

8 September 2024



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Pentecost 16 8 September 2024



Welcome: Judy Law & Rosie Sharp
 Flowers: Flowers kindly donated
 Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury
 Reader: Andrew Gibson
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
 Church Rep: Rev. Mike Fawcett
 Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
 Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (Communion)

Pentecost 17 15 September 2024

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
 Flowers: Jan Gibson
 Coffee/Tea: Andrew & Jan Gibson
 Reader: Frances Davy
 Kids Church: Judy Smith
 Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
 Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann
 Speaker: On Line Video



Readings from the Lectionary

Prv 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
 Ps 125
 Jas 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
 Mk 7:24-37

Prv 1:20-33
 Ps 19
 Jas 3:1-12
 Mk 8:27-38



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Email: sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com

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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: Rev. Mike Fawcett
 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: 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."

Beloved (Mk 7:24-37)

This week, we see Jesus once again affirming the strength of what binds us together as a "common" people, as a "common" creation! Jesus spent a lot of time trying to make sure we understand that all people are beloved of God – even those designated by the Jewish faithful as "gentiles." He also spent a great deal of time explaining to his disciples and the Pharisees that what makes someone "common" or *koine* (translated in our scriptures as defiled) has nothing to do with heritage or rule following, but with the state of the heart and one's desire for and faith in God, that which issues in a loving, kind, merciful, and compassionate spirit. After this conversation, which his own disciples still find difficult and opaque, he will deliberately lead them purposefully into gentile territory (where the supposed "common" folk dwell), where he will demonstrate a number of "teachable moments" that will challenge not only his contemporaries but still challenges us today.



It's impossible therefore to splice and dice these passages of scripture and look at them individually. This has typically resulted in huge misinterpretations. We need to read these stories whole, in context, and as Jesus' actions unfolded. When we do, the beauty of his expertise as a master teacher emerges.

Discipleship was meant not to merely be a series of "lectures" or "book study." Discipleship in Jesus' time meant observing and engaging with the master as he interacted with others and demonstrated and acted out the precepts and character-building and faith-forming theses that he wanted his disciples to understand. Jesus was not interested merely in imparting knowledge; he was interested in changing peoples' entire "worldview." This required a kind of holistic understanding that needed to be experienced.

So, let's follow Jesus as he takes this journey to demonstrate the "real life" lessons behind his lecture on what it means to be "defiled" or "common." From Syro-phoenicia to the Decapolis, this is an important series of teaching events that illuminate Jesus' "gentile mission," a mission to prove that we are all God's beloved. A mission that continues today for all of Christ's modern disciples, to spread the word that we are all beloved by god.

Sermons.com (Edited)

Spring Prayers for Renewal

Blossoming Hope

Dear God,
In the gentle embrace of spring's warmth, I come before you with a humble heart, seeking the blossoming of hope within my soul. Just as the flowers emerge from the earth, let my spirit rise with the optimism and renewed faith that this season brings. Grant me the wisdom to see the beauty in each new day, even in the face of life's challenges. As I stand in awe of your creation, may this season of renewal remind me that hope is the eternal spring that flows from your boundless love. **Amen.**



Nuturing Inner Renewal

Dear God,
With the arrival of spring, I turn my gaze inward, seeking a profound inner renewal. Just as the earth sheds its winter coat, may I shed the burdens that weigh heavily on my heart. Grant me the strength to cleanse my spirit, releasing what no longer serves me, and making space for the beauty of new beginnings. In this season of renewal, I find solace in your divine presence, knowing that you are the ultimate source of my transformation. **Amen.**

Blossoming Love

Heavenly Father,
As the countryside adorns itself in the vibrant hues of spring, I humbly pray that my heart may likewise blossom with love. Grant me the ability to love more deeply, to forgive more readily and to extend kindness to all living beings. May my love be a reflection of the boundless love you have for us, encompassing the entire world in a warm embrace of compassion and understanding. **Amen**

<https://strenthinprayer.com/prayers-for-spring-renewal/> (Edited)

Containers For Change

Since we started collecting containers for change we have raised hundreds of dollars for local charities.

Please keep donating your recyclables by putting them in the bin in the foyer, or taking them to one of the 6 drop off points in Mandurah. If you are taking your recyclables to one of the drop points please make sure you use South Mandurah Uniting Church's customer and scheme ID, which are:

Customer: UCA—South Mandurah **Scheme ID:** C10461190



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



The Enablers List

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to join our church's Enablers' List. Our volunteers do a terrific job and without your help our church services would not be the joyous celebration of God's Love that we enjoy and share every Sunday.

It is now time to start compiling the Enablers' List for the **1st October to 31st December 2024 quarter**. 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 from any member of the Leadership Team. Could all new and existing congregational members willing to serve on the Enablers' List please email Peter at prpunch@lasar.net.au **ASAP** and not later than **5pm Monday 16th September** advising your availability and the Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader and/or kids church).



Prayer Walk

Weather permitting, there will be a prayer walk after church and morning tea. Please join Frances and Sherryl praying for our community.

For more information please contact:

Frances Davy M; 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com or
Sherryl Smith M: 0409 305 910 E: sherryisa60@gmail.com



A Reminder of Coming Events

- **50 Year celebration for Mandurah Uniting Church** on Friday 20th September from 2pm at the church on Pinjarra Road
- **CampFire 2024** from Friday 20th September at Lake Yealering. (You must register prior to attending).

Flyers for both functions can be found in the church foyer or can be obtained by emailing Peter at 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)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Barbara Smith Monday 9 September
Lynsay Dunning Tuesday 10 September

*God Bless and warm wishes
To you both upon your birthdays*