



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

## 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

## Pentecost 18 22 September 2024

Welcome: Rosie Sharp & Judy Law  
Flowers: Flowers Kindly Donated  
Coffee/Tea: Ken & Julie Lehmann  
Reader: Alyana Roberts  
Kids Church: TBA  
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer  
Worship Leader: Rev. Mike Fawcett  
Speaker: Rudolf van Noppen (Barnabus Fund)



### The Enemy of Jesus

Some years ago a refugee from Africa decided to earn some extra money by performing as a comedian in a local pub. On the night of his first performance there was a large cheerful crowd and he started off by saying: "On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk--you just add water, and you get milk. Then I saw powdered orange juice--you just add water, and you get orange juice. And then I saw baby powder, and I thought to myself, "What a country!"

Naturally he was joking but we make these assumptions about Christian Transformation - that people change instantly at salvation. Some traditions call it repentance and renewal. Some call it Sanctification of the believer. Whatever you call it most traditions expect some quick fix to sin. According to this belief, when someone gives his or her life to Christ, there is an immediate, substantive, in-depth, miraculous change in habits, attitudes, and character. We go to church as if we are going to the grocery store: Powdered Christian. Just add water and disciples are born not made.

Unfortunately, there is no such powder and disciples of Jesus Christ are not instantly born. They are slowly raised through many trials, suffering, and temptations. In many passages, including today's reading (Mk 8:27-38) Jesus is up against a formidable foe, and in the end this foe may possess more power than he does. But the foe is not Peter and it's not the Sanhedrin or Pontius Pilate, or Rome. This formidable foe is not even Satan himself. The powerful enemy of Jesus is our quest for positions of rank and status.

To address the confusion Jesus pulls his disciples together and brings them before a crowd. Then in front of the crowd he corrects the disciples' aspirations for privilege, rank, and power and he gives them this simple little directive: You must take up your cross and follow me. It was a huge challenge then and it remains so today. Humility is one of the hardest lessons to learn and yet to be faithful to the teachings of Christ we must practise what we profess to believe in. How heavy is your cross?

**PRIDE**  
IS CONCERNED WITH  
**WHO IS RIGHT**

**HUMILITY**  
IS CONCERNED WITH  
**WHAT IS RIGHT**

### Readings from the Lectionary

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

Prv 31:10-31  
Ps 1  
Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mk 9:30-37



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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For pastoral needs please contact Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677

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

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: [yoyea1210@gmail.com](mailto:yoyea1210@gmail.com)

Leadership Team Chair: Rev. Mike Fawcett

Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: [2davyfamily@gmail.com](mailto: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."*



## Congregational General Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend a Congregational Meeting which will be held after the service on **September 29th**. The Leadership Team will provide an update to the congregation and address any matters the congregation wishes to raise. If you have something to be put on the agenda please contact Mike Fawcett



## Join the leadership Team?

Expressions of interest are being sought from the congregation for the 2 vacant positions on our Leadership Team. For more information please speak to Mike Fawcett or any of the members of the Leadership Team. Formal expressions of interest must be emailed to Mike Fawcett E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)



**The Process:** The Leadership Team will discuss whether applicants are best suited to contribute to the congregation via a role on the Leadership Team or perhaps in some other capacity. Successful applicants will then be co-opted to the team for a specified period or until the next AGM, at which time they will be eligible to seek election to the Leadership Team.

## Christian Men of Peel Men's Breakfast

**Date:** 21st Sept 2024

**Venue:** Faith City Church, cnr Pinjarra Rd and Wanjeep St, Coodanup

**Time:** 7.45am for an 8.00am start

**Cost:** \$10 per person, cooked breakfast

**RSVP** to 0407592244 or [woollacott@31619935.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:woollacott@31619935.mailchimpapp.com)



## "Don't You Know Whom I Am?"

Hospital waiting room. One rather self-important individual was getting impatient. Unwilling to wait any longer, he barged in and demanded to be seen by the doctor. "Don't you know who I am?" Shouted the man. The secretary calmly pressed the button on the microphone of her loudspeaker system and asked the waiting patients. "I have a gentleman here who doesn't know who he is. Can someone please assist him in finding out? Thank you."



If you were to go around asking your friends, "What do people say about me?" Or "Who do you say I am?" they might take it as an evidence of pride or dementia. But what people believe and say about Jesus Christ will determine their destiny. Your confession concerning Jesus Christ is a matter of life or death.

Stephen Sizer, Who Am I?



*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 **1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au) **ASAP** and not later than **5pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September** advising your availability and the Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader and/or kids church).

## 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 Fortnightly on Tuesdays - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024** at the Taste of Italy Café in the Halls Head Shopping Centre

**More information?** Contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

## A Reminder on 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](mailto: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](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)



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

## Your Messenger

If you are not receiving this Newsletter by email and wish to do so, please contact Peter at: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Any articles, notices or prayer requests for the Messenger should be emailed to Peter no later than **5pm Wednesdays**



*Thank you*