



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

The Forbidden Anger



It was my most embarrassing moment in grade six. At recess my friend Johnny had done something I didn't like. After returning to class I decided to send a message to him. As my teacher, Mrs. Ferguson, wrote on the blackboard I scribbled a message on a piece of paper, folded it into a paper plane and tossed it in the direction of Johnny. However my paper plane's design wasn't very good and it made a left turn and headed straight towards the teacher's desk just as she turned back from the blackboard. Then with horror I remembered I had signed the note. She retrieved it and read it out loud. After all these years the memory of what I wrote is still clear: "Johnny, you are a fool, (signed) Billy."

Mrs. Ferguson, a staunch Methodist, took her well-worn Bible from her desk. In those days we had scripture and prayers every morning at the start of class. She turned quickly to Matthew, chapter 5, and read verse 22: "But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire." I felt lower than a pregnant sow's belly. She launched into a fervent sermon that would have made even the vilest sinner repent. She capped it off by saying, "And you, Billy, should be particularly ashamed for writing such words since your father is a minister." That was hitting below the belt, don't you think?

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, given in chapters five through seven of Matthew's Gospel, could be called "Lifestyle in the Kingdom of God." Here we have the party platform of the Kingdom. It contains exalted expectations, the most radical ethical standards ever articulated. Notice that in verse 21 Jesus said, "You have heard it said of old...but I say unto you." That one who spoke of old was Moses. Jesus was placing himself on the same level as Moses or higher. Some regarded that as the height of presumption but others realised these were the words were being delivered by the Son of God and they set a very high standard which, while we may strive to attain them, are probably impossible to meet. Jesus knew that and He knew there is a place for anger. Paul told us, "Be angry and do not sin". There are times when expressing our anger is the proper thing to do and we are wrong if we take His words to mean that all anger is sin. The challenge is working out when anger is a sin, and trying to control or avoid that sin in the heat of the moment.

www.sermons.com (edited)

Epiphany 6 12 February 2023



Transfiguration 19 February 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Jan Gibson
Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury & Sherryl Smith
Reader: Frances Davy
Kids Church: Julie Lehmann
Church Rep: Piet Speyers
Worship Leader: Rev. Mike Fawcett
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (communion)

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch
Flowers: Sue Lawrence
Coffee/Tea: Andrew & Jan Gibson
Reader: Sherryl Smith
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: Kerry Lawson
Worship Leader: Piet Speyers
Speaker: Gordon Smith

Readings from the Lectionary

Deut 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
Ps 119:1-8
1 Cor 3:1-9
Mt 5:21-37

Ex 24:12-18
Ps 2 or Ps 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Mt 17:1-9



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
Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

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

The AGM will follow the service on 19th February. Please support our 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.



WORK TOGETHER

2) Fellowship Luncheon

A fellowship luncheon will follow the AGM on Sunday 19th February. There will be pizzas for lunch (some will be gluten free) accompanied by salads and followed by desserts. If you would like to contribute by bringing a salad or dessert please contact Kerry Lawson M: 0409 885 988 or E: rkl@bigpond.com

3) Nominees for Election to the Leadership Team

One nomination, being from Jenni Anderson, has been received for election to the Leadership Team. As per UCA regulations, a ballot for the position on the Leadership Team must be held at the AGM.

Coffee, Cake & Fellowship

For Gentlemen: Espresso Yourself - 9-30am Tuesday 14th February
Fortnightly at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.

For Ladies: She Brews - 9-30am every Wednesday - New Venue
Manhattan Café, 36 Wattleglenn Ave, in the Erskine Shopping Centre.

For more information please contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 or Raelyn Punch M: 0429 685 908, email: prpunch@lasar.net.au



The Prayer for today.

Just for today, help me, God to remember that my life is a gift, that my health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, that I have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Just for today, help me, God to remember to be kind and patient to the people who love me, and to those who work with me too. Teach me to see all the beauty that I so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of my own soul.

Just for today, help me, God to remember You.
Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love.
Amen



www.praywithme.com



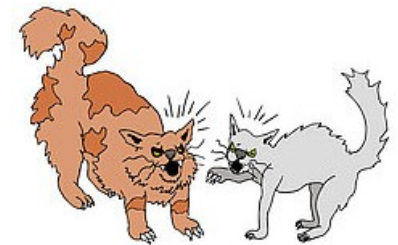
A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors. We trust that you will be blessed during this time of worship and invite you to fellowship with us after the service.



Kilkenny Cats

Jesus warns us against anger, and reminds us to find a better way to resolve our conflicts. It is impossible to avoid confrontations and conflict, but we should never let anger poison our relationships or lead to damage that is impossible to undo. It reminds me of a traditional Irish poem:

There once were two cats of Kilkenny,
Each thought there was one cat too many;
So they fought and they spit,
And they scratched and they bit,
Till, excepting their nails,
And the tips of their tails,
Instead of two cats there weren't any.



When anger takes over, irrational actions can lead to self-destruction and harm to others. While the cats of Kilkenny might not be unable to control their animal nature, Jesus reminds us we certainly can.

Staff, Traditional Illustrations, sermons.com (edited)

A Request for Prayers

The Moderator, Susy Thomas, requested that the members of all congregations were sent the following email:



"Dear members

It is with much sadness that I write to inform you that the young lady whose life was tragically lost yesterday at North Fremantle was Stella Berry, the beloved daughter of highly respected staff members of two of our Uniting Church Schools. I ask that you keep the Berry family in your prayers and thoughts at this very sorrowful time."

Heart Beat 45+ Training Session

A Heart Beat 45+ session will be held at **1.30pm Saturday 11th March** at our church. This session is offered to adults aged 45yo and over who would like to learn more about first aid. This is a free event and friends and family are welcome.



RSVP 1st March For more information please and to register contact SherryI Smith E: sherrylsa60@gmail.com or M: 0409 305 910.

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

Andrew Gibson Monday 13 February

**God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday**