



Regional Directory

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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

Pastoral Carers:		
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
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Contact Us

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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.

22 December 2024-5 January 2025.



Christmas

We are almost at the end of the time of waiting, joyfully expecting the birth of the Christ child. Expectations are not always fulfilled. If our expectations of self or others are too high, we are bound to end up saddened or angered. One of my teachers used to say 'expectations create their own disappointments'. Not so, in this season of expecting Jesus, the one who came to save us from ourselves, and our misplaced assumption that we can control others by using force.

Christmas is the celebration of good news. "To you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.' Not Caesar in Rome, not Herod in Jerusalem, not Pilate as governor, not all the presidents and premiers and generals, none of them will rule. The world is shown a new direction. What does this mean? It means that God is steadfast, that promises made by Love will be kept. The promise made to David, that his house would rule forever, has become reality. The promise for a Saviour is honoured in Jesus. He will turn the world back to sanity. Where there was fear, he brings joy. Where there was oppression, he brings justice. Where there was suffering and sorrow, he brings healing. All the world's rulers try to keep their power. Scared of everything and everyone, what they know best is to kill and destroy. Our entire human history shows this. Amid our flailing and failing, God decides to do something new. This new one does not come as a threat but as a child. Not in pomp and majesty, but as a helpless baby. Yet he is king. None of this makes any sense, unless we recognise it as a fresh act of love from the source of all love. Christmas is a time for leaving our sane world of budgets and schedules and rules and for a brief moment have the mind-blowing insight that a different way of life is truly possible. The power of servanthood is stronger than



The Difference

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day; I had so much to accomplish that I did not have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came the task. "Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak; I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock. God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day; I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

(Author Unknown.)

May the grace of God allow us to meditate this message.

Submitted by R. Anderson



December 22

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

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

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

December 29

8.30am	LOCKYER	R. Anderson
9.30am	DENMARK	Rev. Corina
10am	DUKE ST	R. Anderson
11am	MT BARKER	S. Wilson

January 5 2025

8.30am	LOCKYER HC	Rev. Corina
9.30am	DENMARK	Rev. E. Sanderson
10am	DUKE ST HC	Rev. Corina
11am	MT BARKER	S. Wilson

Dates every week

Museum: Closed to the 7th January.

Tuesday Discussion: now in recess until Feb 2025

Wednesday Prayer group: In recess until 22 January 2025. All welcome.

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

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

January 2025

January 25 **Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm**

the fist or knife or bomb. The power of love lasts longer than any act of destruction. May our patterns and unrealistic expectations – may we – be changed by this gift of love, ‘to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’ Christmas blessings, Corina

Prayers of the week

AUC: Rev. Ruth & Mike Vertigan, Peter Webb and their families.

Lockyer: Susan Wood, Joan Wright and their families.

Mt Barker: Sue Wilson, Nita Clarke and their families.

Denmark: Carlien Trotter, Judy & Graham Wilson and their families.

Synod: Northampton Uniting Church and the Multicultural National Conferences Assembly Circles of Interest: Walking Together as First and Second Peoples and Being a Multicultural Church (Metro North Region) North Way (Beldon-Iluka and Carramar) and Trinity North Uniting Churches Juniper aged care.

Photo: Internet Image. 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**. 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

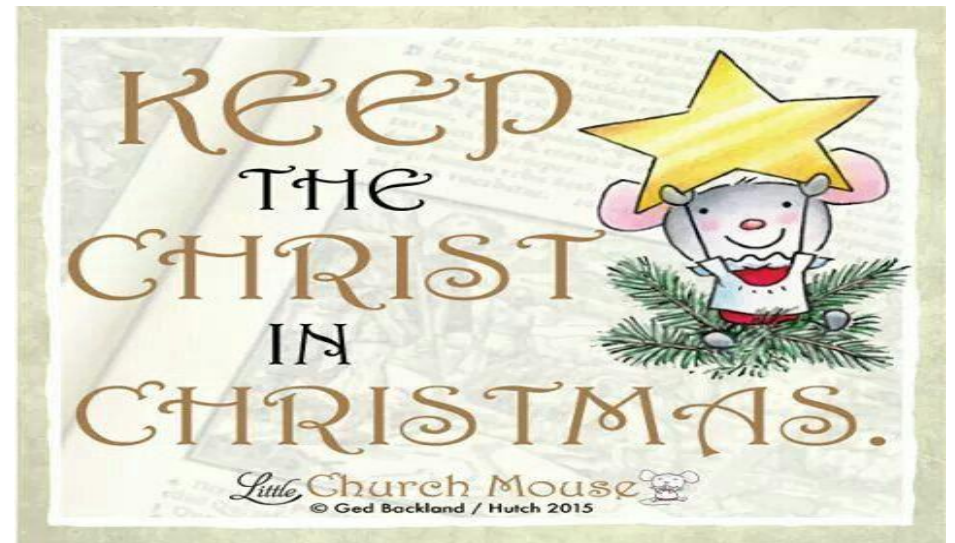
For Denmark, Mount Barker and Lockyer please contact your treasurer for details. All offerings are anonymous. Feel free to ask for envelopes if you wish.

Uniting World. If you would like to donate to Uniting World. Donations will be used to provide urgent assistance, supply & 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.

Mount Barker Uniting Church. There won't be a Service at the Uniting Church in Mount Barker on Christmas Day. We plan to join with the Anglican Church whose Service is at 10.00 am. Greetings to all for Christmas and the New Year.

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



The office is closed from noon December 19th, 2024– January 6th, 2025. Office hours as normal from the 7th, January 2025.

