



Regional Directory

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Secretaries:	Name	Phone
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	Everyone	
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.

Wesley Uniting Church, morning tea is on the 3rd Sunday of the month; Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service.

24 August 2025.



At the core of today's Gospel passage from Luke 13: 10-17, the healing of the crippled woman, is a challenging of assumptions and attitudes, especially as to our understanding of God's presence in our lives. *What if God's chief concern is not so much to be obeyed, but something else?* What if God's chief focus is love and care for people and for the creation?



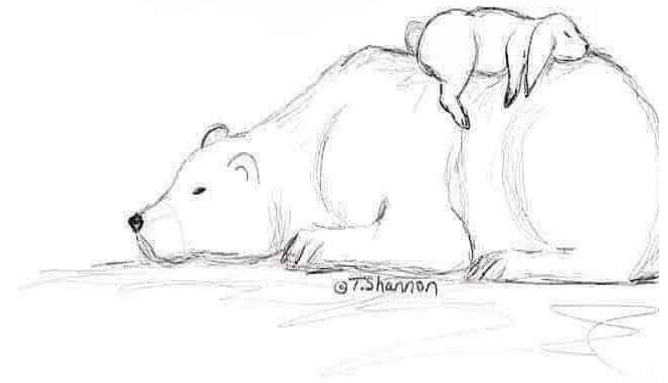
If that is the case, then the emphasis moves from God's commands to how we are to respond to God's people in God's world. It is as though God is telling us to get our priorities right. Commandments, rules, guidelines, traditions, laws, scriptures are subordinate to God's love. God's focus is not self-aggrandisement, as it is with so many who have power and wealth and want to keep it, but rather learning and practicing generosity and giving, restoration and healing, encouraging and renewing. When any commandment, law, even scripture, ceases to be seen in that light, they become ends in themselves, leading to absurd conflicts about whether we should help someone in need or be obedient to a distorted understanding of what God desires of us.

Today's Gospel is almost a parody of Jesus' opponents. How absurd to object to someone being made well! How absurd to imagine God would be more worried about having the Sabbath commandment protected than having people healed! This is a key issue in Christian churches today, including ours.

How we imagine God is directly related to how we imagine what it means to be a decent person. For many generations the most highly valued person was the one with greatest power, wealth and sometimes, knowledge. So people inevitably imagined God as being like that. God was then imagined to be as unapproachable and self-obsessed as such people have been. The way to live was to try to get on with the people of influence. The same applied to God. Keep the commandments! Commandments are not to be questioned. They have absolute authority because they allegedly



"Nothing's working," said Rabbit.
"Have you tried unplugging?" asked Bear.
"I don't plug in anywhere," said Rabbit.
"Yes you do," said Bear. "You're plugged into the world around you."
"Oh," said Rabbit, giving this some thought.
"How do I unplug then?"
"Close your eyes, let your muscles relax and listen only to the sound of yourself breathing in and out," said Bear.
"After a while, when you feel ready, plug back in, and try again."





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August 24

8.30am	LOCKYER	R. Anderson
9.30am	DENMARK	Rev. Wes Hartley
10am	DUKE ST	R. Anderson
11am	MT BARKER	Rev. Wes Hartley

August 31 Combined Service of Hymns & Celebration

10am	DUKE ST	Rev. Wes Hartley
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Dates every week

Museum: Open 9-11am, Tuesday-Thursday.

Tuesday Discussion: Is in recess till the 9th September.

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

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

August 30 Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm

September

September 9 Lockyer Ladies Fellowship, Lockyer, 12pm

September 9 AUC Ladies Fellowship, Handasyde's, 2pm



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come from absolute authority. People tried to be like their god and alas, all too often succeeded.

Jesus spent much of his ministry in a struggle to portray a different way of imagining God more matched to reality. God was not to be modelled on an aloof king or a powerful father. In contrast think more of the mother looking for a lost coin; the father running down the road to meet a lost son. The *façades* of dignity are dropped in favour of affection and caring.

Jesus through these Gospel passages highlights a very different understanding of God from that which had been previously; it was a different model of God and produced a very different way of handling human life situations whilst remaining faithful to biblical tradition. It is for that reason alone I am a follower of Jesus. Let us all then continue our walk with him.

Blessings,

Rev. Wes Hartley - Locum Minister

Special Notes from our Locum Minister

Many have said how much they are looking forward to our Combined Service Hymn Fest and Celebration at Albany Wesley next Sunday, 31st August at 10.00am, followed by the Fellowship Lunch. A big *Thank You* to those who have submitted their favourite hymn, all from *Together in Song*, or added their chosen culinary contribution for the Fellowship Lunch.

There will be a prepared Order of Service, listing the order of the hymns to be sung. I am deeply appreciative of the work our organist at Wesley, Patrick Elms, has put in to help this service come about. I feel sure it will be a great morning of praise and fellowship.

As we will have visitors from other congregations joining with us, please make a point of wearing a name badge.

Also, a personal word of thanks to Rev Rod Marsh of our Lockyer congregation for his excellent presentation "*The Choice*" in last Sunday's Weekly Bulletin, where he posed the question of whether we will be amongst those who choose the light of love over the darkness of hate. It is well worth a second read.

Rev Wes Hartley - Locum Minister



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News & Notes

Albany YouthCARE Council is taking part in the **Containers for Change** scheme. Our registration number is **C10331167**. Take your eligible containers to either IGA Spencer Park, or Container Recycling Depot, 93 Stead Rd, Centennial Park and **quote our number**. <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa>

Homeless Project Denmark (HPD Homeless Project Denmark)

The main source of income for the **HPD** is a fundraising stall at the Denmark Sunday markets. Please leave items you want to donate in the Duke Street vestry, marked box HPD. Corina will see to it, so that they find their destination. <https://www.facebook.com/homelessprojectdenmark?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

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, Lockyer and Mount Barker 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.uniting-world.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.



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Prayers of the week

AUC: Dudley Wise, Sue Yates and their families.

Lockyer: Susan Wood, Joan Wright and their families.

Mt Barker: Anne Mackie, Philip Webb and their families.

Denmark: Ron Munro, Trish, Miriam & Aidan Thornber and their families.

Synod: St Andrew's Perth Uniting Church and Uniting Church in the City Prison Chaplains.

Photo: Roses- Sandra. If you have a photo, you would like to feature and it is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com Hard copy photos will also be accepted.

