



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



## Called to Love Not Like

Will Rogers, an American vaudeville actor, said that he never met a man he didn't like. In the musical that celebrated his life, there is a song by that title and in that song Rogers admits that one man "put him to the test," but never pushed him finally to the point where his ability to like evaporated. I don't know what your response is to Rogers' disclosure, but I am led to think he was -- to utilize an overworked phrase -- "in denial." Come now, can any of us stand and say that we have, without exception, always liked every single person with whom we have ever come into contact? I appreciated the honesty of a well-seasoned cleric who confessed: "There are some people to whom I couldn't warm even if I were cremated with them!"



Let's get this on the table before we go a step further. Christian men and women are not called to like everyone. The old camp song is titled "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love," and not, "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Likes and Dislikes." If there are folks to whom you do not warm, know please that you are not in violation of any Christian norm.

We are not called to like, but we are called -- and this is the burden of our text -- to love: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you," says Jesus.

Love, as it is defined by our faith, is both a revered panacea, and an underemployed practice. To say that the answer to the world's problems is for people to love each other more is both right and banal at the same time. It sounds wonderful and grand. Who would argue with the contention? But when you sit eyeball to eyeball with another person -- especially one who is cantankerous, obnoxious, difficult, unlovely, and seemingly unlovable -- it is anything but an easy task. There will be more than a few times when we say with Jeremiah: "O that I had in the desert a traveller's lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them!" (Jeremiah 9:2).

Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian theologian, observed: "In the Christian sense, love is not primarily an emotion, but an act of will." Only through studying the Gospels do we come to realise that Christian Love Is learned from God, and nowhere is this better expressed than in John 15:9-17.

Sermons.com (Edited)

## Easter 6 5 May 2024



Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Cynthia Falconer  
Coffee/Tea: Andrew & Jan Gibson & Rosie Sharp  
Reader: Piet Speyers  
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine  
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith  
Worship Leader: Piet Speyers  
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine

## Easter 7 12 May 2024

Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith  
Flowers: Judy Law  
Coffee/Tea: Alison Yule & Pauline Terblanche  
Reader: Barbara Smith  
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine  
Church Rep: Yoy Alberastine  
Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine  
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett  
(Communion)



## Readings from the Lectionary

Acts 10:44-48  
Ps 98  
1 Jn 5:1-6  
Jn 15:9-17

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Ps 1  
1 Jn 5:9-13  
Jn 17:6-19



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E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Members of the Leadership Team: Rev. Mike Fawcett, Ps. Yoy Alberastine, 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."*

## Pastoral Visits & Open House

Pastor Yoy is at our church the first and second Saturday of every month from 9am to midday or by appointment in the afternoons. He would welcome the opportunity to share a time of prayer or a chat over a cup of coffee with you. Yoy can be contacted via email:

[yoyea1210@gmail.com](mailto:yoyea1210@gmail.com) or M: 0421 793 562.



Additionally, Rev. Mike and Ps Yoy are working on a plan to organise pastoral visits on a fortnightly basis. The visits will be on the after-noon of the men's coffee mornings. If you would like to arrange for a pastoral visit please contact Ps Yoy (details above) or Rev. Mike M: 0412 243 677 E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

## I Am The One Jesus Loves

Author and speaker Brennan Manning came up with the slogan "I am the one Jesus loves." It sounds a little arrogant doesn't it but he is actually quoting Scripture. Jesus' closest friend on earth, the disciple named John, is identified in the Gospels as "the one Jesus loved." Manning said, "If John were to be asked, 'What is your primary identity in life?' he would not reply, 'I am a disciple, an apostle, an evangelist, an author of one of the four Gospels,' but rather, 'I am the one Jesus loves.'"

What would it mean, I ask myself, if I too came to the place where I saw my primary identity in life as "the one Jesus loves"? How differently would I view myself at the end of a day?

Sociologists have a theory of the looking-glass self: you become what the most important person in your life (wife, father, boss, etc.) thinks you are. How would my life change if I truly believed the Bible's astounding words about God's love for me, if I looked in the mirror and saw what God sees?

Manning tells the story of an Irish priest who, on a walking tour of a rural parish, sees an old peasant kneeling by the side of the road, praying. Impressed, the priest says to the man, "You must be very close to God." The peasant looks up from his prayers, thinks a moment, and then smiles, "Yes, he's very fond of me."

Brett Blair, [www.Sermons.com](http://www.Sermons.com) Adapted from Phillip Yancey, *What's So Amazing about Grace?* [pp. 68-69] (Edited)



*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*



## Guest Speaker at the Craft Group

The Tuesday Craft Group have organised a guest speaker on Tuesday 28 May 9.00am -11.30am. The speaker is Lyn Leeder and she will be speaking in the Fellowship Room about a Bali Maternity Hospital (Bumi Sehat).

Everyone is invited and you are welcome to bring guests. Morning tea will be provided and there will be hand crafts available for purchase with the money going to the hospital.

For more information please contact Julie Lehmann M: 0431834422.



## "THY KINGDOM COME" PRAYER ROOM

Following the success of the last two years, we are excited that our Prayer Room is happening again this year. We will join with many other churches around Australia and the world in the Global Prayer Movement called "Thy Kingdom Come." More information can be found at [https:// www.thykingdomcome.global](https://www.thykingdomcome.global)



The Prayer Room will held every morning **9am to midday Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10am -1pm** for people to come either individually or in a group to spend a quiet time with God and pray. There will be ideas for prayer as well as written prayers at the church. When you are not at the Church we hope you will put some additional time aside to pray at home. Please indicate which day you will come, so we have people praying at church each day. An invitation to join us has been extended to other churches in our area.

On **19 May Pentecost Sunday** after morning tea we will gather in the Church for a short time of prayer. The focus will be praying for the prayer requests from the prayer room. A light lunch will follow. Please bring finger food to share.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and transformation of communities." (Archbishop Justin Welby)

**For more information please contact:**

Frances Davy M: 0488 906 280 E: [2davyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:2davyfamily@gmail.com) or  
Sherryl Smith M: 0409 305 910 E: [sherryisa60@gmail.com](mailto:sherryisa60@gmail.com)

## 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)

## On Line Giving

Please consider using the convenience of online banking for your giving at:

**Bank:** Halls Head Bendigo Bank  
**A/C Name:** Uniting Church in Australia -  
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**BSB:** 633-000

**Account No:** 117072207

For more information please speak to any member of the Leadership Team.