



## 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	Margaret Cocks	0428 608 620
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Elizabeth Burns	9842 2636

<b>Pastoral Carers:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</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 Street, Lockyer 1300 313 000

## Contact Us

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

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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.

**15 December 2024.**



## Hope for Joy- Hope Joyfully

We prepare for Christmas, the birth of the baby who as a human being changed the world for the better – for good. The hope we have is based on promises found in the Hebrew Scriptures, and in the New Testament which is grounded in them. Despite the world's miserable state, we are called to live joyfully and with thanksgiving, trusting the future Kingdom of justice and love, the Kingdom of God, will eventually come. Peace will follow violence. New life – a new way of life – is possible. Where we may be hoping for joy, it is also possible to have faith and rely on God's goodness and grace. As Jesus' followers we can glimpse the extent of the power of love, the lasting power of love as opposed to the fleeting power of military might. John the Baptist and Jesus taught nonviolent ways to live, to resist the oppressive powers that held people captive. John lost his head, Jesus was crucified – yet both men are still very much alive today. In our time it is not uncommon for people to be silenced when they stand up for the poor, the marginalised, the planet. We do need hope for joy as well as joyfully hope...

The prophet Isaiah spoke to people who lived in exile, oppressed people. He told them God would reverse the situation so that gladness would replace mourning, and praise put an end to depression. Isaiah said that God loves justice and is against wrongdoing and will make an everlasting covenant with the people. Jesus followers, Christians, see evidence of this covenant and God's love in Christ, the Messiah. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we receive the bread of (new) life and the cup of (eternal) hope. Paul wrote that the people in Thessalonica (read: we) are to be joyful always and pray at all times giving thanks, regardless of our circumstances. The Holy Spirit we are given reminds us of the love of God, encourages



## Omens and Signs

When Jesus talked about 'signs in the stars' many of his listeners were feeling hopeless, suffering under the mighty Roman Empire who had taken their land, their freedom and their hope for the future. They longed for liberation and so Jesus encouraged them to look up to the heavens for glimmers of hope, signs that God's creative power outshines even the most fearsome oppressors on Earth.

In a similar way, many hundreds of years later people of African American and Native American descent endured terrible suffering and injustice (we can add First Nations people to this list) and when they escaped, they travelled at night, guided by the stars. Just as Jesus' followers looked to the heavens for hope, these freedom fighters found solace and direction in the night sky above them, using the North Star to navigate a path to a brighter future. In journalism, music and folk wisdom, the stars became symbols of deliverance, reminding God's people that even in the darkest nights- indeed especially then- there are paths to freedom and redemption.

Prayer: God of light and freedom, show us the way. Even in the valley of the shadow of death let our eyes lift to the heavens and help us to see signs of your creative care, glimmers that can lead us to courage and hope, Come, Jesus, come.

Amen Progressive Christian Salt Project.

Submitted by E Burns



### December 15

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

### December 22

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

### December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am	<b>DENMARK</b>	Rev. E. Sanderson
10am	<b>DUKE ST/LOCKYER</b>	Rev. Corina

## Dates every week

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

**Tuesday Discussion:** now In recess until Feb 2025

**Wednesday Prayer group:** Meets at 10am at Heather's place. All welcome.

**Thursday Bible Study group:** Meets at 10am, Lockyer, Townsend St. All welcome.

December 13 Scot's Craft Markets. 9-3pm, CWA Hall

December 28 **Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm**

us, and gives us patience. The joyful hope we can have is that humanity can be saved from its tendency to dominate and destroy, if – as one species among many – we learn to give thanks even in difficult circumstances. Being thankful is the best weapon against selfishness, greed, and fear. Giving thanks paves the way for joyful hope. Blessings, Corina

## Prayers of the week

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

**Lockyer:** Annette Webb, Vera Wellstead and their families.

**Mt Barker:** Deborah Murphy, Philip Webb and their families.

**Denmark:** Rev. Elizabeth Sanderson, Trish, Miriam & Aidan Thornber and their families.

**Synod:** Geraldton Lighthouse Uniting Church UCA Redress Ltd and the Protestant Christian Church in Bali.

**Photo:** Christmas Tree- A Hortin. 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**. 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.

**Christmas Carols at Scots Church, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** at 7pm, York Street Baptist Fellowship. An evening of Carols followed by supper in the Hall. All are welcome.

Rosie



**Many thanks to the Dept of Justice**, Aaron, Linda and their crew of Community Service workers. This year they have completed many cleaning jobs and gardening around the Duke Street complex.

**Bulletin dates & Hall bookings for 2025:** If you would like your groups to be included in the future Bulletins, Magazines, news & notes, calendar & hall bookings. Please email your information to the office. Many thanks to all who have contacted the office already. [unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com](mailto:unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com)