



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

5 May 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## John 15:9-17 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.

<sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

<sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.

<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

<sup>16</sup> You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

<sup>17</sup> **This is my command: Love each other.**

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

~Martin Niemöller (Lutheran Pastor)



Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why we call in the present. ~ Winnie the Pooh

## Other Lectionary Readings:

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6



## Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

is hosting Peel Valley Congregation's



"Biggest Morning Tea"

Thursday, 16th May

10:00am - 12:00.



## CHURCH SERVICES

12 May 11am West Tamworth ~ Rev Geoff

19 May 8.30am Gowrie ~ Meg Mangan

19 May 11am West Tamworth ~ Meg Mangan

26 May 11am West Tamworth ~ Fay Monckton

## Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.

Fabulous Finds has now swapped over to winter clothing - after the working bees last week to get everything ready.

**Fair Treatment campaign** - The "Long Walk to Treatment", a documentary telling personal stories behind a movement to reform drug laws and policy. This is an issue of huge concern to our community. This film shows what 60 organisations –are saying about how we can save lives and give people a better chance to turn their lives around at **Tamworth Southside Uniting Church for free on Wednesday, 15th May 5:30- Free Sausage Sizzle 6:00- Movie Screening 7:30-** Structured Discussion. To register please go to <https://events.humanitix.com/hams-tamworth>

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Bruce Jarrett who is recovering after spending time in hospital.
- We pray for our federal government as they finalise the budget.
- We give thanks for the start of autumn, heralded by the leaves beginning to change colour.
- We pray for the politicians attempting to achieve peace, or at least a meaningful truce, in the Middle East.
- We pray for the many people battling 'flu's, viruses and pneumonia at the moment.
- We pray for ongoing recovery for Jan Parker.

### Meg's Musings

Last Tuesday I attended a forum where staff from Uniting made us aware of the services which they offer within our community.

Most of these services are subsidised by the government.

Over the past few years, the rules applying to some of the services have changed.

That was largely because people have spoken up - to politicians, to service providers, and to the Royal Commission.

It brought home to me how much what we say and do matters, and what an impact we can have on other people.

When we speak up about things which don't seem fair, or right, it can be a step toward meaningful change.

Jesus always challenged what he saw as unfair, or unjust, situations. Do you?

Blessings from Meg



No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. ~ Charles Dickens

### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202**

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



### Words from Rev Geoff

Advocacy groups across the national are demanding the government declare violence against women a national emergency after three women were allegedly killed by men known to them this week. On Wednesday night I attended the Tamworth rally in Bi-centennial Park because I like many people in our community believe that Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) is one of the greatest challenges we face in Australia.

Out of its deep concern about the prevalence of DFV in our communities and its devastating effects on survivors, their families, friends and our wider society the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church adopted a policy relating to DFV in 2018 and encouraged all parts of the church to become informed about DFV. [DFV-Report\\_FINAL\\_web.pdf \(uniting.church\)](#) As a Christian community the UCA is committed:

- To express God's desire for life-giving mutually respectful relationships, homes and communities, where all people can flourish.
- To educate our members about DFV and how we can respond, pastorally supporting those impacted by violence.
- To promote the equality of women and men, girls and boys and people of all ages. To receive and take seriously reports or complaints of DFV.
- To provide support and referral to appropriate support services.

The UCA does not support the use of scripture, ideas about God, pastoral care and the church to justify violence and further control and abuse. Examples of spiritual abuse within a family includes denying access to faith communities, criticising spiritual beliefs, selective use of scripture to claim God's blessing on violence, and warning of damnation if she leaves the relationship.

The lifelong commitment of marriage does not mean that people should stay in violent relationships. There are times when "divorce may be the only creative and life-giving direction to take" (Statement on Marriage, Eighth Assembly 1997, Uniting Church in Australia).

Here are some recommended steps you can take to help with the safety of anyone who discloses to you.

- Ensure the safety and empowerment of survivors.
- Believe the person and let them know abuse is never okay.
- Meet practical needs by offering safe housing, food and clothing and other necessities to those who experience violence and need to start over.
- Refer the person on to professionals.

This Sunday, we are reminded in the Gospel of John of the great commandment of Jesus that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12).

Let us abide in that love.

Rev Geoff



## Love

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture.

The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones. But no.

Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed.

Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery.

Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said.

We are at our best when we serve (love) others."

~ Credit: Ira Byock

When he was 40, the renown Bohemian novelist and short story writer FRANZ KAFKA (1883-1924), who never married and had no children, was strolling through Steglitz Park in Berlin, when he chanced upon a young girl crying her eyes out because she had lost her favorite doll. She and Kafka looked for the doll without success. Kafka told her to meet him there the next day and they would look again.

The next day, when they still had not found the doll, Kafka gave the girl a letter "written" by the doll that said, "Please do not cry. I have gone on a trip to see the world. I'm going to write to you about my adventures."

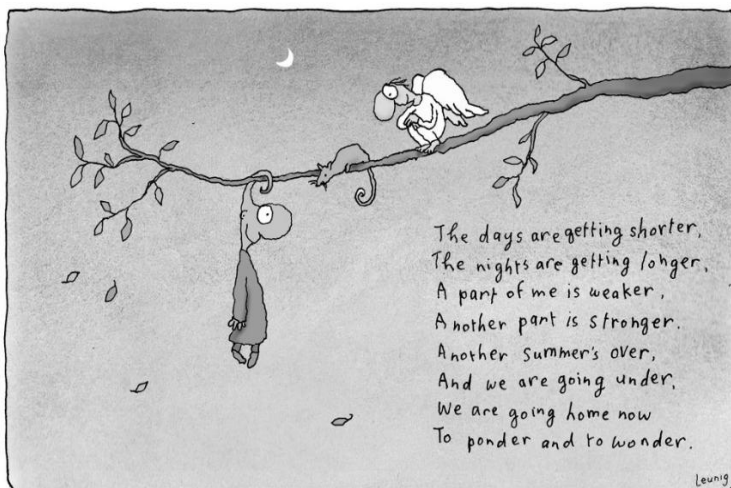
Thus began a story that continued to the end of Kafka's life.

When they would meet, Kafka read aloud his carefully composed letters of adventures and conversations about the beloved doll, which the girl found enchanting. Finally, Kafka read her a letter of the story that brought the doll back to Berlin, and he then gave her a doll he had purchased. "This does not look at all my doll," she said. Kafka handed her another letter that explained, "My trips, they have changed me." The girl hugged the new doll and took it home with her. A year later, Kafka died.

Many years later, the now grown-up girl found a letter tucked into an unnoticed crevice in the doll. The tiny letter, signed by Kafka, said.....

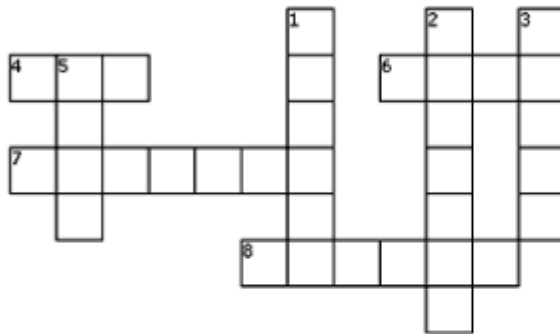
"Everything you love is very likely to be lost, but in the end, love will return in a different way."

~ unknown



# Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12 (NIV)



## ACROSS

4. A state of happiness or delight
6. To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
7. Someone that performs duties for a master
8. A person that you like very much

## DOWN

1. One who has authority over another person
2. An order which a person is expected to obey
3. To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
5. To do what you are told; follow the rules



Z C I B U S I N E S S Z O C R  
 Z O Q T F R I E N D S I R F J  
 L M X W A U I Y T X O W E F V  
 O M P E Z E V I Y N S M M Y F  
 F A B V S M U W T F E Z A X H  
 X N C O X R L G Y E R P I D M  
 F D H O F G M L J J V J N D Q  
 A C D O O G R D Y F A T H E R  
 P H O L G R R G T V N H S T U  
 S P W O X K B E G H T I R D P  
 N Y N V S B T V A Q S E R A V  
 O L I E R B Y Q C T T A R V T  
 T B I R T N L A M S E O P J R  
 H M E F V G Y A A R D R B U Z  
 C Q T Y E A H M Y M K V V E T



Father command life business  
 love greater friends chose  
 remain lay servants bear  
 obey down master fruit

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus