

## Transfiguration 19 February 2023



## Lent 1 26 February 2023

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

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Jan Gibson  
Coffee/Tea: Sue & John Lawrence  
Reader: Jenni Anderson  
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch  
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch  
Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann  
Speaker: Doug Burtenshaw



### Readings from the Lectionary

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

Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7  
Ps 32  
Rom 5:12-19  
Mt 4:1-11



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Website: <https://southmandurahuc.org>

For pastoral needs please contact:

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Or any member of the Leadership Team

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**Small Group Coordinators:** Andrew Gibson 0407 985 056 & Raelyn Punch  
**Editor of the Messenger:** Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)  
**Prayer Circle Leader:** Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: [2davyfamily@gmail.com](mailto: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."*

19 February 2023



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



## Children's Stories and Transformations

Children's stories are full of characters who move back and forth between different realms of reality. Take Cinderella, for example. You know the story of four mice pulling a pumpkin, whisking Cinderella away from poverty into an exalted moment of acceptance and glory. In one transforming moment, the servant is transformed into the queen of the ball. Suddenly, everyone can see Cinderella's beauty and worth. Or take the story of The Lion King, where Simba, a young lion cub, makes a series of selfish choices that lead to his father's death. He has to flee. After a long exile, he is challenged to return. While wrestling with the decision, he sees in a pond his own image, mysteriously transfigured into the image of his deceased father. In that moment, he sees the purpose of his life and discovers the courage to return. Or take Beauty and the Beast, where the beast is transformed by love back into a prince.



In these stories, reality is seen in a whole new way. As for the disciples, during these very mysterious moments on the mountain, the one they had followed up the mountain was transfigured before them.

B. Wiley Stephens, God Comes to Us

## A Vision of True Love

Do you know that visions have great clarity? One day I went to visit one of the oldest members of our church, Alan Lundie, who was in his late eighties. Alan was visiting his wife Cora, who had Alzheimer's, at the Juniper Retirement home. They had been married for over 60 years and every day Alan would come over to the retirement home with a bowl of ice cream for her. By the time he had driven from his home to the retirement home the ice cream was melted. I watched him take the melted ice cream on a spoon and feed Cora as if she were a newborn baby bird. As he put the melted ice cream into her mouth and patted her on the cheek, I saw there was no haze, no fog, no trees. I saw for sure the genuine love of God between a man and a woman. I knew that love was true and I knew that quality of love was from God and I was totally convinced of the truth of that moment. It was a vision. I had seen true love...in the flesh...right before my eyes. Holiness. Pure holiness. Goodness. Pure goodness. I had seen a love that I wanted in my marriage.



Edward F. Markquart, Visions on a Mountaintop (edited)

**IMPORTANT  
REMINDER**

## AGM & Lunch

The AGM will follow the service this Sunday (19th February.) Please make sure you attend participate in the election of a leadership team member, receive the reports for 2022 and listen to an update on future plans for our congregation.

There will also be a "memory lane" slide show from 2022, followed by a fellowship luncheon. Pizzas are on the menu (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: [rlkl@bigpond.com](mailto:rlkl@bigpond.com)



## Guest Speaker - Gordon Smith

This week we are privileged to have Gordon Smith as our speaker. Those of you who have lived in the area for a while may remember Gordon from his time as the owner of the pharmacy at Miami Plaza from 1989 till 2015. Gordon still puts on his white coat for an occasional stint in the country to help out pharmacists who need a holiday. However he is now more focussed on his second career using his Masters of Counselling degree. Gordon helps singles and couples travel through difficult life stages at his offices at the Mount Pleasant Uniting Church and in Shenton Park.



Gordon became a Christian 23 years ago at the age of 40. He told your editor that this is too long a story for our newsletter, but noted that he was initially a reluctant convert. He is currently a member of the Mount Pleasant Uniting Church. Gordon is a past chair of their church council and a regular worship leader and preacher. Please come and listen to Gordon's message this Sunday.

## Dinner & the Movies

Make a date with your beloved for dinner and a movie on the **1st of April** at South Mandurah Uniting Church. (It's little less romantic, but family and friends are welcome too!) The movie is "the Most Reluctant Convert" and its story of C S Lewis's journey from a hard-boiled atheist to a devout Christian. Check future Messengers for more details about the dinner, times etc.



**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.*



## World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "informed Prayer and Prayerful Action", and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries.

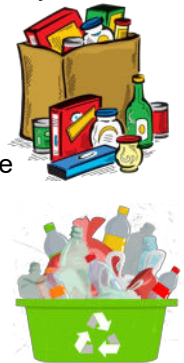
This year in Mandurah the World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 3rd March 2023 at Christ's Church, corner of Sholl Street and Pinjarra Road, Mandurah, at 1.00pm. Everyone is welcome.



## Your Donations Make a Difference

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to support the disadvantaged by:

- ◆ **Food Drive For Those in Need** - please keep putting non-perishable food items in the box in the foyer. For more information please contact Sherryl Smith M: 0409 305 910 or E: [sherrylsa60@gmail.com](mailto:sherrylsa60@gmail.com)
- ◆ **Containers For Change** - Please keep putting your recyclable cans and bottles in the bin in the foyer. The money raised is going to local charities. For more information please speak to Cliff or Averil Clark M: 0408 475 394 E: [ca.clark2@bigpond.com](mailto:ca.clark2@bigpond.com)
- ◆ **Bread Tags for Wheelchairs** - Please save the tags from your bread bags and put them in the jar in the church foyer. The bread tags are recycled to fund the purchase of wheelchairs. For more information speak to Raelyn Punch E: [rpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:rpunch@lasar.net.au) or M: 0429 685 908.



**Blessings & Congratulations  
To Andrew & Jan Gibson**  
Celebrating their 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Happy  
birthday**

**John Lawrence** Monday 20 February  
**Kingsley Palmer** Saturday 25 February  
*God Bless and warm wishes  
To you both upon your birthdays*

## Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:  
**Rev. Mike Fawcett** M: 0412 243 677 E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)  
**OR** Any member of the leadership team (their names are overleaf)

