



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



The Mercy of God

There is a wonderful story, called "Matthew, Seven, Eight, and Nine" about how a man tried to stop his son Matthew from stealing comic books. He tried various uses of the law over several years and continued to fail. Finally, he resorted to something he rarely used: a spanking. He did it deliberately, almost ritualistically, and he was so upset when he finished that he left the room and wept. After pulling himself back together, he went in to Matthew and hugged him. A number of years later, Matthew and his mother were doing some general reminiscing, and Matthew happened to bring up the time when he kept stealing comic books. "And you know why I finally stopped?" he asked. "Sure," she said, "Because Dad finally spanked you." "No!" replied Matthew, "No, because Dad cried." The author concludes with these words:

"Hereafter, let every accuser of my son reckon with the mercy of God, and fall into a heap, and fail. For love accomplished what the law could not, and tears more powerful than Sinai. Even the Prince of Accusers shall bring no charge against my son that the Final Judge shall not dismiss. Satan, you are defeated! My God has loved my Matthew."

Paul Nuechterlein (Edited)

God Will See You Through

I like the story of an unusual account of how the news of the Battle of Waterloo reached England. The report from the battle ground back in those days was first carried by sailing ship to the southern coast and then by signal flags to London. And when the report was received at Winchester, the flags on the cathedral began to spell out the message, "Wellington defeated." And then before the message could be completed, a heavy fog rolled in and with that heavy fog the gloom of a nation filled the hearts of the people. But then, when the mist began to lift, it became evident that the signals of the Winchester Cathedral had really spelled out this triumphant message. "Wellington defeated the enemy!"

Too often we allow the future to be coloured by what we understand at the moment and it keeps us from moving forward. Trust God in the midst of transition and conflict. Let go of resistance to change. Let go of panic, release yourself again into His hands. God is for you and God will see you through. Trust in him.

George Antonakos, Life on a Ferris Wheel (Edited)



Lent 5
17 March 2024

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
Flowers: Sue Lawrence
Coffee/Tea: Keith & Jaren Picking
Reader: Sue Lawrence
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
Speaker: Piet Speyers

Palm Sunday
24 March 2024

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



Readings from the Lectionary

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16
Heb 5:5-10
Jn 12:20-33

Is 50:4-9a
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Phil 2:5-11
Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16 or
Mk 14:1-15:47 or Mk 15:1-39 (40-47)



South Mandurah Uniting Church

2-4 Rees Place Wannanup
PO Box 5290 FALCON WA 6210

Website: <https://southmandurah.ucwa.au>

Email: sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com

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: TBA

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: Yoy Alberastine, Rev. Mike Fawcett, Kerry Lawson, Sherryl Smith, Andrew Telfer & Raelyn Punch

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."

Easter Services

Father Chris, Saint Damien's minister, has extended an invitation to the South Mandurah congregation to continue our tradition of joining them for the Stations of the Cross service and morning tea on Good Friday. Please note the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you at the services listed below:

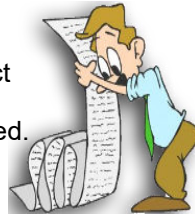


Good Friday: March 29 Stations of the Cross
At St Damien's Catholic School Oval,
1 Nyabing Pass, Dawesville,
Commencing at 10-00am,
followed by morning tea

Easter Sunday: March 31 Sunday service
At SMUC Commencing at 9-30am,
followed by morning tea

SMUC Contact List

Thank you to all those who responded so promptly to the emails regarding confirmation of your contact details for our annual contact list. Over half the congregation responded within 3 days which was wonderful, and there are now only 13 people who haven't responded. If you haven't responded, or didn't receive an email listing your contact details, please contact Peter at prpunch@lasar.net.au



A Lenten Prayer

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship, for the freedom to be amongst your family meeting together in your house, and in the warmth of your embrace.

Thank you that in worship we can put aside, the uncertainties of this world and rest upon the certainties of the Kingdom, for your promises are not changeable as those of a politician might be, but immovable and eternal.

Thank you that we can bring to your feet all the hurts and fears that trouble us, and leave them there, knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we require.

Thank you that as we draw near in worship, we are transported from a world of concerns and fears, to a place where we can be at peace in your presence, find healing, wholeness and refreshment.

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship. **Amen**

www.faithandworship.com/prayers (Edited)

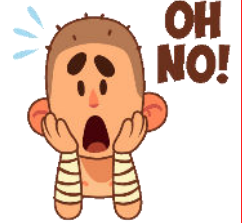


The Enablers List

Last week's Messenger included a request for all our valued Enablers to send the dates they're available for the **1st April to 30th June 2024 quarter.**

To date your editor has only received 3 replies and while it is 2 weeks from the cut off for replying (being **5pm Sunday 24th March**), this is an unusually poor response rate. To help Peter organise the Enablers' List please email him at prpunch@lasar.net.au ASAP advising your availability and the Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader and/or kids church).

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 from 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
Café Coast, 45 Rees Pl, Port Bouvard Marina, Wannanup

For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Tuesday 19th March 2024

The gentlemen meet fortnightly 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



Pastoral Care

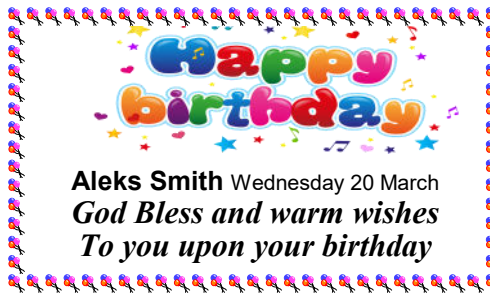
For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett

M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

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



Aleks Smith Wednesday 20 March
God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday



Sunday Prayer Group

Members and are reminded visitors are invited to an informal prayer group meeting which is held at the church on Sunday mornings from 9-00am to 9-15am. All are 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.

