



## Regional Directory

**Minister:** Rev Corina van Oostende 0417 169 544

<b>Secretaries:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
ARC	Sue Wilson	9851 4450
Lockyer	Anne Hortin	0428 752 325
Denmark	Michael Cranny	0417 000 684
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Elizabeth Burns	9842 2636

<b>Pastoral Carers:</b>		
Lockyer	Joan Wright	0429 413 759
Denmark	Margaret Cocks	0428 608 620
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Edith Verran	9841 2729

**Prayer Coordinator:** Heather Bailey 0428 936 824

**Juniper:** 11 Townsend St, Lockyer 1300 313 000

## Contact Us

**AUC/ARC Office:** 12 Duke Street, Albany

**Postal Address:** PO Box 5170, Albany WA 6330

**Phone:** 0472 732 441

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**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service.

**28 April 2024.**



## God is Love

There is not much in the daily news that can remind us of the love of God for the world in which we live.

Where can we look for light in dark times? How can we break free from the feelings of anxiety and fear?

The answer seems quite simple. We remind ourselves that God is love, that we are loved, and that our calling is to love God, and our neighbour as ourselves. We are loved, not on the condition that we need to earn or deserve it. We are worthy to give and receive love just as we are. God is love, God is love in action, as it was shown in the life and death, the ministry of Jesus, who is our Lord of Love and Prince of Peace. We cannot end the conflicts in the world. It is hard enough to resolve tension or accept differences between us and our close relatives and friends. Much as we would like to make the Kingdom a reality, we can't. We don't have to, either. I said finding light in dark times seems simple for a reason. Loving, putting love into action, is not that easy. We may have been hurt in the past, and opening ourselves to the love of others may make us feel too vulnerable. We may avoid loving relationships because intimacy may demand more courage to take relational risks than we currently have. This is where fear of not being loved, fear of death, fear of life itself can rear their heads, and all we see around us seems ugly and unworthy, even the reflection of our own face



## The Dark Night

Does God sometimes seem to have gone AWOL on you? It happened to Jesus and will happen to you! On the cross, Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (Jesus native language translated as "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" Mark 15:34). In his Garden prayer Jesus had surrendered to God's way for him and he expected God's presence and help on the path ahead. But, approaching death on the cross, Jesus uttered this cry of abandonment. Had Jesus lost his faith? This is the only prayer of Jesus where he does not call God "Abba" an intimate term similar to "Dad" and Mark records no further words of Jesus, only says, "Jesus shouted and then died." (v37). Some say that this was the moment Jesus was separated from God for the sins of the world. That, I suppose, is a possible interpretation. But not likely. Jesus takes his Good Friday cry of abandonment from the opening words of Psalm 22. Today, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Psalm 22 makes a reappearance in the Lectionary. This time the words of hope and faith that end the Psalm are read. Jesus would have known, and had in mind, *all* of Psalm 22 when he quoted the opening words. If so, his prayer of abandonment was also a word of hope: Psalm 22:24 'When I cried out, he listened'. Jesus, on the cross, had faith to know that God was present in his absence and would hear him. If your faith is like Jesus, when you experience God's absence and silence in a time of need, deep down you know this is a 'dark night' leading you into the perfect light. Jesus believed, even in the darkness, he would rise from death. In a time of darkness remember Jesus' faith: death precedes resurrection. Jesus is the risen Lord and is the reliable guide for you through the dark night.

Submitted by R. Marsh



### April 28

8.30am	<b>LOCKYER</b>	Rev. Corina
9.30am	<b>DENMARK</b>	A. Hortin
10am	<b>DUKE ST</b>	Rev. Corina
11am	<b>MT BARKER</b>	S. Wilson

### May 5

8.30am	<b>LOCKYER HC</b>	Rev. Corina
9.30am	<b>DENMARK</b>	J. Wilson
10am	<b>DUKE ST HC</b>	Rev. Corina
11am	<b>MT BARKER</b>	S. Wilson

in the mirror can look horrible at times. Faith, trust in the love of God will give the confidence, the courage, the boldness, to step out of this negativity and focus on things bright and beautiful. It is God's perfect love that casts out all fear, all anxiety. It is God's perfect love, living inside us by the power of the Holy Spirit, that brings joy and hope that love will reign. If not in the entire world, then at least in our own hearts. Pray, please, as often as you think of it, for God to renew the courage to be, and to meet the world – and the news it pours over us – with a heart full of love.

Blessings, Corina

## 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, Lockyer, Townsend St. All welcome.

### April 27 Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm

#### May

May 2 & 3	Craft Markets, York St, 9am-3pm
May 14	Lockyer Ladies Fellowship, Lockyer, 12pm
May 14	AUC Ladies Fellowship, Handasyde's, 2pm

## Prayers of the week

**AUC:** Anne Tero, Edith Verran and their families.

**Lockyer:** Susan Wood, Joan Wright and their families.

**Mt Barker:** Carolyn & Doug Lincoln and their families.

**Denmark:** Ron Munro, Carmy O'Sullivan and their families.

**Synod:** Covenanting Commission and Uniting Disaster Recovery Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA).

**Photo:** Orchids- Rod Marsh. If you have a photo you would like featured and is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: [unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com](mailto: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 Container Recycling Depot, 93 Stead Rd Centennial Park 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.

★ **Book Sale.** We have a selection of Bibles & religious books in the Church foyer or in the office during opening hours. Purchase by donation.

★ **2024 Directory.** We are updating this year's Directory. Please send any change of contact details into the office.

