



Regional Directory

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Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
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Contact Us

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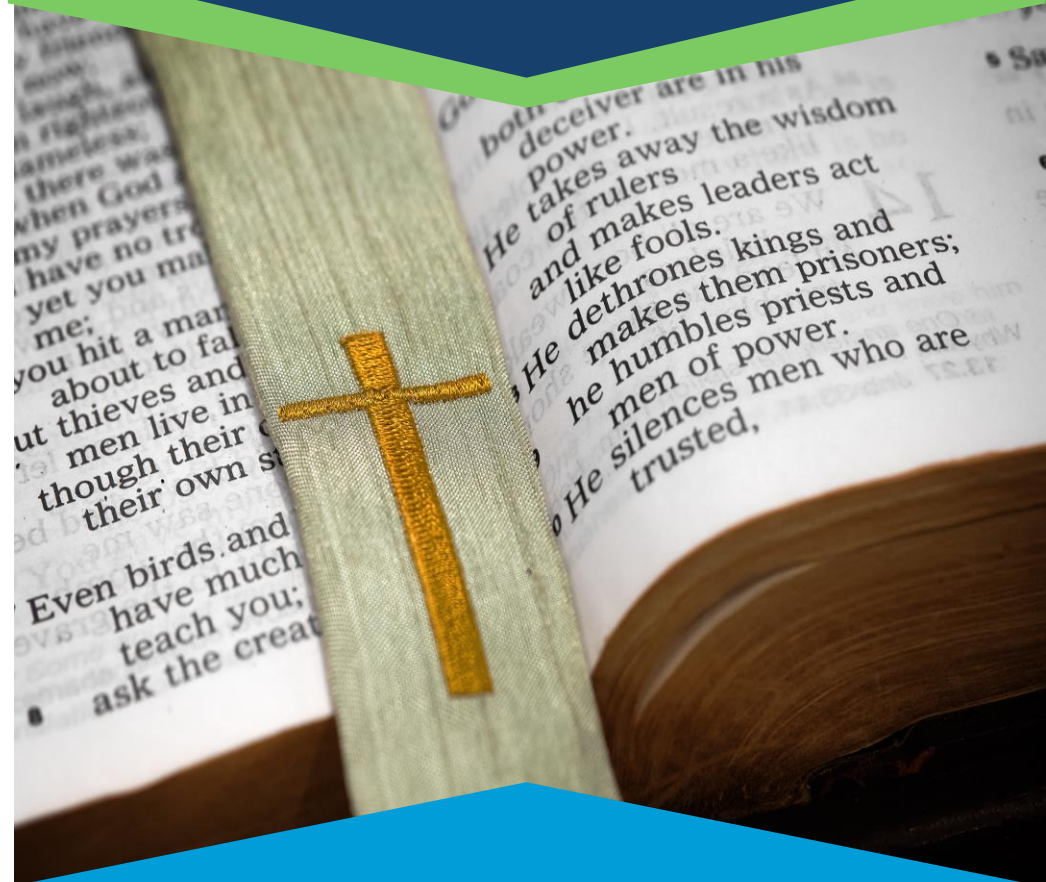
Phone: 0472 732 441

Email: arc@ucwa.au

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 8.45 am - 12.45 pm



Uniting Church in Australia
Albany Region Congregations



Welcome to our service.

Duke St Church morning tea is on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service. Mt Barker is before their Service.

11 February 2024.

Psalm 147

This was last week's Psalm, and I considered using James Taylor's interpretation, but it did not really fit in the rest of the liturgy, so I offer it this week, here.

'Not impressed by appearances'

We are the refugees. Our homes and our spirits have been destroyed. Across the earth we have fled seeking asylum. God gathered us together, and gave us a second chance. We are the sick, the infirm, the elderly. God gave us nurses, and medicines, and medicare to cover the costs that would have crushed us.

We are the students, the scientists, the scholars. The more we explore our universe, the more the mysteries we encounter fill us with awe.

We are the poor, the oppressed, the people at the bottom of the pile. We see the powerful and mighty come tumbling down, betrayed by their own corruption.

How can you see all this, and doubt the power of God?

If God can make the rain fall, the grass grow, the rivers run, and the sunshine, if God can balance the needs of nature so that both lion and lamb can live, then surely can also affect human affairs.

We are not well-dressed, or privileged. We are not wealthy or important.

But God does not judge by appearances. God is not impressed by titles and positions, nor influenced by body-building and cosmetic beauty.

In the eyes of God, a pauper matters as much as a priest, a person on welfare as much as a president.



Big Change (Transfiguration) Sunday

"Jesus was completely changed" Mk 9:2

It seems it was Jesus' habit to go, by himself, to pray daily in a 'lonely place'. This day was different. Peter had, six days earlier, told Jesus that his disciples believed Jesus was the promised 'coming King'. In response, Jesus' words became dark and he predicted his death. Would his followers continue to follow him? After all he also spoke about a 'resurrection'. Peter's interpreter (Mark) tells us what happened on the seventh day after Peter's confession (sundown day 6), Jesus led Peter, James and John up a mountain. There Jesus' friends experienced a blazing vision of Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah, complete with an enveloping cloud and the voice of God saying, "This is my son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!"(v7). For Jesus and his disciples this was a reaffirmation of Jesus' baptismal status as "my son" and a promise of God's support ("I love him"). Moses and Elijah had both received mountain top commissions to rescue God's people, so God's words also included an affirmation that Jesus and his friends were on the right track and Peter et al (including you and me) should do (that's was to 'listen' means) what Jesus' says. The lessons of Big Change Sunday: Like Jesus, we too daily need, and will daily receive, affirmation from God that we are a much loved child of God - if we are willing to go to pray with Jesus in a lonely place. Like Jesus, every day we will receive affirmation that we are on the right track and will receive strength for the journey - if we are willing to go to pray with Jesus in a lonely place. Like Peter, James & John these gifts will come after we name Jesus' as our Lord and are willing to continue to follow where he leads.

Submitted by R. Marsh



February 11

8.30am	LOCKYER	R. Anderson
9.00am	DENMARK HC	Rev. Corina
10am	DUKE ST	R. Anderson
11am	MT BARKER HC	Rev. Corina

February 18

8.30am	LOCKYER	Rev. Corina
9.30am	DENMARK	E. Burns
10am	DUKE ST	Rev. Corina
11am	MT BARKER	A. Hortin

Dates every week

Museum: Open Tues-Thurs, 9-11am.

Tuesday Discussion: Meets at 9.30am for 10am start at Elizabeth's place. All welcome to come and discuss a wide variety of topics

Wednesday Prayer group: Meets at 9.30am at Heather's place. All welcome.

Thursday Bible Study group, Meets at 10am at Rev. Corina's place. All welcome

February 13 AUC Ladies Fellowship, Handasyde's, 2pm

February 15 AUC Fellowship, Vancouver Café 10 am

February 24 Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm

What matters is how well we hear God, and how much we care for each other.

I know, this makes God sound more human than divine. So be it, the message is clear enough, all people matter. One of the things that makes human beings different from animals is that we – or most of us – are able to put ourselves in other people's shoes. The longer we have lived, the more we have travelled, the easier it becomes to have compassion, to suffer with others and to offer support in whichever way is available to us. If you think you have nothing to give, you can still listen, without judging, just listen. In that way share the joy, the sadness, the bewilderment, or concerns of another person. Gladness shared is double cheer. Suffering shared is helping to bear the load. We all can listen; thanks be to God.

Blessings, Corina

Prayers of the week

AUC: Barbara Lister, Marian Little and their families.

Lockyer: Joy Dunbar, Louise Hardacre and their families.

Mt Barker: Milly Coad, Eileen Gilbert and their families.

Denmark: Kathy & Gary Grigg, Ruth & Norman Kershaw and their families.

Synod: Remote Area Ministry Tom Price

Photo Bible – M. Heberle, Friends of Photography. If you have a photo you would like featured and is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com
Hard copy photos will also be accepted.

News & Notes

★ **Albany YouthCARE** Council is taking part in the **Containers for Change** scheme. Our registration number is **C10331167**.

All you have to do is take your eligible containers to a collection point at either IGA Spencer Park, or IGA York Street and **quote our number**. The money you raise will go straight into our Albany bank account. Most aluminum, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard drink containers between 150ml and 3L are eligible. For more information, check out the Containers for Change website.

★ **Offerings** We gratefully accept financial contributions ("offerings") to continue the work of the Church. Cash or cheques may be placed in the offering bowls at Sunday services. Direct bank transfers (EFT) are also welcome. For Albany, please use the details below:

BSB: 086 554 (National Australia Bank)
Account Number: 496 865 760
Account Name: Albany Uniting Church
Reference: Offering or Youthcare

For Denmark, Mount Barker and Lockyer please contact your treasurer for details. All offerings are anonymous. Feel free to ask for envelopes if you wish.

★ **Uniting World.** If you would like to donate to Uniting World. Donations will be used to provide urgent assistance, supplies & support longer-term recovery. To donate online, go to <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/donate-now>

★ **Connecting** people who cannot attend worship, can still stay in touch with us from anywhere in the world. You can receive the monthly Magazine, the weekly Bulletin and the Order of Service by email or in print. We also record Sunday services which can be sent on CD. Just contact Corina or Lisa to make arrangements (see back page). For those of you who use social media, Albany and Denmark have Facebook pages and some of us also post under tags like [#wesleyalbany](#) on other social media channels

★ **AUC Ladies Fellowship** afternoon tea at 2pm, Handasydes on the 13th February. Rev Corina will take a short Communion service for us at 2.00pm. On arrival go straight to the Party shed. **Please do not order afternoon tea until after the service.** We will then go and order.

★ **Sing at Wesley on Wednesdays!** Shamara de Tissera recently moved to the Great Southern, directs Viva Voce choir in Denmark, and enjoyed the beautiful acoustic of Wesley Church singing soprano and alto solos for the Messiah Singalong in December. She is offering private and small group singing lessons at Wesley on Wednesdays. All ages are welcome. Call 0410 386 292. See www.swanharp.studio for more information.

