



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to our **Sunday Service of worship**, commencing at **9-30am** every Sunday



Epiphany 1 8 January 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Kerry Lawson
Coffee/Tea: Frances Davy & Kerry Lawson
Reader: Cynthia Falconer
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: Piet Speyers
Worship Leader: Rev. Mike Fawcett
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (Communion)

Epiphany 2 15 January 2023

Welcome: Frances Davy
Flowers: Sue Lawrence
Coffee/Tea: Tuesday Home Group
Reader: Grace Richards
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: Kerry Lawson
Worship Leader: John Lawrence
Speaker: Dr David Jeremiah (Video)



The Water that Brings a New Beginning

Water has been in the news a lot recently, at least in the form of flooding in Australia and blizzards in America. Recently storms have stopped the traffic in USA, Australia's east coast and now in the Kimberley region. As much as those who have been affected by the flooding try to get to work or school, sometimes we have to stop and respect what the water is doing. Water is part of the drama of our life. It brings life, but not enough or too much can bring destruction. Let us focus on the life giving power of clean, fresh water.



There are two very different ways to think about baptism. The first approach recognizes the time of baptism as a saving moment in which the person being baptized accepts the love and forgiveness of God. The person then considers themselves "saved." They may grow in the faith through the years, but nothing which they will experience after their baptism will be as important as the baptism. They will always be able to recall their baptism as the time when their life changed.

The second approach wouldn't disagree with any of that, but would add to it significantly. This idea affirms baptism as the time when God's love and forgiveness are experienced. It also recognizes baptism as a time of change. However, where the first approach isolates the act of baptism as the most important moment, the second approach understands baptism more as a beginning. While it is true that in the waters of baptism God laid claim on our lives, it is also true that we spend the rest of our lives trying to figure out what that means. The first understanding often overlooks the journey which follows baptism.

Baptism too frequently carries the connotation of having arrived. Sometimes people say to their minister, "I want to be baptized and join the church as soon as I get my life in order." Of course, if that is what any of us are waiting on, we will never be baptized. None of us will ever have our lives sufficiently in order to be baptized. Baptism is not something we earn, nor is it a sign that we have found all the answers. Nothing could be further from the truth. The pure baptismal water symbolically washes away our sins and is a sign of our willingness to accept Jesus, and through Him, God. It is our commitment to seek His guidance during our lives and our journey of faith; in the full knowledge we will inevitably sin but He will forgive our transgressions.

www.sermons.com (Edited)

Readings from the Lectionary

Is 42:1-9
Ps 29
Acts 10:34-43
Mt 3:13-17

Is 49:1-7
Ps 40:1-11
1 Cor 1:1-9
Jn 1:29-42

South Mandurah Uniting Church



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For pastoral needs please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677 E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Leadership Team Chair: Raelyn Punch 0429 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au
Small Group Coordinators: Andrew Gibson 0407 985 056 & Raelyn Punch
Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au

Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch (Chair), Andrew Gibson (Secretary), Kerry Lawson, Sherryl Smith, Piet Speyers & Andrew Telfer

Halls Head Bendigo Bank details for electronic transfers:

A/C Name: Uniting Church in Australia-South Mandurah Congregation
BSB: 633-000 A/C No: 117072207

Please include your name as a reference for the payment.



Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."

Very Important Church Business

- 1) Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sunday 19th February 2023**
following the service. Please support our wonderful Leadership Team by attending the AGM for the delivery of the annual report, presentation of the 2023 budget, election of Leadership Team members and general business.
- 2) Reports for the AGM:** Your editor has already started compiling the 2023 Annual Report Booklet but there are many reports still outstanding. If you haven't already submitted your report for the AGM, please submit it in writing as soon as possible to Peter Punch at E: prpunch@lasar.net.au. **Reports must be submitted by 19th January 2023.**
If you have some photographs of church activities during 2022 which may be suitable for inclusion in the report please email them to Peter in JPEG format.

3) Nominations for Election to the Leadership Team

Due to two members completing their terms and one member retiring to travel, there will be three vacancies on the Leadership Team. The Team have exciting plans for the future direction of our congregation and need new members to help bring the plans to fruition. Why don't you nominate as a candidate for election to the Leadership Team?

To nominate you **must** be an eligible member of the congregation and you **must** submit a written nomination which can either be emailed or handed in person to Raelyn Punch or Andrew Gibson. A nomination form will be attached to the email version of the Messenger and printed copies can be obtained from any member of the Leadership Team.

For more information or to nominate please contact:

Raelyn Punch E: prpunch@lasar.net.au M: 0429 685 908, or
Andrew Gibson E: gibbo.a@bigpond.net.au M: 0407 985 056

URGENT Please nominate **ASAP** for the Leadership Team elections.
The closing time for nominations is **5pm Saturday 4th February 2023**



The Step Up Group

Cake, Coffee & Fellowship

The Brews: The ladies from our church meet weekly with friends and neighbours (who need not be from our church) for morning tea, conversation, friendship and excellent tea or coffee.

The Brews is recommencing 9-30am 11th January 2023 at a NEW VENUE: Manhattan Café, 36 Wattle Glen Ave, Erskine in the Erskine Shopping Centre

Ladies please email Robyn Speyers E: robyn.piet@hotmail.com by 9th January 2023 to let her know your availability for the morning tea and if you have any feedback regarding the starting date and venue :

Espresso Yourself: The Gentlemen meet fortnightly for coffee and fellowship at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head. The next coffee morning is at **9-30am 17th January 2023** (& every 2nd Tuesday). For more information please contact Peter M: 0427 685 908, E: prpunch@lasar.net.au



Welcome to a Journey

The story is told of a minister's words to a baby shortly after she had baptized her. No doubt, the reverend was speaking as much to the congregation as to the infant. "Little sister, by this act of baptism, we welcome you to a journey that will take your whole life. This isn't the end. It's the beginning of God's experiment with your life. What God will make of you, we know not. Where God will take you, surprise you, we cannot say. This we do know and this we say: God is with you." God will be with us as we live out our baptism.

William B. Kincaid, III, *And then Came the Angel*, CSS Publishing Company (edited)



An Epiphany Prayer

Lord of light, we praise you, for you are the one who casts away the darkness which covers our lives, and our world. Yours is the light which illuminates that which is good in all the nations of the world. In this time of worship we lift our eyes to your light. We rejoice in your glory and in the mystery of the salvation of the world you have brought through Jesus Christ. As the Wise Men came seeking the Christ Child kindle within us a desire to seek him anew and to make new discoveries of his truth and his glory. May the Star of Bethlehem lead us to worship the Light of the World. **Amen**

<https://peterwnimmo.co.uk/2022/12/13/>



Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett
M: 0412 243 677
E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

OR Any member of the leadership team (their names are overleaf)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Keith Johnston Wednesday 11 January
Mike Fawcett Saturday 14 January
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you both upon your birthdays*

Welcome



A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors. We trust that you will be blessed during this time of worship and invite you to fellowship with us after the service.

