



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Christmas 1 29 December 2024



Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: No flowers thank you
Coffee/Tea: Lynsay & Jenny Dunning
Reader: Keith Picking
Kids Church: TBA
Music: Jim McWhinnie
Church Rep: Kerry Lawson
Worship Leader: John Lawrence
Speaker: Frances Davey

Christmas 2 5 January 2025

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch
Flowers: Peter Punch
Coffee/Tea: Raelyn Punch & Cynthia Falconer
Reader: Peter Hyde
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Music: Jim McWhinnie
Church Rep: Rev. Mike Fawcett
Worship Leader: Piet Speyers
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett

Happy New Year

Growing Up Fast

Kids grow up awfully fast these days. It seems like one minute you are trying to encourage your child to go faster on his bicycle, to get up enough speed to stay balanced, and the next you are pleading with the same boy now at the wheel of a car, pleading with him to slow down and live. One minute you're urging a shy daughter to say hello to strangers, and the very next, you're trying to discourage her from responding to strangers on the Internet.

Jesus is growing up fast too. Here we are, less than a week from Christmas, from the baby lying in a manger. Now Jesus is already an adolescent wandering off on his own. Last week Jesus was "prophecy miraculously fulfilled." This week he is questioning the teachers of that very tradition.

The classical confessions of the church hold that Jesus is "fully human, fully God," and in today's familiar story from Luke, we can see both sides. Jesus, fully human, is growing up as all mortals must. In the process, Jesus has scared his parents half to death as all teenagers do. Jesus is asking questions, as should we all, and he is listening to learn, as all we must. And in this story, we see the twelve year old Jesus fully divine with everyone amazed at his understanding and his answers. We hear Jesus declaring his unique relationship with God the Father as only the Son can do.

Sid Burgess, Question Time (Edited)



Readings from the Lectionary

1 Sm 2:18-20, 26
Ps 148
Col 3:12-17
Lk 2:41-52

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ps 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18



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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."

School Is a Part of Life (Humour)

A young woman named Donna who got good grades in high school was in her first year at university. She had been enjoying the freedom and social life at university and as a result had done poorly in one of her courses. In an attempt to prepare her parents she wrote to her mother, "If you see an unfamiliar letter on my report, remember it's just my first initial" and signed it "Donna". In those days the university always posted an annual Report to the student's home address. As the time neared for her report to be posted Donna began to worry. Her worst fears were confirmed one evening when her mother called her. Donna said, "Hi, Mum", to which her mother replied coldly, "Hello, Frank."



School and university are part of life. For the Christian there are two kinds of education. There is education at school, at TAFE or university, and/or on the job; and there is religious education about our faith. We have just celebrated Christmas. Apart from Luke's story about a young Jesus worrying his parents (and don't all children do that), we don't know much about the next few years in Jesus' life. We can imagine he lived in a home filled with love. We can imagine as a boy he worked with his father Joseph in the carpenter shop, learning a trade. However some of the first signs of Jesus' real vocation would surface in our lesson for today. Signs of happenings that would change the world and our relationship with God for ever.

King Duncan, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com (Edited)

COFFEE, CAKE & FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

You are invited to join the ladies or gentlemen respectively for coffee, delicious pastries and scintillating conversation:

FOR LADIES: SHE BREWS - Normally held at the Café Coast, 45 Rees Pl, Port Bouvard Marina, Wannanup. The ladies meet at 9-30am every week on Wednesdays but the **NEW YEAR'S DAY (1ST JANUARY 2025) MORNING TEA IS CANCELLED.**

FOR GENTLEMEN: ESPRESSO - The gentlemen meet at the Taste of Italy Café in the Halls Head Shopping Centre.

THE NEXT MORNING TEA WILL BE ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025, then every fortnight.

For more information contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au



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.



The Enablers' List

The first draft of the Enablers' List for the first quarter of 2025 has now been completed. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. Unfortunately a number of people are not available in the coming quarter which has resulted in some double-ups and there are quite a few gaps in the list which have been marked "TBA" (to be advised).

Please contact Peter E: prpunch@lasar.net.au if you can help, especially for flowers, morning teas, children's church and on the music roster. Remember that more hands mean less work, and we need your help for the continued smooth running of our services on Sundays.



A Prayer For the Festive Season

Lord, We worship You during this Christmas season. You are our wonderful Counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. We choose to put You at the centre of our family life as we celebrate Your birth. Keep us from distractions and help us to invite You into all our family activities. Teach us to pray and help us to glorify and worship You in our family during this busy time of year. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might know You better. Thank you for being Immanuel, "God with us." Open our eyes to realize this each day as we interact with others.

Help us to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as You forgave us. Show us creative ways to love and care for those outside our home. Fill us to overflowing with Your love for the lost. Teach us to do acts of kindness to those who are in need at this time of year. May our family be a refreshment and light to others. We ask You to touch with salvation those in our family who do not know You. Open their hearts to Your great love for them. Help us to share Your Truth and be Your light. You are the Saviour of the world. Amen.

Debbie McDaniel (Edited) <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/christmas-prayers-and-blessings.html>

"Lord, teach us to pray..."



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)



Your Messenger

If you are not receiving this Newsletter by email and wish to do so, please contact Peter at: 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

