



UCA News from around YP

November, 2025

An Initiative of the Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Council

Ministry Agents:

Pr. Andrew Chambers 0439 180 442 Pr. Brenton Smith 0461 582 367
Rev. June Ladner 0474 482 255 Rev. Sandy Webb 0487 845 381
Rev. Jane McDonald 0408393786 (Supply until December 31st, 2025)

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Our Vision

Reaching the whole community with the abundant love of Christ.

Our Mission

Reflecting the hope we have in God's love and compassion, by engaging with the people in the community.

1Peter 3:15

Worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it in a gentle and respectful way. (NLT)

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EXPECTATION

Once upon a time, a man, whose axe was missing, suspected his neighbour's son of stealing it. The boy walked like a thief, looked like a thief and spoke like a thief. But the man then found his axe while digging in the valley. The next time he saw his neighbour's son, the boy walked, looked and spoke like any other child. (Lao Tze)

Sometimes we like to clump people and classes of things in single categories and decide what something or someone will be before we even see them. As in the following story told by a new teacher, who was not expecting the event she was attending to do more than meet her own low expectations:

"Three tall men were hovering over someone in the doorway. An old woman stood in their midst looking a bit confused. She's probably wandered into the wrong meeting, I thought. Then I saw her reach out to lean on two of the men, one on each side of her, while the third carried a briefcase. The old lady limped slowly to the front of the dais and was helped up to stand at the podium, where she struggled for a while to get into place behind the microphone. I groaned inwardly. Oh no, I thought, not another 'When I was young' speech! When she began to speak, it seemed as if she grew to be ten feet tall, commanding every inch of the room, holding every eye, controlling every thought, stilling every movement in the hall. I had never heard such applause when she finished. I had never been part of a standing ovation like that, and I had never experienced such respect for a living person. A woman and an old woman at that. I don't remember the subject, but I do remember her, and I learned that night not to decide whether or not I like things before I try them. Packages are labelled so we have some kind of idea of what they contain, but we cannot do the same thing with people. It would save us a lot of time and many mistakes if we knew one another's contents simply by looking at a label. In the meantime, only open-heartedness can possibly save us from ourselves."

(Adapted from the November 2025 issue of "The Monastic Way", by Joan Chittister.)

May the Lord bless you as you learn not to rely on what you expect from each day and the people it may bring into your life, but embrace the unknown with an open heart and charity of spirit.

Rev. Jane McDonald Email: sjanemcdonald71@gmail.com

Coming up this month

SYPUK Quarterly meeting: Wednesday 12th, 7.30pm, Edithburgh Uniting Church.

Disaster Ministry Training: Friday 14th at Maitland Uniting Church. Contact Brenton Smith for further details.

Northern Cluster Dinner: Tuesday 18th, 6.30pm at Kadina Uniting Church. Please bring a plate. The ministry agents will lead a discussion on what our expectations may look like as we head into 2026.

Southern Cluster Lunch: Thursday 20th, 1.00pm at Minlaton Uniting Church. Details ditto as above.

Preaching Plan for December - January - February will be available soon.

During this period, Pastor Andrew will of course, no longer be with us, and Rev June will be taking the month of January as annual leave. We hope to have Rev Sandy back from sick leave after Christmas.

Those congregations that indicated that they would welcome a ministry agent to conduct a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship services have been included on the plan.

Farewell to Pastor Andrew Chambers Sunday, November 30th, 5.00pm Ardrossan Uniting Church.

A traditional Uniting Church "Cutting of the Ties" service to farewell Andrew will be led by a representative from Generate Presbytery.

All are welcome to attend, and invited to contribute to the shared tea to be held afterwards.

Some Further Insights on Expectation

- ◆ It isn't difficult to learn from others—if we bother to reach out to them in the first place.
- ◆ Living off what other people tell you about other people is the same as allowing someone else to chew your food for you.
- ◆ It is one thing not to want to meet someone. It's another thing entirely to judge them as if you have.
- ◆ Always check to see that there's bread under the butter. (Irish saying)
- ◆ What we anticipate seldom occurs, and what we least expect generally happens.
- ◆ Expectation is the beginning of disappointment, and often the seedbed of error.
- ◆ Just because something happens once does not mean it will happen every time. Nothing is to be expected but the unexpected. Life is more enjoyable when we simply learn to accept the unexpected.

And a story to illustrate all the above:

A police officer pulled the car over to the side of the road, leaned in the window and said, "Congratulations sir! You are the 5000th person to cross the traffic counter with your seat belt on. You have just won \$5000. I bet you didn't expect that! What are you going to do with all that money?"

"Well," said the driver, "I suppose I ought to take lessons and get a driving license."

The woman in the seat next to him said, "Don't pay any attention to him, officer. He's always a smart mouth when he's drunk." The man in the back seat then added, "I told you we wouldn't get very far in a stolen car."

And in the boot a small voice asked, "Have we made it to Victoria yet?"

(Things are often more than they seem, or what we expect.)

Luke 6:36-38a

You must be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge others and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others and you will be forgiven. Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Have you ever wondered what 'COFFEE' stands for? How about this:

Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere