



## 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

## Pentecost 13

27 August 2023

Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith  
 Flowers: Peter Punch  
 Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury  
 Reader: Pauline Terblanche  
 Kids Church: Julie Lehmann  
 Church Rep: Raelyn Punch  
 Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann  
 Speaker: Frances Davy



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



### Readings from the Lectionary

Gen 45:1-15  
 Ps 133  
 Rom 9:11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Mt 15:(10-20), 21-28

Ex 1:8-2:10  
 Ps 124  
 Rom 12:1-8  
 Mt 16:13-20

## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Or any member of the Leadership Team

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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."*

### A Mother's Faith

There is a great deal of information about the man who became known as Augustine of Hippo, or St Augustine by the Roman Catholic Church; although it is highly likely that some of the material written about him should be regarded as having been written "through rose tinted glasses". He is widely regarded as one of the most important early Christian philosophers and he was a central figure in the development of the early Catholic Church; but as a young man he was not a Christian.

However, his mother, Monica, was a devout believer who prayed constantly for her son's salvation. She devoted her life to praying for Augustine's conversion to Christianity. At one point, when Augustine was becoming devoted to the Manichaeon philosophy\* (there is a brief explanation of Manicheism overleaf), Monica begged a holy man to speak to Augustine, and show him why their beliefs were not true. The holy man refused because Augustine was known to have a great intellect, and would likely try to savage the holy man's arguments. The holy man assured Monica that he, too, had once been a Manichaeon, and that Augustine was too smart to deceive himself much longer. At this, Monica began to cry. The holy man sent her away, saying, "Go, go! Leave me alone. Live on as you are living. It is not possible that the son of such tears should be lost."

The holy man was right. After many years and a fierce inner struggle, Augustine was touched by a revelation in the scriptures and became a Christian. When Monica learned of her son's salvation, she remarked that she had nothing left to live for, for the greatest desire of her heart had been fulfilled. Nine days later, Monica died, and the son she had spent her life praying for, went on to affect the whole world.



Continued Overleaf

## A Mother's Faith (Continued)

Monica never stopped asking God to look after her son. "Live on as you are living," said the holy man. "It is not possible that the son of such tears should be lost."

Are you concerned about someone you love? Keep on asking God for help. Don't let your tears quench the flame of your faith in God. It may seem like God is ignoring you, but I assure you that is not the case. Don't give up. Keep asking and keep on trusting. Your prayers will be answered.



King Duncan, *When You Need Help*, adapted from Ruth Bell Graham, *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them*. (Edited)

**\*Editor:** Manichaeism, founded by 3<sup>rd</sup> century prophet Mani, was a major religion which combined components of many faiths including Christian, Buddhist and Islamic teachings. Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries it was a major rival to early Christianity. Ruthlessly stamped out in the Roman Empire, it had spread east and is still practiced secretly in some parts of regional China.

Wikipedia (Edited)

## We Have Visitors Coming

For some years the Leadership Team of Billabong Church have held an annual retreat in Falcon. Last year they joined us at a Sunday service to celebrate together our love of God through praise and song.

This year on **17 September**, Rev. Luke Williams, Yoy and members of the Billabong Church will join us for the service, and lead our worship and songs of praise. Make sure you make a note in your diaries to ensure you won't miss a joyous celebration of our Lord's love.



## A Prayer for Today

Help me oh Lord to remember that my life is a gift, that my health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, and that every day I have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Help me oh Lord 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.

Help me oh Lord to always remember You. I pray that today is a wonderful day oh Lord, full of joy, love and your blessings. **Amen.**

<https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-today> (Edited)



# 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.*



## Don't Jump to Conclusions

A family of five was enjoying their day at Blue Bay Beach in Halls Head. The children were playing in the ocean and making sand castles when in the distance a little old lady appeared. Her grey hair was blowing in the wind, her clothes were dirty and ragged and she was using a walking stick as she wandered along the beach. She was muttering something to herself as she picked up things from the sand and put them into a bag. The parents called the children to their side and told them to stay away from the old lady. As she passed by, bending down every now and then to pick something up, she smiled at the family, but they didn't return her greeting.



A few weeks later the family learned from a friend that the little old lady was a retired school teacher who'd made it her goal to pick up bits of glass from the beach so children wouldn't cut their feet. The friend told them that as she picked up the broken glass, she prayed for the people who had dropped it, even though she didn't know who they were.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, gave his life on the cross so that we might know the love, forgiveness and acceptance of our God. Jesus died for each of us personally. We can't look at another human being without thinking to ourselves, Jesus died for them, too. We do a disservice when we jump to conclusions about people because of how they look, where they live or the type of work that they do. We are all equal Jesus' eyes.

Billy D. Strayhorn, *From the Pulpit*, CSS Publishing Company (Edited)

## Reminder: CampFIRE 2023

A reminder has been received from the organisers of CampFIRE 2023 Asking for people to register as soon as possible. As usual, CampFIRE 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](mailto:dave@peaksite.com) or M: 0414 989 441



## 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)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Jill McIlwaine** Tuesday 22 August

**Ken Lehmann** Tuesday 22 August

**Keith Picking** Friday 25 August

**God Bless and warm wishes**

**To you all upon your birthdays**