



MEDIA RELEASE

To: News Editor
From: Uniting Church in Western Australia
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Friday, 30 November 2012

Advent Service

Sunday, 2 December marks the beginning of the season of Advent in the Christian calendar, a time of preparation for the celebration of the arrival of the Christ child at Christmas.

As we begin our Advent journey again, Rev Ron Larkin, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Western Australia asks how we serve others this Christmas.

Rev Larkin said, "Advent is a time of reflection, as well as preparation for the celebration of Christmas. My hope is for a better world in which we can all play a part by serving our family and community with our time, gifts and talents.

"As someone who only came into the life of the Church as an adult, one of the observations I have made is the belief that these acts of service are at the heart of who we are, both within and outside the church. I believe that everyone, both the giver and receiver, benefits when we serve those around us, our family, friends, colleagues and community."

Every day, Rev Larkin sees acts of service which all contribute to make our world better.

"When I visited a minister of one of our Uniting Churches, the church hall was a bustling Op Shop, and beyond that there was a low cost food shop, both staffed by members of the congregation and community volunteers. I witnessed the church working with the community to serve the community and make a difference."

Nationally, UnitingCare, the Uniting Church's outreach agency, has more outlets than McDonalds. Again, this year UnitingCare has joined forces with Target Australia for the Operation Santa appeal to collect gifts through Target stores. Gifts placed under the Christmas tree in stores will be distributed by UnitingCare West to local people, sharing the Christmas spirit of love, joy and hope through these acts of service to those in the community who are less fortunate.

"This Christmas, I pray that you will be blessed by your acts of service to your family, friends, colleagues and community."

Ends

Uniting Church Moderator, Rev Ron Larkin is available for comment. Please contact Maggie Johns on 0419 831 576.