

**ACTS 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**1 JOHN 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved,

**MediaCom**  
EDUCATION

© 2023 MediaCom Education Inc. PO Box 610, Unley SA 5061

since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**JOHN 15:1-8**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



## Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

**Address:** Cnr Henwood St & Lake View Ave

P.O. Box 653 Merimbula NSW 2548

**Office Phone:** 02 6495 4780

**Website:** [www.merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au](http://www.merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au)

**E-Mail:** [Merimbulaunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Merimbulaunitingchurch@gmail.com)

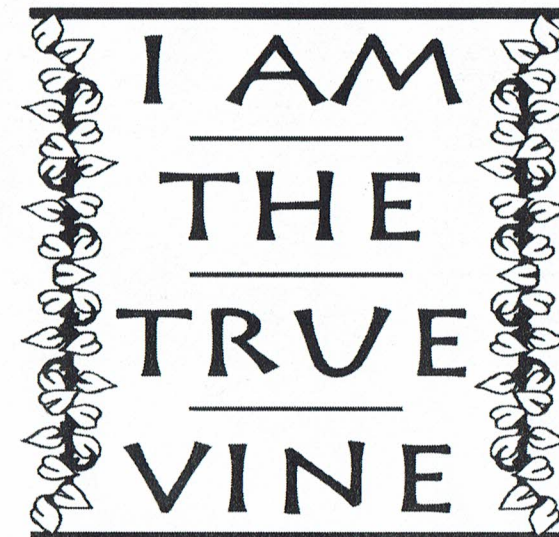
**Facebook:** Sapphire Coast Uniting Church

*'Creating a caring, nurturing community'*

Rev. Jean Shannon

Manse: 02 64950509

Mobile: 0418213073







## Morning Worship: Roster

	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Leader	Jeff Haynes	Colin Manley
Music	Elizabeth Prosser	Elizabeth Prosser
Entry of Bible	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Acknowledgement of Country	Beryl McGrath	Joan Lovett
Stewards	Meryll Davey & Iris Ballard	Iris Ballard & Maryll Davey
Reader	Colin Manley	Iris Ballard
Pastoral Prayer	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Morning Tea	Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey	Robyn Herdegen & Ailsa Liffman
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Ailsa Liffman
Flowers	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Lectionary	Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8	Acts 10: 44-48 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17

### Regular Activities

**Morning Worship:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday/month: - 10am

**Holy Communion:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday/month - 10am and 2:30pm at Wyndham

**Imlay House Service:** 2:00pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month - helpers would be appreciated - see Rev Jean.

**Tura Beach Op Shop:** Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.

**Uniting Church Tai Chi 108:** Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley

**Uniting Church Dance Group:** Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and Friday mornings at 9 am Contact Pam Jordan 0475 191 923 for details.

**'Blokes United' Coffee Morning** - 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month - 10am at MorMors

**Church Bring-and-Share Brunch** - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday/month (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec.)

John McGammon - 28<sup>th</sup>

Rosemary Akesson - 1<sup>st</sup> May



For those who would like to make their offering anonymously via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for Giving Direct are: **Acc Name** Sapphire Coast Uniting Church **BSB** 634-634 **Acc No** 100037934

Checkout our website: [merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au](http://merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au)  
Find us on Facebook @ Sapphire Coast Uniting Church

**'Blokes United' Coffee Morning** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May - 10am at MorMors

### DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Our text says. 'Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.' Does the reverse hold true - whoever loves does know God, for God is love? What do you think the author of the letter of John meant by 'God is love'? Could it mean that God is such a loving being that God is almost synonymous with love? Could it mean that God's very essence is love? Could it mean that love is God? There is a temptation for those of us who are inside the religious institution of the Church to, without meaning to, feel we have the measure of God, that God is predictable and found only in our communities and our liturgies. This text must surely make us at least question our certainties about God's nature and actions.

### Table Grace:

First the seed and then the grain: thank you, God, for sun and rain.  
First the flour and then the bread: thank you, God, that we are fed.  
Thank you, God, for all your care: help us, God, to share and share.  
Amen

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

- C. S. Lewis