

2 February 2025



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



## Epiphany 4 2 February 2025



## Epiphany 5 9 February 2025

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
 Flowers: Cynthia Falconer  
 Coffee/Tea: Judy Law & Sherryl Smith  
 Reader: Andrew Gibson  
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine  
 Music: jim McWhinnie  
 Church Rep: Sherryl Smith  
 Worship Leader: Frances Davy  
 Speaker: Yoy Alberastine

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence  
 Flowers: Kerry Lawson  
 Coffee/Tea: Cliff & Averil Clark  
 Reader: Racquel Gunter  
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine  
 Music: Yoy Alberastine  
 Church Rep: Rev. Mike Fawcett  
 Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine  
 Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett



### Readings from the Lectionary

Jer 1:4-10  
 Ps 71:1-6  
 1 Cor 13:1-13  
 Lk 4:21-30

Is 6:1-8, (9-13)  
 Ps 138  
 1 Cor 15:1-11  
 Lk 5:1-11



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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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.

## The Unmasking of Nazareth



The "Phantom of the Opera," "Mardi Gras Celebration," "Halloween," the movie "The Mask" – and I'm sure many more. All times when masks are worn. We as people in fact have a kind of fascination with masking, whether we are masking ourselves or unsure of who lies behind the mask of someone else. Masks for us intrigue us and reveal our excitement for mystery and the unknown. What lurks behind the mask of the "Phantom?" We want to know. Is he disfigured? Shy? A hero? A psychopath? Our curiosity keeps us hooked until the end when his true nature is revealed. Who is it behind the masks at Halloween? Children love that guessing game as much as the game of "hide and seek." From masquerade "who done it" parties to blindfolded party games like "pin the tail on the donkey," we find it great fun to "hide," even if just for a little while.

Let's face it. We adore our masks. We adore our masks in society too, in our social circles, and in our churches. Masks allow ourselves to put forth a "persona" that we like more than we like ourselves. Masks allow us to project a personality that seems more acceptable to others than we perceive we will be accepted for ourselves. Masks permit us to be "one way" and "seem another" in ways that we find socially most advantageous to us –until we are revealed. Until the "lights" are turned on and we stand "naked" and "exposed" for exactly who we are.

In our scripture for today, Jesus is that "light" –that brash "revealing" ray that centres on Nazareth in a rather harsh way. In one swift act, he reveals their hidden motives, nature, self-righteousness, entitlement, expectations, judgments, and artificial sweetness. And like the face of the "phantom," what emerges is not pretty—the people of Nazareth can't accept that one "of their own" is their saviour. It wasn't just Jesus who unmasked himself, it was the people of his home town and they formed a "lynch mob" not dissimilar to the one at his execution. Sadly that day in Nazareth, because the people thought they knew who Jesus was and he didn't fit their expectations of who the Messiah would be, they resorted to violence and tried to kill him. How many people in the modern world can't or don't recognise the son of God?

[Sermons.com](https://www.sermons.com) (Edited)



*Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."*

### 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**  
**PLEASE NOTE: NEW VENUE**

**La Bell Café, Corner Village Mews and Westview Parade, Wannanup**

**For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February & then Fortnightly**  
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)



### Ladies Craft Group

The ladies craft group meets at the Church every Tuesday morning at 9am. There are a variety of crafts available accompanied by laughter, conversation and morning tea.

Please ring Sue on 0438 029 530 for more information or email: [jslaw1@bigpond.com](mailto:jslaw1@bigpond.com)



### Invitation to the Lent & Easter Think Tank



Members of the SMUC have been invited by the Uniting Centre for Education and Formation (UCEF) to join them for an inspiring and collaborative event designed to kick start our worship planning for Lent and Easter 2025.

The workshop will be held from **9:30 AM to 2:00 PM Wednesday, 5 February** at the Maylands-Mt Lawley Uniting Church, 165 Railway Parade, Mt Lawley.

This event provides an opportunity to share past ideas, gain fresh insights and collaborate with colleagues in ministry. It is open to ordained ministers, pastors, lay preachers and worship teams.

**Cost:** Individuals – \$15; Worship teams of 3 or more – \$35; Online – \$10  
**Refreshments:** Morning Tea provided. Please bring a plate to share for lunch.  
**You must book** by Sunday 2 February at Eventbrite:

<https://tinyurl.com/LentandEasterThinkTank2025>

For further information contact Mahshid Zadeh E: [PA.Education@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:PA.Education@wa.uca.org.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.*



## \*\*\*Very Important Church Business\*\*\*

### 1) Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Immediately after the service. Please support our wonderful Leadership Team by attending the AGM for the delivery of the annual report, presentation of the 2025 budget, election of Leadership Team members and general business.



**There will be a bring a plate and share luncheon at the completion of the AGM.**

### 2) Nominations for Election to the Leadership Team

Due to a number of members completing their terms there will be vacancies on the Leadership Team. New members are needed to help plan our congregation's future direction and to share the workload. Please consider putting your name forward as a candidate for election to the Leadership Team.



To nominate you **MUST** be an eligible member of the congregation and you **MUST** submit a written nomination which can either be emailed or handed in person to Rev. Mike Fawcett or Kerry Lawson. A nomination form will be attached to the email version of the Messenger and printed copies can be obtained from any member of the Leadership Team.

**For more information or to nominate please contact:**  
**Rev. Mike Fawcett** E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com) M: 0412 243 677, or  
**Kerry Lawson** E: [rkl@bigpond.com](mailto:rkl@bigpond.com) M: 0409 885 988

**URGENT** Please nominate **ASAP** for the Leadership Team elections. The closing time for nominations is **5pm Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

### 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*

