New to TUC? Welcome, it's great to have you here!

Our desire is to live and explain the Christian faith with as much clarity, authenticity and relevance as we can.

Please stick around if you can for morning tea after worship; we would love to have a chat!

Please be in touch if you would like to receive our weekly prayer email, or be subscribed to our weekly E-news, or if we can be of help in any way, drop us an email at info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au



Remaining dates for TUC Activities

Please see below for when they will be in December:

English Conversation:

Mon 6 Dec, 10 A.M.

Tuesday Pastorate:

Tues 7 Dec, 7 P.M.

Playgroups:

Thurs & Fri 9 & 10 Dec, 9.30 A.M.

Care & Connect

LOVE TOOWONG update

What is happening with the Love Toowong Fund?

Some of you may be wondering whether the Love Toowong Fund is still in operation. The answer is “yes” it is operating and the Fund continues to support people in need.

For people new to the congregation, the LoveToowong Fund was established in April 2020 during the initial stages of COVID, to provide support for people who did not have employment and who were struggling to provide for their families during this time. The numbers being supported have slowly reduced in 2021, as people have gained employment and circumstances changed.

How much has the Fund distributed?

Due to the generosity of the TUC congregation, the Probitry team has distributed some \$25,000 from the Fund to people in need.

At the same time as providing financial assistance, the aim has been to provide emotional and spiritual support where possible. As the need in regard to COVID has reduced the Fund has supported people in other types of difficult and tough circumstances.

Are there any funds remaining?

There are still some funds available for distribution and these will be used to continue current provisions as well as to enable proactive support in an emergency.

Part of our TUC mission is to “care for those around us, both practically and spiritually” and the Love Toowong Fund has helped to do just that. Be assured that your donations have enabled many to provide for their family during difficult times and will continue to be used to provide financial assistance as the need arises.

Dianne Hubbard

on behalf of the Probitry Team



Clare Hankamer
Families Pastor

Clare oversees KATS, Junior Youth, Senior 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:
0432 861 841
c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Children's & Youth Ministry

KATS (Toddlers - Year 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 **Tiger, Leopard and Lion age groups**. An enthusiastic group of volunteers lead these groups, teaching the children about God in a fun and friendly environment.

Junior Youth (years 6 - 8)

Junior Youth also gather on Sunday mornings after the children's talk for a time of bible study and fun activities. The Scripture Union Light curriculum is used for KATS and Junior Youth. Each session encourages the children to get to know God better through praying together, looking at the bible together and themed games and craft.

Senior Youth (years 9 - 12)

Senior Youth join in with the whole Sunday worship and are encouraged to take on leadership roles in the church. Senior Youth also meet together every second Friday night during the school term for Youth Group.

Children's & Youth Events

A number of events are run during the year, such as the Junior Youth Sleepover, the Moonwalk and the Light Party. Keep checking the newsletter and 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.



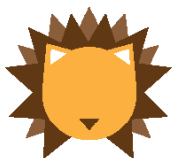
Tigers

Toddlers - Preschool



Leopards

Preschool - Year 2



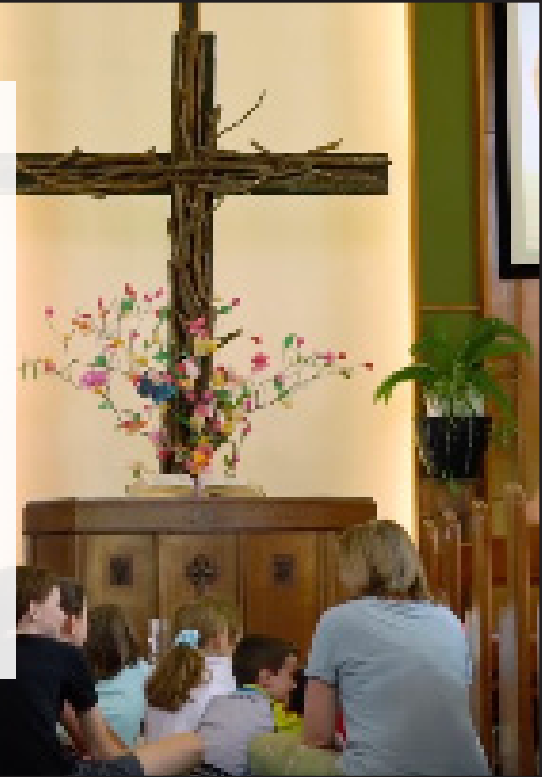
Lions

Year 3 - Year 5

KATS & Junior Youth Remaining Dates for Term 4

Due to Covid restrictions, we will run KATS and Junior Youth on alternate Sundays in the hall during the school terms. The children will take part in the first part of the service upstairs, which will include a Kids' Talk, before heading downstairs to the hall for KATS or Junior Youth.

KATS: 5 Dec.



Support our Local Chappy: Mandy Chiang

Apple Juice & Jam for Breakfast Club!

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!



Christmas Bowl

The offering that we collect during our Christmas eve and Christmas services on the 24th and 25th respectively will be donated to the Christmas Bowl.

The Christmas Bowl was established in 1949 by Reverend Frank Byatt to raise money for refugees post WW2. He placed an empty bowl on the dinner table and asked all present to give what they considered to be the cost of the meal as he urged his guests to reflect on their good fortunes and encouraged them to do something selfless for the people around the world who are victims of disease, poverty and violence.

“The Christmas Bowl provides us with a practical way to show love for our neighbours most in need. As we celebrate Christmas may our love for neighbour grow.” (Rev. Sharon Hollis, President, Uniting Church in Australia)

Make a difference through your gift giving!
Shop online for gifts that fight poverty through health, education, leadership and income opportunities.

Each gift card represents a project (such as sowing seeds, rearing animals, and providing health supplies etc.) to help people lead lives of dignity and hope, and your purchase directly supports the work.

Visit <https://everythingincommon.com.au/> for more details.

Ho! Ho! Ho! We have lined up something special for Christmas this year.....



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH

We cordially invite you to join us on the following dates:

5 Dec. - 9.30 A.M. KATS Children's Nativity

24 Dec. - 5 P.M. Sausage Sizzle followed by
Christmas eve service at 6 P.M.

25 Dec. - 8 A.M. Christmas service