



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

## Pentecost 20

6 October 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Flowers kindly donated  
Coffee/Tea: Cliff & Averil Clark  
Reader: John Lawrence  
Kids Church: TBA  
Music: Jim McWhinnie  
Church Rep: TBA  
Worship Leader: John Lawrence  
Speaker: Evelyn Ashley



## Pentecost 21

13 October 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Jan Gibson  
Coffee/Tea: Cynthia Falconer & Pauline Terblanche  
Reader: Andrew Gibson  
Kids Church: TBA  
Music: TBA  
Church Rep: TBA  
Worship Leader: Frances Davy  
Speaker: Piet Speyers



### For The Love of Children

This month, our lectionary readings have detailed Jesus' leadership lessons for his often "hard-headed" disciples. Why hard-headed? Because they are deeply entrenched in the laws, traditions, cultural assumptions, and mores of their current society – Jewish and Greek/Roman.

It's significant to note that throughout these lessons, Jesus has a child on his lap or by his side. Now in today's passage, people (especially women), obviously hearing his defence of children and his counter-cultural views on valuing them as equal members among his followers, not to mention his defence of women in his pronouncement on divorce (as in that patriarchal society, only men had that power), crowds of them, have begun bringing their children to him to be blessed.

Jesus' disciples view this as a huge breach of decorum and begin not only to protest but to speak sternly to them. The word in Greek means to rebuke, to reprimand, to prove, to instruct with a harsh disciplinary tone. In response, Jesus is "indignant." He is angry, incensed. He's just spent all afternoon trying to teach his disciples lessons about the treatment of others and their role as kind and uplifting leaders, and now this! Have they learned nothing? No wonder Jesus becomes exasperated frequently with his errant disciples. They continually act not out of their learning but out of their embedded traditions, their learned instincts, their cultural habits.

Once again, Jesus corrects them, saying, "Let the children come to me. Do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

And then...he takes them into his arms, lays his hands on them, and blesses them. Jesus is a huge lover of children! He is the most counter-cultural leader they had ever experienced.

Unlearning traditions and social mores that we have grown up with, have been surrounded with our entire lives perhaps, is hard., and the older we are the more inflexible and resistant we are to change. But Jesus told us we must learn to change, to learn new ideas and become more childlike. We must strive to become children of God because "anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Sermons.com (Edited)



### Readings from the Lectionary

Jb 1:1, 2:1-10  
Ps 26  
Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mk 10:2-16

Jb 23:1-9, 16-17  
Ps 22:1-15  
Heb:12-16  
Mk 10:17-31



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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

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

Email: [sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com](mailto:sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com)

Phone: 0428 439 756

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

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

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."*

### Strange Arithmetic

Dr. Paul Popenoe, a renowned marriage counsellor, was talking to a young husband who had been openly critical of his wife. Dr. Popenoe was explaining how two become one in marriage. In a smart reply the husband said, "Yes, but which one?" The counsellor said, "A little of each." Then he went on to explain that in marriage you have to develop "we-psychology"...and to think of yourself in terms of a pair rather than as an individual. What happens when two become one in a real marriage? Some think that it reduces your individuality. Too often one party or the other seems to be saying: "Alright - we two shall become one...and I AM the one!" Obviously, such a marriage is headed for trouble. Ideally, when "two become one" it means that each one is doubled, but not duplicated. You still retain your individual identity, but you add to yourself the identity of the other, and the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Mark 10:7)



A wise person once said: "A marriage consists of one master, one mistress, and two slaves; making, in total, one." That may be strange arithmetic, but it is good theology.

Donald B. Strobe, Collected Words, [www.eSermons.com](http://www.eSermons.com) (Edited)

### The Prayer for Today

Just for today, help me, God, to remember that my life is a gift, that my health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, that I have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember to be kind and patient to the people who love me, and to those who work with me too. Teach me to see all the beauty that I so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of my own soul.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember You.  
Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love.

Amen

<https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-today.html>



*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*



### Special prayer requests this week...



*This week we offer prayers for Yoy and Anita Alberastine, and for Grace Richards, and for their respective families. We offer prayers too for the medical staff caring for all those who are injured or unwell, asking that you bless them and guide them as they care for their patients.*

*Lord, we ask for your hand of healing, love, and support, to be upon these your children, as they seek You in their time of need. We lift each and every one of them up to you, through Christ our risen Saviour. Amen*

### Busy Bee 12<sup>th</sup> October

Helpers are needed for a Busy Bee on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 9-30am to trim the shrubs, prune the trees and do a general tidy up of the church grounds. There is also a request for one or more volunteers to make morning tea for the gardeners.

If you can help please contact Keith Johnston M: 0419 641 055 or E: [kjohnston140@gmail.com](mailto:kjohnston140@gmail.com) On the day please bring gardening gloves and, if you have them, secateurs, tree Loppers and/or pruning saws.



### 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](mailto:2davyfamily@gmail.com)



### Sunday Prayer Group

Members of the congregation and visitors are reminded that there is an informal prayer group meeting held at the church on Sunday mornings from 9-00am to 9-15am. All are welcome.

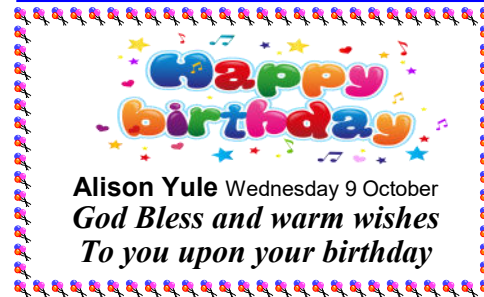


### Your Messenger

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*



**Alison Yule** Wednesday 9 October  
*God Bless and warm wishes  
To you upon your birthday*