



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Lent 2 5 March 2023

Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith
Flowers: Kerry Lawson
Coffee/Tea: Keith & Jaren Picking
Reader: Jenni Anderson
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
Worship Leader: Robyn Speyers
Speaker: Piet Speyers



Lent 3 12 March 2023

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
Flowers: Jan Gibson
Coffee/Tea: Brian & Barbara Smith & Rosemary Sharp
Reader: Judy Law
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: TBA
Worship Leader: Cynthia Clive
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (communion)



Readings from the Lectionary

Gen 12:1-4a
Ps 121
Rom 4:1-5, 13-17
Jn 3:1-17 or Mt 17:1-9

Ex 17:1-7
Ps 95
Rom 5:1-11
Jn 4:5-42



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Website: <https://southmandurahuc.org>

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, Jenni Anderson, Sherryl Smith & 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."

Fixing the Piano

There was a small rather run down jazz club in Northbridge. In a corner of that club sat an old dilapidated piano. All of the jazz artists complained about this antiquated instrument. The piano players dreaded playing on it, and the vocalists dreaded singing with it. All of the bands that played at the club wished they could bring their own piano in the same way that they could carry in a saxophone or a trumpet.

Finally, after years of listening to these jazz musicians complain about his piano, the owner of the club decided to do something about it. He had the piano painted!!



Father Henri Nouwen, a Dutch catholic priest, professor and theologian, reflecting on the story of Nicodemus, wrote "I love Jesus but want to hold on to my own friends even when they do not lead me closer to Jesus. I love Jesus but want to hold on to my own independence even when that independence brings me no real freedom. I love Jesus but do not want to lose the respect of my professional colleagues, even though I know that their respect does not make me grow spiritually. I love Jesus but do not want to give up my writing plans, travel plans, and speaking plans, even when these plans are often more to my glory than to the glory of God."

Upon reflection Father Nouwen realized that he isn't all that different from Nicodemus. He writes, "So I am like Nicodemus, who came by night, and said safe things about Jesus to his colleagues." Even a great Christian like Father Henri Nouwen is sometimes content to paint the old piano.

There's an element of Nicodemus in all of us. It's always easier to play it safe and keep Jesus off in the distance than to call him the Lord of our life. We need to know, however, that we cannot always put him off.

King Duncan, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com (edited)

Thank You

Tony McAlinden, who invited our congregation to donate presents for the children or prisoners, requested that this letter of appreciation be circulated to our congregation:

Good afternoon Tony,

On behalf of Accordwest, and in particular the Release Support team, I would like to thank you and your community for the large donation of children's toys. In total, over 225 new toys were distributed to families of those incarcerated. Additionally, pre-loved toys were donated through the Accordwest office in Bunbury to vulnerable community members. The feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive and grateful that they could provide a gift(s) for the children in their family.

Please pass on my heartfelt thank you and gratitude to your parish members for all the donations.

Wishing you all the best for 2023. Thank you

Kind Regards,

Merinda Robertson, Release Support Manager, Programs - Release Support

Thank you to Tony for providing our congregation with the opportunity to participate in this program, and thank you to everyone who donated presents for the children.



The Enablers Roster

Many members of our congregation volunteer to be Enablers, and do a fantastic job helping run the Sunday services in a wide variety of roles including flowers, readings, morning tea, Sunday School and much more.



The next Enablers roster is for the **1st April to 30th June 2023 quarter**. As soon as possible, and **no later than 14th March** could all current Enablers please advise Peter Punch of the dates they will **NOT** be available in the next quarter, and if they are interested in accepting any new roles.

If any new members would like to volunteer as an Enabler, or would like additional information, please speak to any member of the Leadership Team or contact Peter on M: 0427 685 908 or E: prpunch@lasar.net.au

The Promises of God Are True

An Oxford University student named Stephen went to an Anglican cathedral which prides itself on being an academic, intellectual church. He went to a family night supper and sat down next to an elderly man, introduced himself, told him he was new, and said, "Have you been here long?"

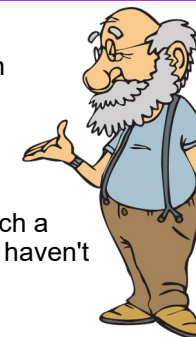
"Oh yes," the man said. "In fact I was here before this became such a scholarly church. Why I'm probably the only non-intellectual left. I haven't understood a sermon in over 25 years."

"Then why do you keep coming," Stephen asked?

"Because every Monday night a group of us get in the church van and drive over to the youth correctional centre. Sometimes we play basketball, or play games and usually we share a Bible story, but mostly we just get to know these kids and listen to them."

"I started going because Christians are supposed to do those kind of things. But now I could never stop. Sharing the love of God at that youth centre has changed my life." And then he said this profound statement. "You cannot prove the promises of God in advance, but if you live them, they're true, every one."

Lane Alderman, Asking All the Right Questions (Edited)



AGM for YouthCARE

In a recent email, Kaye Seeber, the Chairperson of YouthCARE Mandurah, has written to say "We would like to see a great representation of churches for the Dedication of the School Chaplains for 2023. Thank you for your support and prayers."

When: Sunday 26th March 2023

Where: Eastlake Church, 99 Lakes Rd, Greenfields

Time: AGM 2-30pm, Service 3-00pm, Finger food & refreshments 3-30pm

YouthCARE is WA's leading provider of chaplaincy and values education programs. More information about YouthCARE can be found at:

www.youthcare.org.au



Greeting Cards

Robyn Speyers has produced a line of beautiful greetings cards with a variety of themes. The cost is \$4-00 per card and half will be donated to our church. Samples are displayed at the church.

For more information please contact Robyn:

M: 0417 962 435 or E: crspeyers@gmail.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.



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)



Kerry Lawson Wednesday 8 March

God Bless and warm wishes

To you upon your birthday