



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



## Feeding the 5000

There is a funny story about a nine-year-old named Danny who came bursting out of Sunday school. After a quick search, he grabbed his dad's trouser leg and yelled, "That story about Moses and all those people crossing the Red Sea was great!" His father looked down, smiled, and asked his son to tell him about it. "Well, the Israelites got out of Egypt, but Pharaoh and his army chased after them. So the Jews ran as fast as they could until they got to the Red Sea. The Egyptian Army was getting closer and closer, so Moses got on his mobile phone and told the Israeli Air Force to bomb the Egyptians. While that was happening, the Israeli Navy built a pontoon bridge so the people could cross over and so they escaped the Egyptians". Danny's dad was shocked. "Is THAT the way they taught you the story?" Well, no, not exactly," said Danny, "but if I told you the way they told it to us, you'd never believe it!"

With childlike innocence the little boy had put his finger on the pulse of our sophisticated adult world where cool scepticism reigns supreme. It's more popular to operate in the black-and-white world of facts...and, of course, to leave no space for the miraculous.

So when we read the story of the feeding of the five thousand, we tend to focus our attention on the question, "Did it really happen?" There have been a number of attempts to "explain" the miracle. One attempt says that the people were so moved by Jesus' generosity and that they brought out the food they had hidden under their clothes and in their traveling pouches. This way everyone was satisfied. Another theory says that the story is not really talking about physical hunger but spiritual hunger. When the small amount of food was passed around everyone tore off a minuscule symbolic fragment. In this Jesus is said to have satisfied the thirst of the soul not the stomach.

I think these questions say more about us than they do Jesus. Jesus is the Messiah and there is no question that he regularly performed miracles. The point of the story of feeding of the five thousand is not to prove that miracles happen. Rather it is to teach us that by his service Jesus is the fulfilment of the Word, and that we can and should use our abilities in Our Lord's service.

[www.sermons.com](http://www.sermons.com) (Edited)

## Pentecost 10

6 August 2023



## Pentecost 11

13 August 2023

Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith  
Flowers: Cynthia Falconer  
Coffee/Tea: Debby & Brian Hardy  
Reader: Barbara Smith  
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine  
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch  
Worship Leader: Frances Davy  
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence  
Flowers: Sue Lawrence  
Coffee/Tea: Brian & Barbara Smith  
Reader: Cynthia Falconer  
Kids Church: Jan Fawcett  
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith  
Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine  
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett  
(Communion)



### Readings from the Lectionary

Gen 32:22-31  
Ps 17:1-7, 15  
Rom 9:1-5  
Mt 14:13-21

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28  
Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Rom 10:5-15  
Mt 14:22-33

## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch, Jenni Anderson (Secretary),  
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

It is optional whether you 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."*

## Welcome to Our New Website

You are invited to visit our web site and have a look at all the new features at: <https://southmandurah.ucwa.au/>

All of this year's Messengers are on the website and the current version of the Enablers' List (you can find them under the drop down menu "get involved"). We are planning to upload more information and photographs in the near future.

If you haven't signed a consent form for your images to be displayed on the website, please see Raelyn to obtain a copy of the form. (Alternatively please advise us if you specifically do not want any photographs of you included).

If you have missed a service or would like to listen to the message again, you can access the South Mandurah YouTube Channel via our new website. Once the site is opened, click on "Worship Services" and go to the bottom of the page that opens. Next to a big purple square with "Welcome to Worship", printed in red, is a title saying "YouTube channel."

If you need some help finding things on the website please speak to Peter Punch or Jenni Anderson, (bearing in mind we are still learning too!).



## A Prayer For Today

Heavenly Father, as this a new day begins, I pray that your words will give me a fresh start with your spirit, peace, and joy. I thank you for all the blessings that you have given me. Lord God, I thank you for having poured your unconditional love deep into my soul.

Thank you for your amazing power and for being my tower of strength, standing strong and protecting my fragile earthly life. Allow me to lean on your rich love and truth, and teach me not to stress over things that are out of my control.

I thank you for the gifts of wisdom and courage, Lord; For these two enable me to have power against the challenges I will face today, and to give glory to your mighty name and kingdom.

Lord, in my prayers for today, I ask for your forgiveness for the sins I have committed in the past and ask that you help me not to sin again. O Lord, guide me so that I may traverse the path that points only your way. Teach me to have self-discipline and allow me to have faith in your guidance today. Shine on me your holy light as I walk and follow your lead. All of this I ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

<https://www.biblekeeper.com/prayers-for-today/> (Edited)

Praise The Lord



# 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.*



## Spend Some Time With Yoy!

Yoy is at our church the first and second Saturday of every month from 9am to midday or by appointment in the afternoons. Please drop in to share a time of prayer with Yoy, or for a chat or a more in depth conversation over a cup of coffee. If you want to make an appointment for a confidential meeting with Yoy on Saturday afternoons between midday and 3pm, he can be contacted via email: [yoyea1210@gmail.com](mailto:yoyea1210@gmail.com) or M: 0421 793 562. Also if you haven't already advised Yoy of your preferred time to share the bible with him, then please him as soon as possible so that the program can be organised.



## Treasure Waiting to Be Discovered

There is a story about some people who were on a raft off the coast of Brazil. They were perishing from thirst because they didn't dare drink the salty water but what they didn't know was that the water they were floating on was fresh water. A nearby river was pouring out into the sea with such force that it went out for kilometres; so they had fresh water right there where they were, but they had no idea. In the same way, we're surrounded with joy, with happiness and with love but many people have no idea. There are a lot of hurting people in this world for whom help is at hand if they only knew it. The treasure is just waiting to be discovered.



King Duncan, Collected Sermons, [www.Sermons.com](http://www.Sermons.com) (Edited)

## Sermon Series - "Word, Worship and Witness"

Please note the sermon series which was listed in last week's Messenger is for September and not August. The focus in September will be on Mission, our Missional Call as a church (SMUC) and Denomination (UCA) Disciple.

1st Sunday : **Being Disciple** (Romans 10:14-17, Matthew 4:18-22)

2nd Sunday : **Living as A Disciple** (John 13:31-38)

3rd Sunday : **Mark of A Disciple** (John 13:34-35)

4th Sunday : **Making Disciple** (Matthew 28:19-20)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brian Smith Monday 7 August  
*God Bless and warm wishes  
To you upon your birthday*

## Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

**Rev. Mike Fawcett**

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

