



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Pentecost 11

13 August 2023

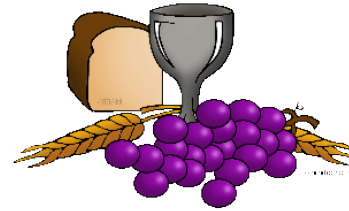


Welcome: Lynsay & Jenny Dunning
Flowers: Debby Hardy
Coffee/Tea: Brian & Barbara Smith
Reader: Cynthia Falconer
Kids Church: Jan Fawcett
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett
(Communion)

Pentecost 12

20 August 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Barbara Smith
Coffee/Tea: Cynthia Falconer & Jan Robinson
Reader: Jaren Picking
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
Speaker: Gordon Smith



Contestants and Bravado

Everyone loves a good duel! At least in the movies we do and Errol Flynn was an Australian actor who was well known for his dashing personality and fiery sword duels. Our hero goes up against a worthy foe, and we hold our breath while the opponents or contestants raise their swords, commence, and fight to the bitter end. The "duel" usually comes about in order to defend someone's honour –whether one's own, a friend's, or a maiden's. In the end, we hope that our hero will win, and honour will be restored.



When we think about contestants today, however, we rarely think about duels. We think primarily of game shows. One "contestant" faces off with another in a challenge of wits. We root for the contender, or in some cases, the underdog, but the only "honour" upheld is that of one person's ability to outthink or outmanoeuvre another. Whether duelling men or game show contestants though, both events issue from some sort of provocation, dispute, or challenge, in which something (honour, superior acumen, or strength) must be proved through some sort of testing procedure.

The idea of truth through testing for the purposes of striving to "win" in a dispute comes from a much earlier definition of "contestant." In 1600s France, a "contestant" was someone who contested or disputed something litigiously in a court of law. The opposing parties called "witnesses" to attest to the truthfulness of the contestants or facts of the matter at hand. The word derives from Latin "com" (with/together) and "testis" (a witness). Our word "testament" also comes from this same root. The Latin compound alluded to the fact that in a court of law, calling witnesses was the first step in resolving a dispute. The witnesses would "call into question" or "test" the facts presented in order to uphold one or another "contestants." Often this led to a kind of bravado, in which one or another contestants would seek to "puff up their tail feathers" in order to contest a point or influence a jury. The more threatening the trial, the more bravado would emerge in hope to derail the witnesses and sway the proceedings. In this way, many trials even today remind us of "game show" tactics – ways to divert attention, distract the challenger, or create doubt in those witnessing the event.

Continued overleaf

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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For pastoral needs please contact Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: yoyea1210@gmail.com

Leadership Team Chair: Raelyn Punch 0429 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au
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 (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."



Contestants and Bravado

Bravado is the ultimate tool of the wily "contestant." The scriptures are full of bravado. Perhaps one of the best examples in the gospels is when Peter saw Jesus walking on the water and called to him "Lord, if it's you... tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said "Come" and Peter did attempt to, but his courage and his faith failed him and he started to sink. Naturally Jesus saved Peter and then asked him "why did you doubt?"



Sadly, doubt is a very human thing to do. We can be full of bravado, but when faced with a challenge the doubts set in, and the bigger the challenge the quicker and more strongly those doubts arrive. However with resolve and faith in Christ, we can face our challenges and we too can say, as Jesus's disciples said 2000 years ago, "Truly you (Jesus) are the Son of God".

Sermons.com (Edited)

Missing the Rocks (Humour)

There is a joke concerning the story of Jesus walking on water that has gone around for years about three ministers out fishing together in a small boat. One of them, suddenly realizing that he had left his tackle box in the cabin, stepped out of the boat, and walked on the water over to shore. Just then, the second one said he had forgotten his faithful fishing hat on the front seat of the car. He too stepped out of the boat and walked on the water over to shore. When they had both returned, the third minister who had watched this remarkable demonstration with mouth open and eyes wide, reasoned to himself "My faith is as strong as theirs. I can do that too."



So he stepped out of the boat and promptly sank to the bottom. His two companions dragged him out, but once they got him in the boat, he was determined not to be shown up. He stepped out once more, and immediately sank again. As his friends pulled him out, he sputtered, "My faith is as strong as yours. Why can't I walk on the water?" The first two looked at each other and one finally said, "We'd better tell him where those rocks are before he drowns himself."

David E. Leininger, Mayday! (Edited)

Reminder: CampFIRE 2023

CampFIRE 2023 will be held at Lake Yealering from 22 to 25 September. To register go to <https://forms.gle/TenBqhYktGdr98Md8>

For more information:

Contact Dave Gardner E: dave@peaksite.com or M: 0414 989 441

A copy of the information and registration brochure will be circulated by email with this newsletter.



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.



Choir Concert

The Australian Christian Men's Choir will be performing at the Westley Uniting Church, 75 William Street Perth, from **7-30pm on Friday 18th August**. Piet Speyers is a member of the Choir and he will be delighted if members of the congregation attend that night.

The Choir will be accompanied by famous soloist Dutch pianist and organist Arjan Breukhoven in cooperation with violinist Winston't Hart and choir accompanist Liam Dekker.

Tickets are \$15 per person, and can be purchased at the website: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1096554/>

If the concert isn't sold out, there may be some tickets available at the door. Children under 12 years old have free entrance.



MEN'S CHOIR

Ladies Luncheon

A ladies' luncheon will be held **Wednesday 23rd August** at **The Cut Tavern Bar & Bistro**, 8 Rod Court Wannanup, starting at midday. Attendees will be invited to donate \$5 each, with the money raised to go to the WA Cancer Council.



Please RSVP as soon as possible to Robyn at crspeyers@gmail.com Please let Robyn know as soon as you can if you are coming (**last day to advise 16 August.**)

Coffee, Cake & Fellowship

You are invited to join the ladies or gentlemen respectively for coffee, delicious pastries and scintillating conversation:

For Ladies: She Brews - 9-30am every Wednesday
Seven Trees Café, 11 Galbraith Loop, Falcon

For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Tuesday 15th August
and every fortnight at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Averil Clark Thursday 17 August
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday*

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)

