



Regional Directory

Minister: Rev Corina van Oostende 0417 169 544

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

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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.

14 December 2025.

Advent Joy

In the English versions of the New Testament the word 'joy' is a translation of three Greek words, among which is 'euphoria'. The words occur over sixty times, if I count 'leap for joy' and 'shout for joy' and 'joyfully'. Likewise, 'rejoice', is a translation of four Greek words. We can find 'rejoice', rejoicing, rejoice greatly, rejoice together, rejoice with, more than sixty times as well. One hundred and twenty-five times we are told that people rejoiced, and that we too are to rejoice. The Gospels and letters in our Christian tradition tell us of Good News, of new life, mysteriously beginning before the beginning, and never ending. This new life is divine life as it is shown to us in Jesus, who lived and loved and taught and healed and brought joy to many people.

His way of life was extra ordinary. He thought outside the box, he stretched the rules or protested against them and even broke them. He was a man of authority, someone who followed his heart rather than the dogma and doctrine of the Temple authorities, let alone the Roman oppressors. So, he had friends, followers and fans who rejoiced, as well as people who despised him and wanted him dead. The author of the Gospel of Matthew tells us that right from the start, the Christ child is feared, and King Herod tries to eliminate the threat the Messiah, this 'newborn King', poses to his rule.

Friederich von Schiller wrote a poem entitled 'to Joy' (an die Freude). It was sung in pubs as a drinking song. Here is the first verse: *A spark of fire from heaven, Daughter from Elysium, Drunk with fire we dare to enter, Holy One, inside your shrine. Your magic power binds together, What*

No Fairy Tale

Jesus was born in very humble circumstances, this being as in the well-known hymn, 'lowly cattle shed'. The floor of the shed was probably filthy and certainly no place on which to give birth and the manger in which the newly born child was laid would have been full of prickly straw that the cattle had been eating and may not have been all that clean either. There was nothing joyful or amusing about a young woman in labour having to find a place that provided some shelter in which to give birth to her first child. She and Joseph had just completed a weary journey, only to find there was no room at the inn. She would have been terribly weary and of course, was now about to give birth with the associated pain and with no woman who knew what to do in the situation to assist her. With only Joseph for company Mary gave birth to her very special son on that first Christmas Eve.

It must have cheered and reassured Mary and Joseph when the shepherds came bursting into the shed in a great state of excitement saying they had received a vision of angels out on the hillside and been told of the birth in Bethlehem of a Saviour, Christ the Lord and the sign to them would be that "they would find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger". They must have been terrified by the great company of the heavenly host who had appeared with the angel, praising God but when these had left them they decided to go to Bethlehem to see for themselves. Having seen for themselves that what they had heard was true, the shepherds passed on the news of what they had seen and heard to everyone they met.

Submitted by S. Wilson



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December 14

8.30am	LOCKYER	A. Hortin
9.00am	DENMARK HC	Rev. Corina
10am	DUKE ST	A. Hortin
11am	MT BARKER HC	Rev. Corina

December 21

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

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY Combined service

10am	DUKE ST/LOCKYER	Rev. Corina
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Dates every week

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

Tuesday Discussion: In recess until February 2026.

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

Thursday: A Taste of Spirituality Meets from 10am - 11am at Corina's place. 38 Miramar Road, Mira Mar. All welcome.

December

December 12 Scot's Craft Markets. 9-3pm, CWA Hall



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*we by custom wrench apart, All men will emerge as brothers,
Where you rest your gentle wings.*

Beethoven used 'Alle Menschen werden Bruder' at the end of his 9th Symphony, his 'Ode to Joy'. Where God rests gentle wings, all people will emerge as brothers/sisters. Where the Love of God rules, all people will be as one. This is the hope we joyfully celebrate at Christmas.

Joy to the world, Isaac Watts wrote. Not as a Christmas Carol, but as a poem, based on Psalm 98. Let heaven and nations sing...

May Hope, Peace, and Joy brighten your days.

Advent blessings, Corina

Prayers of the week

AUC: Doone Hockey, Rev. Dave Hosking and their families.

Lockyer: Judy Thompson, Vera Wellstead and their families.

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

Denmark: Teresa, Ingrid, Renee and Evan Ayres, Margaret and Phil Cocks and their families.

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

Photo: Western Australian Christmas Tree - A. Hortin. 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.

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.

York Street Fellowship, Presents a Christmas Carol Celebration at Albert Hall, Duke Street, Sunday 21st December at 7pm. An evening of carols followed by supper in the Hall. All are welcome.

Many thanks to the Dept of Justice, Aaron, Linda, Zoe 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 2026: 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

