



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Pentecost 20

15 October 2023



Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
 Flowers: Debbie Hardy
 Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury

Reader: Andrew Gibson
 Kids Church: Julie Lehmann
 Church Rep: Jenni Anderson
 Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann
 Speaker: Piet Speyers

Pentecost 21

22 October 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
 Flowers: Barbara Smith
 Coffee/Tea: Andrew & Jan Gibson & John & Sue Lawrence

Reader: Barbara Smith
 Kids Church: TBA
 Church Rep: Jenni Anderson
 Worship Leader: Jenni Anderson
 Speaker: Frances Davy



Will you accept His invitation? *You're Invited!*

Matthew 22:1-14

The parable of the wedding feast ends on an interesting note. Someone that initially declines the invitation realizes his mistake and sneaks in. But he is not wearing the right clothes and stands out from the others and was kicked out. Jesus ends the parable with these words: "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

The message was clear to the religious there that day. Many of them had rejected the invitation. They were not worthy to attend this party because they had rejected God's gracious offer through faith in his son. All were invited, but many have chosen to reject the invitation.

God has opened the invitation up to the entire world. Jews and Gentiles. Good and evil people alike. All are welcome to enter in the party, all can have salvation through faith. All that is needed is to accept the invitation.

The parable of the wedding feast is a reminder and a challenge for us just as it was for the religious leaders who heard it first. God has invited you. He's made it possible for you to go to the party; to enter into salvation. Some will reject the invitation. They will refuse to go in. That's their choice. God has given us free will to choose to follow him or not. They aren't rejected by God, rather they've rejected God. Others will try to enter salvation while maintaining a facade of righteousness. They think they can, or need to, earn their salvation. They are counting on their own self-righteousness to get them in. But they will be found out and removed.

The point is those who enter will do so by the **grace of God**, not their own works. The religious in Jesus' day thought they deserved salvation based on their lineage. They refused to admit their faults and sin. The same is often true today. Many refuse to accept God's grace because they refuse to admit they need it. Those who enter the party, who get salvation, are those who look to God to provide. All are invited, but some will reject the invitation. It's up to you to choose your response. Will you accept the invitation God has given you?

What Jesus does with this parable is brilliant and bold. He holds no punches and shows the Pharisees exactly where they stand. Of course, this story isn't just for them, there's implications for us today too. The biggest of which is we are invited to the king's wedding feast. We don't have to do anything to get an invitation other than accept it. But we still need to look the part. Of course, we aren't talking about clothing here. Jesus is pointing at our hearts. Are we hypocrites like the Pharisees who looked good on the outside but were a mess on the inside? Or do we allow the king, Jesus, to clean us up and transform us from the inside?

Extract from Jeffery Curtis Poor www.rethinkknow.org

Readings from the Lectionary

Ex 32:1-14
 Ps 106:1-6, 19-23
 Phil 4:1-9
 Mt 22:1-14

Ex 33:12-23
 Ps 99
 1 Thes 1:1-10
 Mt 22:15-22



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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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.

Toys For Christmas

Last year Tony McAlinden asked our congregation to collect toys for the children whose parents were in prison. He said this will be hugely beneficial for the children, who don't understand why their parents can't come home, and for their parents' mental health. The response from our congregation was fantastic, and at last year's Christmas concert several large boxes of presents were presented to Tony McAlinden. He was extremely grateful and later told us that the recipients of those gifts were overwhelmed with the generosity which had been shown to them.



Tony has approached the Leadership Team and asked if South Mandurah will once again support this worthwhile cause. So we are asking the congregation to donate toys for children whose mother or father will be in jail at Christmas time. The toys can be new or near new and don't need to be wrapped. If you are donating a toy which requires batteries, please provide the appropriate batteries. For more information speak to any member of the Leadership Team.

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 24th October
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



Compassionate Friends Service

Compassionate Friends is a charity aimed at supporting bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who have suffered the death of a child. This year their annual service will be held at SMUC on 10th December, 6-30pm for a 7pm start. Everyone is welcome. More information will be provided as it becomes available.



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.



Congratulations



Andrew and Jan Gibson

We give thanks for the safe arrival of your new little granddaughter on Thursday. We pray that mother, father and baby are all well and settling into their new life together. And that she brings great joy wherever she goes and to all she meets.

Pink Ribbon Morning Tea

The Tuesday Craft Group invite you, your family and friends to our annual fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research.

When: Tuesday 24th October at 9.30 am

Where: The Fellowship Room,
South Mandurah Uniting Church
2-4 REES PLACE

Cost: \$15 entry with raffle tickets and stalls on the day.

Theme: PINK ATTIRE [The more pink the better!!]

Come and join us for a cuppa and a laugh!

Contact: Sue Lawrence to book a table for you and friends. M: 043 029 530
E: jslaw1@bigpond.com

If anyone is interested in joining the Tuesday Craft Group, please speak to Sue. The group meets every Tuesday, starting at 9am.



The Messenger

Jenni Anderson has kindly agreed to be our guest editor of the Messenger until 29th October while Peter & Raelyn are holidaying. If you have any articles, notices or prayers please email them by **5pm Tuesday** to: jenni.anderson@internode.on.net

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)



Happy Birthday

Coralie Telfer Tuesday 17 October
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday*



Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."