

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive:

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

BOB LOCKLEY
ANN BARNES
RAELENNE ASHMAN

0407442650
0407579349
0437094068

Congregational Reps:

Karen Bain
Gloria Green
Norm Green (Grapevine and website)
Irene Beddes (Children's ministry)
Rev. John Dihm

0424873980
0409685798
0407606023
0488099464
0409798663

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

THE GRAPEVINE

FEBRUARY 2024

NORTHAM CONGREGATION
103 Duke Street, NORTHAM, Western Australia 6401



WORSHIP 9.30am
1st and 3rd Sundays

NEWS - ROSTERS - CHURCH INFORMATION - EVENTS

HOLY COMMUNION is on the first Sunday of each month.
BETHAVON & THE RESIDENCY (JUNIPER RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY CARE)
are supported with pastoral care to the residents, family and staff of Juniper Northam.

NORTHAM CONGREGATION gives financial support for Chaplaincy in local schools.
CHAPLAINCY (DONATION DAY) is the first Sunday of each month.

(Collect the marked envelopes in the Church foyer.)

CAFE FELLOWSHIP every third Sunday of the month.

SONG SERVICE every 5th Sunday (To be advised).

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

Summer Spirit 2024

9th and 10th February

All Saints Floreat Uniting Church 48-50 Berkeley Crescent, Floreat, Western Australia, Australia

Join us at Summer Spirit 2024 on Friday 9 February and Saturday 10 February - a weekend that unites the vibrant community of the Uniting Church in Western Australia around the compelling theme: "True to Yourselves, True to Your Faith: Navigating Authenticity in a Diverse World."

ALPHA COURSE - February to April (see page 3 for more details.)

18th FEBRUARY NORTHAM CHURCH AGM

1st MARCH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Friday 1 March at 10.00am Salvation Army
Chapel 3 Elizabeth Place, Northam. **COUNTRY - PALESTINE. THEME** - "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love" Ephesians 4:1-3



17th MARCH - THANKSGIVING SERVICE - bring something to put on the table. e.g. Fruit, vegetables, tinned food etc..

CHAOS CHAOS AND MORE CHAOS.

A true crisis is a threat to yourself or to someone you love.

A true crisis can sometimes do wonders to focus the mind, if we have spiritual practices in place, or we are blessed with a spiritual director.

The noise and confusion may recede for a little while, and we may see clearly again. But you are normally not able to gain that sort of clarity every time your blood pressure rises.

So, what can we do?

We can take the chaos and we can consecrate it to a higher authority.

In our darkest times, when the storm anxiety, worry, and chaos sweeps over an entire community, Such feelings are everywhere.

People who have children or elderly parents worry that they can't keep them safe.

Those people who are blessed with jobs worry about losing them.

Even listening to the news bulletin can be too much to take in. People with mental health issues feel very challenged. People who self-medicated do it more and more.

"The more I fight back, the more the pressure builds.

It feels like the dam is cracking, and everytime I plug a hole with my finger, ten more holes show up. WHEN WILL THIS END?"

Struggling in all that confusion, uncertainty, and violence, we become spiritually worn down. It is too hard to keep believing. We get tired. We think:

"My road is too hard. The powerful will never treat people right, I've tried everything, there is nothing to be done. It is of no use".

When you take on confusion and the violence and you refine them, purify them into something new, you are doing what in church language or faith we call consecrating your chaos.

To consecrate is to make Holy, to put it into service for good.

In consecrating chaos, you engage it, tame it, name it, take what seemed out of control and charge it with a duty.

Now pray the prayer of Francis of Assisi.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

Rev. John Dihm.

BIBLE READERS FEBRUARY

4. Jenny Kelly 0448772906
 18. Karen Bain 0424873980

PREACHING PLAN FEBRUARY

4. Rev John Dihm-Holy Communion
 18. Karen Bain -Café Fellowship

DELIVERANCE

If an item is sent by ship it is a cargo but if it's sent by road it is a shipment!
Dave Allen

PRAYERS FOR:

- * People attending the Alpha Course on Tuesday 6th Feb.
- * Marilyn Dihm (Rev. John's wife) and Kay and Bob Lockley who are all unwell.
- * Rayma's brother-in-law.

BREAD PUNS happen when you yeast expect them!

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Sky News contributor Gary Hardgrave says the Indigenous welcome to country is a "divisive thing" and remarks anyone should understand it with some "common sense".

"Frankly so much of our life is wasted from all these people who want to signal the virtue of welcoming to our own country," Mr Hardgrave told Sky News host Caleb Bond.

"I take the lead of Warren Mundine, Jacinta Price, they're two terrific Australians who have proudly Aboriginal heritage, they see this as a divisive thing.

"And so should anybody with any common sense. www.msn.com

ALPHA COURSE

Alpha Australia offers interactive sessions where you can explore life, faith, and meaning. Whether you're new to faith or have been on a spiritual journey, Alpha provides a welcoming environment for discussion and exploration¹.

Time & Location

ALPHA every Tuesday from 6th of February 2024 to Tuesday 23rd April 9:30am to 12:30pm
 Bridgeley Church of Christ - 91 - 93 Wellington Street Northam
 ALPHA Retreat - 22nd - 23rd March 2024 (More info to come)

CONTACT: Kym Edwards-0407622778 kym.edwards@bridgeley.org.au

UNITING CHURCH CALLS FOR GAZA CEASEFIRE

The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly joins the World Council of Churches (WCC) in its demands for an immediate ceasefire and the opening of humanitarian corridors in Palestine and Israel.

I went to an Archaeology party recently. They were only looking for the remains of a lower leg. It was quite a SHINDIG

I'M DEVELOPING A DISLIKE OF GERMAN SAUSAGE. I FEAR THE WURST.

Dutch under 60 can now starve themselves to death with help from their doctor

A Dutch medical federation removed the age limit for patients who trying to end their lives by ceasing to eat and drink, allowing young people who no longer wish to live to die by those means.

www.christianpost.com

POPE FRANCIS is described by *The Australian Institute* as the most 'woke' Pope in the past 100 years!

RESPECT PEOPLE WHO WEAR GLASSES they paid to see you!

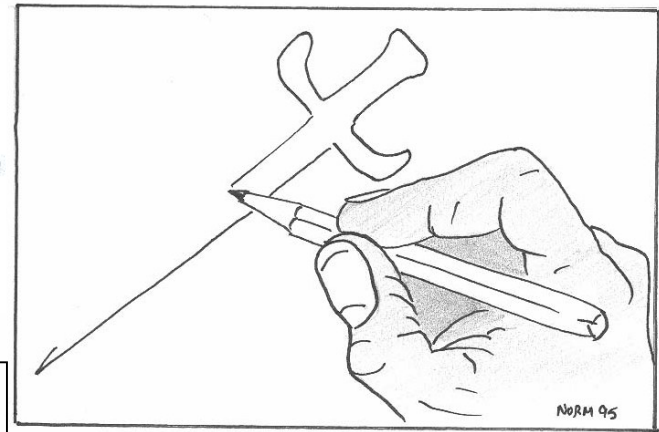
FRESH VEGETABLE PUNS WANTED. If you have one, lettuce know

IMMIGRATION

A British man arrives at Sydney Airport from England. The Australian Immigration official was reviewing his documents and inquired if he had a criminal record. The British man responded, "why - Is it still a requirement?"

THE DISCIPLE WHO COULD RUN FASTER THAN PETER

In his Gospel, the disciple John described himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." (Oh where have I seen this verse before???) But Jesus Christ described him as one of the "Sons of Thunder". As if he doesn't already have enough nicknames, John comes up with another personal nickname. And not for others. It's for himself! "The disciple who could run faster than Peter." Here's the verse: "Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first." John 20:4



IN THE MIDDLE AGES, THE FIRST THING ARMY RECRUITS LEARNED WAS HOW TO DRAW SWORDS.

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL DAYS

4 Feb	Sun	World Cancer Day
13 Feb	Tue	World Radio Day
20 Feb	Tue	World Day of Social Justice
21 Feb	Wed	International Mother Language Day
22 Feb	Thu	International Father's Language Day

AUSTRALIA DAY UCA HONOURS

A former moderator, an opera singer, a mining engineer, an historian, a commissioner for Girl Guides Australia, a congregational Elder for four decades and a church organist who began playing before Union are among the UCA recipients of Australia Day Honours this year.