



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Pentecost 16 17 September 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Cynthia Falconer
Coffee/Tea: Ken & Julie Lehmann
Reader: John Lawrence
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Billabong Church
Speaker: Billabong Church

Pentecost 17 24 September 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Jan Gibson
Coffee/Tea: Cliff & Averil Clark
Reader: Keith Picking
Kids Church: Julie Lehmann
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
Worship Leader: Jenni Anderson
Speaker: Neil Masters



Forgiveness Written in Stone (Mt 18:21-35)

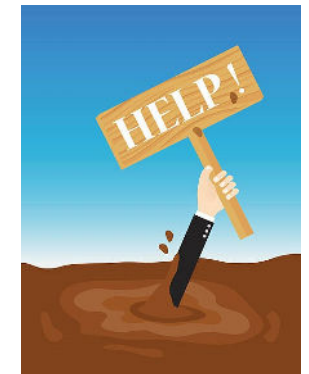
A story is told of two friends who were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand, "Today my best friends slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from nearly drowning, he wrote on a stone, "Today my best friend saved my life."

His friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

So real forgiveness keeps on leaving the sins of others and our hurts in the past. Yet Jesus understands the difficulty of such forgiveness. To keep on forgiving is a God-like characteristic. It is contrary to human nature. So He gives a parable beginning in v.21 which will help us obey His commandment to keep on forgiving.

Stephen Felker, *How Often Should I Forgive?*



Readings from the Lectionary

Ex 14:19-31
Ps 114 or Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21
Rom 14:1-12
Mt 18:21-35

Ex 16:2-15
Ps 105:1-6, 37-45
Phil 1:21-30
Mt 20:1-16



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."

Reminder: Fellowship Luncheon This Sunday

This Sunday our service will be led by members of the Billabong Church who are staying in Falcon for a retreat. After the service we will share an early luncheon with our guests. Please make sure you attend the service which will be a joyous celebration of our faith, and bring your favourite dish, whether it is a savoury dish or dessert, to share with our extended church family.

If you have any questions please speak to any of the members of our Leadership Team (their names are on the back page).



A Prayer in Spring

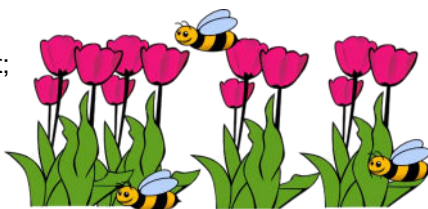
Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy bees,
The swarm buzzing round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The honeyeater that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill. Amen.

Robert Frost (edited) <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online>



Dates for Your Diary

Please make a note in your diaries for the following events:

◆ Our Annual Advent/Christmas Concert

Our very popular Advent Concert will be held on Saturday evening 2nd December at our church. Ken Lehmann will once again be organising this event and acting as MC on the night. If you would like to join the singers or musicians, or to help in any other way please contact Ken M: 0417 955 149 or E: kenneth.lehmann@bigpond.com

◆ A Special Christmas Eve Service

There will be a Christmas Eve service held on Sunday 24th December, led by our pastor, Yoy Alberastine.

More information will be published in the Messenger as it becomes available. In the meantime please make sure you have reserved these dates in your diary.



Prayer & Worship Night

You are invited to join the Southern Corridor Concert of Prayer. The event has been organised as part of the World Prayer Assembly. Everyone is welcome.

When: 5-30 to 7-30pm Sunday 17 September

Where: Lakes Theatre, 22 Catalina Drive, Lakelands

More information about the World Prayer Assembly can be found at: <https://reg.wpa2023au.org>



Reminder: The Enablers List

Thank you to everyone who has already advised their availability for the 1st October to 31st December 2023 quarter's Enablers' List.

If you haven't been on the Enablers' List previously, or have taken a break from the List, please join in. You can get more information about the Enablers' List from any of the Leadership Team.

Could all new and existing congregational members who have not yet emailed Peter advising the dates you are **NOT** available then please do so **ASAP** at: prpunch@lasar.net.au by no later than **5pm Thursday 21st September** and let him know which Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader and/or kids church).

Please Note: if you don't reply, your trusty editor will assume you are available on any of fourth quarter's Sundays



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)



Food Drive

Please keep putting your non-perishable food donations in the box in the church foyer as there are many people who still need our help.

For more information please contact Sherryl Smith M: 0409 305 910 or E: sherryisa60@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.

