



The VINES Uniting Church

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Rev. David Prior

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Feb 06 Epiphany 5
1 COR 12:4-11

WK#1 UNIQUENESS
HC Sunday

The AUS Open has been a great example of tennis players overcoming seeming impossible tasks to win. Ash Barty coming from 5 games to 1 down in the second set, only to win the set and the championship was an amazing example of tenacity. Similarly, Rafa Nadal, down 2 sets to 0 in the men's final ends up winning the match in 5 sets, which takes 5 hours and finishes at 1 am in the morning. Beyond belief. What tenacity, what power, what brilliance!

At times it can be easy to compare ourselves to others and consider ourselves less. Our Western world has views that try and shape us, particularly as Christians living in a secular society.

How do we maintain a sense of who we are as an older person, a young person... how do we discover and value our UNIQUENESS? Robert Wicks writes we are ***“Too available”*** to the world's views about us, making us ***“too busy to pray, too tired to reflect...”***

When we allow the world to define our worth, even people of faith can forget that the foundation of our lives is not found in comparison to others, but in recognition that we are part of the “Body of Christ”, each one of us having a unique role. Similarly, when we are too busy, caught up in competition with others, we miss the point that from our earliest days God's grace and love has surrounded us and affirmed our value as an individual and a child of God.

Rev DJPrior

THE GRAPESVINE 6/2/2022

❖ **OUR VISION:**

To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.

❖ **OUR MISSION:**

*To reach out and reflect God's Love –
connecting others to Christ.*

“AVAILABILITY SERIES” –

“The Challenge and The Gift of being Present.”

Robert J. Wicks, Sorin Books (edition 2015)

Last year we explored the question “how do we grow our faith?” We know that as Christians we can become stagnant, demotivated, leading to a loss of our sense of drive, purpose and calling. One of the findings from last year’s series on Faith,¹ noted that people who were growing in their faith prioritised reading the bible. Like all statistics the question remains “What does reading the bible actually look like?” For those whose faith is growing, it is likely that they do more than read their bible. When Jesus found himself confronted with life changing events in the Garden of Gethsemane, he PRAYED!

The 9 week AVAILABILITY series will include a 5 week Study during Lent, to maximise our focus on PRAYER. Engaging our head and heart through scripture and prayer provides a great balance to our lived experience. Robert Wick writes:

“Today, availability is at a premium” ... because some of us are “too available ... too busy to pray, too tired to reflect...” unable “to really be present to others. It is not only a gift it is a problem... For others they pull back in anxiety. Being available to God seems to raise too many questions or doubts... Without a sense of availability to self, others, and God, life loses its spirituality. Relationships suffer breakdown and we are left with a void or sense of confusion.” Robert Wicks, p ix – xi

Being available whether it is to “Ourselves, Others and to God” is fundamentally about relationship, and they are all interrelated. I am hopeful that this 9 week exploration will provide you the opportunity for God to further change and renew us at whatever age or life stage we are in.

Rev David Prior

Feb 2022

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The next fellowship meeting is on Wednesday 9th February at the Church at 1.30 p.m.

This will be a "coffee and chat meeting".

Please bring a cup and teaspoon if you want a cuppa.

New members and visitors are most welcome.

Please ring Pam on 83811727 if you have any queries.

THE VINES CREATIVE CONNECTION – FRIENDSHIP, FUN, ART AND CRAFT.

**Enrolment Day – Thursday 10th Feb : 9:30 –
10:30am**

Come and select which class you would like to do

Find out what you will need to bring

Classes Begin –

Thursday 17th Feb : 9:30 – 11:30am

\$4 per morning, including morning tea

Enquiries to Verelle Fudge 0439 833 837

HOME GROUPS

Please Note that home groups indoors in homes are limited to 10.

If your numbers exceed 10 you can book the Sunday School room at the Church for your meetings, or hold your meetings outside if possible.

FOOD PARCEL MINISTRY

Where does the time go? We are already in February! We have continued this Ministry through Christmas and the New Year as well as maintaining the Grow Free Cart.

Thank you for your continued support for this ministry.

This week we need the following items:

- Cereal,
- Tea/Coffee
- Spreads/Jam
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Toiletries.

Again, we thank you and may God bless you
Leon and the Pastoral Team

MISSION AND OUTREACH

We are starting BBQs at Happy Valley Foodland on

Saturday, February 12th.

If you could help by volunteering to assist with the BBQ please see Leon or contact him on 0438 292 877.

Thank you.

Next week:
PT#1 AVAILABLE TO ... OURSELVES

AVAILABILITY SERIES [based on the book from R.J.WICKS]

Feb 13 Ep 6

WK 2 **FAILURE AND FORGIVENESS**

JOHN 3:16 - 17

LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

Connect with others and CHOOSE LIFE

'Cos to Grow stronger through COVID

We have to pass on God's love.



Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

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	Church Council Chairperson	0431 995 480
Colleen Farmer	Administrator	0430 646 844
Leon Magrin	Mission & Outreach /	
	Food Parcel Ministry	8322 3658
David McAvenna	Worship Team	8322 7154
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Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer

by 12 noon Wednesday

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