

The VIBE

4th February 2024

New Series: 'Where the Wild God Is'

*We can't comprehend Him,
but we can experience Him!*

Message: 'Wild Thing'

Scripture: Mark 1. 1-13. MSG.
Matthew 6. 24-26. MSG.

In an untamed world riddled with untamed hate and violence, it is powerful and comforting to know there is an Untamed Love born of the heart of an Untamed God. God is untamed. God never holds back. God is always with us, waiting and wanting to help us through life's untamed moments. *Shane Allen Burton*

4-6 John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. (Mark 1.4-6. The Message).



Joy Circle

Not far off now ... **Thursday, 22nd February, 9:30am.** Jill and Jo are planning something special for this time and space. Each month there will be a different activity, morning tea and 10 minutes will be set aside for someone to share an interesting, uplifting or funny story. If you think you may have a story to tell, please catch up with Jill. You are very welcome to bring some friends.

Join Us at The Long Table

We had such a wonderful time together at our Long Table in December - so we're having another! **Saturday, 24th February, from 4:30pm** at our Gympie Church. Bring a meal to share and enjoy each others company.

Grand Friends Update

It is now anticipated that our 2024 Grand Friends Program will commence on **6th March** to better suit the Early Learning Centre's plans. Last year, this was a huge hit with the Children, the Educators and our Grand Friends alike. Interested? Catch up with Judy Brown or contact our church office.

Repentance before Revival



For all but 7 years of my 40-year working life I've served in roles in the Uniting Church in Australia - as a lay person and as clergy, in four states and in denominational, congregational - and now a congregation/agency role at Wesley Mission. It's been a wild ride, an adventure of faith with too many 'only God' moments to recall.

I've also attended too many church council, presbytery, synod, and assembly meetings to count. I've run a few. A white bloke, I've enjoyed a privileged life, filled with opportunities to exercise, and grow in ministry. All this to say, I've never seen this movement, my much-loved church denominational family as depressed, adrift, tired, scared, angry and confused as we are right now.

Our congregations are in rapid retreat, falling before our eyes through closure and consolidation, as too much is left to too few, and any sense of vision beyond stubborn survival is lost, our confidence to proclaim a gospel that transforms individuals and communities lost to indifference and cultural accommodation. Our presbyteries and synods struggle to fill key roles with competent, church loving, Jesus centred leaders. Innovation and entrepreneurship are crushed by structures and processes designed for a church of decades ago if it ever existed at all. All around I see first-hand, and hear second hand, of conflicts large and small - leaders with leaders, councils with other councils - as we fight over what equates to spiritual scraps - who has power or who exercises control over our disappearing movement.

It would be easy to give into despair. Easier still to give up - to quietly stick to your patch, keep your head down, see out your time. But I just can't, and we should never. Too much is at stake, and I don't mean for a moment the survival of our denomination. And so, I find myself often praying for revival - for our movement, for Wesley Mission - for me. But then, recently, something checked in my spirit. Was it a divine intervention whisper, a Holy Spirit correction? I don't know....

Before revival comes repentance. So, instead of a spirit of revival, I'm praying God would pour out a spirit of repentance on the church and on me. I'm praying the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin - our arrogance and pride and fear especially - leading us to broken, contrite and humble confession.

And I'm daring to pray that out of the fertile ground of our truly repentant hearts, God might do a new and surprising thing in and through us, or at the very least raise a new people though whom he can and will.

At root, the myriad challenges that overwhelm our church are spiritual.

We can't strategize or restructure our way through them.

God knows such desperate, yet ultimately arrogant attempts never worked before. Only God can repair, renew, restore, and revive our church - his church. And history, biblical and church history, tells us that it's the broken and contrite - the repentant - that God revives.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Stuart Cameron
CEO and Superintendent Minister for Wesley Mission



*"When is revival needed?
When carelessness and unconcern keep the people asleep."
Billy Sunday ~ American Baseballer and Evangelist (1862 - 1935)*

Retired Bible Society Morning Tea

The retired Bible Society (Gympie Branch) members are meeting for morning tea on **Wednesday, 21st February, 9:30am**, at the Coffee Club in the Central Shopping Centre. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Enquiries to Linda on 0403 830 679 or Fay on 0417 755 293.

Gympie Community Prayer Breakfast

Friday, 23rd February from **6:30am** in Memorial Park (Reef Street). Tickets can be pre-purchased or bought at the event - \$10 includes a BBQ breakfast and a cuppa. This year's guest speaker is the founder of Grace Community Church and former Qld State Member, Dr Christopher Foley, who has an amazing story to tell. All proceeds will be donated to 'Headspace', an organisation that provides early intervention mental health services for 12 to 25 year olds. For more information, go to [Community Prayer Breakfast 2024 - Gympie Regional Council](#).

World Day of Prayer ~ Friday 1st March

This is an annual international, ecumenical Christian event, held in over 170 countries. The theme for 2024 is ... *"I beg you, bear with one another in love"*.

Mary Valley will be hosting this at Kandanga Public Hall, 9.30am.

Gympie details to be advised.

Our Church

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling - the calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, a spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!



UNITING 4570
Better Together

God's Goal

"God's overarching goal is to produce men and women who demonstrate the character qualities of Jesus Christ.

God does not want a church filled with white robed saints.

He does not want a church filled with theological authorities or cultured clergy.

He wants a church filled with ordinary men and women who exemplify the extraordinary integrity, temperament, wholeness, compassion, individuality, boldness, righteousness, earnestness, love, forgiveness, selflessness, and faithfulness of Jesus Christ!" *Ray Steadman*

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Rev Orrell Battersby.. 0423 985 200 orrell@gruc.org

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Call Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Call Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Call Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... Call the office 0493 442 250

Offering & Attendance Last Sunday

Attendance: Adults 70 ♦ Children 11 ♦ Facebook 138 ♦ YouTube 7

Total Week's Offering: \$1,603.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)