



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 13 October 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Part 3: Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control – Strengthened by the Spirit

Over the past two weeks, we've explored six of the **Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, and Goodness.**

These virtues help us live in harmony with God and others. This week we conclude our series by looking at the final three fruits: **Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control**—each essential for a life grounded in the Spirit.

Faithfulness: Faithfulness is about our reliability, loyalty, and commitment. In Proverbs 3:3-4, we're encouraged to "let love and faithfulness never leave you... write them on the tablet of your heart." Faithfulness isn't only about believing in God but also about living in a way that reflects that belief. In a world where commitments are often broken, faithfulness stands out as a powerful testimony to God's unchanging nature. In our daily lives, this means showing up—being dependable at work, in our families, and in our communities. It also means staying committed to our faith, even when it's hard. Whether through daily prayer, serving others, or standing firm in our convictions, faithfulness allows us to grow in our walk with God and build trust with those around us.

Gentleness: Gentleness is often confused with weakness, but in reality, it is controlled strength. It's the ability to respond to others with humility and compassion, even in difficult situations. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus describes Himself as "gentle and humble in heart." How can we practice gentleness in our daily lives? By being slow to anger and quick to listen. Gentleness is especially important in our interactions with others. Whether dealing with conflict, offering correction, or simply engaging in conversation, a gentle spirit fosters peace

and understanding. Gentleness calls us to respond thoughtfully, with a spirit of grace rather than harshness. Gentleness helps us defuse conflict and create an atmosphere of peace.

Self-Control: Self-control is the ability to govern our desires and impulses. It's one of the most challenging Fruits of the Spirit to cultivate, but it is essential for spiritual maturity. Self-control is a discipline that allows us to master our desires and impulses. In 1 Corinthians 9:25 Paul says "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." Paul compares self-control to an athlete's discipline, reminding us that it requires focus and intentionality. Without self-control, we are vulnerable to temptation and sin. But with it, we can live in a way that honours God and reflects His holiness. In our daily lives, this could mean resisting the urge to react in anger, choosing to spend time in prayer rather than indulging in distractions, or practicing moderation in areas where we might be prone to excess. Self-control is about making decisions that honour God and align with His will, even when our natural instincts push us in the opposite direction. Whether it's managing our time, our words, or our habits, self-control helps us live with purpose and integrity.

As we conclude this series, remember that the **Fruits of the Spirit** are not produced by human effort alone. They are the result of the Holy Spirit's transformative work in our lives. Each day is an opportunity to grow in these areas, trusting that God is shaping us into the image of Christ. As we surrender to His leading, we will continue to grow in **faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**, becoming more and more like Christ. May we continually seek to cultivate all nine **Fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**—so that our lives reflect the beauty of the One we serve.

Grace and Peace
Rev. Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 20, 2:1-10
Ephesians 1:15-23

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWC) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	N/A	Jane
Duty Elder	Elizabeth	Robyn
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Terryll & Robyn	Lorraine S & Joan C
Bible Readers	Robyn & Dorothy B	Joyce & Sylvia
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Mel
Morning Tea	Hazel & Stephanie	Vai & Terryll
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Craft Club
Sound Room	Elizabeth	Nigel
Cleaning	Terryll & Lynn	Craft Club

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527

or Your Pastoral Carer

Other upcoming events for your diary

Chaira Companions	20 October 1.30pm
Mainly Music	22 October 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	23 October 9.30am
Men's Breakfast	26 October 8am
Craft Club	1 November 9am
Pastoral Care Meeting	8 November 10.15am
Elder's Meeting	12 November 4.30pm
Fellowship Lunch	13 November 12 Noon
Church Fete	23 November 8am
BCC Family Fun Day	7 December 3pm

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child

Many thanks to everyone who has taken a box to fill. This is a wonderful project, and we currently have 35 boxes filled and returned before today. **Today is the last date for the return of the boxes.**

Kids' Church

Term 4 of Kids' Church start next Sunday 20 October. This term it will be on a 'Pop Up' basis, i.e. it will happen when 3 or more kids are in attendance. Please do all you can to spread the message, so that this very worthwhile activity is able to continue and hopefully thrive in future.

Church Fete

We are now less than 6 weeks way from our annual Church Fete. We can't do this without your support, and we hope you are able to support this fundraiser on the day, and also by donating quality items, as per last weeks Pointer insert. More information will be coming over the weeks leading up to the Fete, plus we will have this year's advertising notices and flyers printed out soon for distribution. We are currently awaiting confirmation of the timing of our guest band performance for this year. One piece of good news is the DJ Stringer are again going to provide us with a colourful advertising board! If you have any queries please do speak to one of the members of the fete organizing committee—Nigel, Sylvia, Brian, Chris and Jill.

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762