



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 23rd February 2025

SECRETARY

Bob French

PASTORAL CARE &
SUPPORT

Joel Hammen



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Grace and peace to you all.

Kevin Tengvall is preaching in Merredin today and will discuss the topic "God's Relevance Today". Church attendance in Australia in particular, and across the western world more generally, has been falling for decades after it peaked in about 1960, and the number of people who describe themselves as non-religious has never been higher. Has the idea of God outlived its usefulness?

I think the answer is no, of course! The curious thing is that many of those people who claim to be non-religious claim nevertheless to be spiritual. That is, they recognise something, or someone, outside themselves that gives their lives meaning and gives themselves strength to live their lives. Many of these spiritual beliefs and practices are intensely personal and the corporate worship and sometimes dry theological debate of the institutional church does not resonate.

But are the unorthodox concepts of God and

his dealings with humanity that abound today helpful? There is no doubt that left to our own devices humanity can make a pretty awful mess of things. Quite apart from the continuing violence and military conflict in many parts of the world, there is increasing economic and personal hardship in Australia as people who can afford to be compassionate become less so, and those at the margins of our society become more desperate.

It's no coincidence that Kevin has chosen the passage in Luke's gospel about loving your enemies and turning the other cheek this morning. This is an aspect of Jesus's teaching that is lost too often in our dealings with and attitudes to other people. God is relevant today because it is only when we glimpse him through Jesus that we realise how we are to live—with compassion and love for all—and we are given the strength to do it.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN

	Today	Next Week
Preacher	Kevin Tengvall	David de Kock (video)
Worship Leader	Sal Marais	Bob French
Elder	Tania Higgins	Sal Marais
Musician	Tom Higgins	Joel Hammen
Greeters	Norm and Val Hooper	Louise French and Betty Iburg
Readers	Hayley Higgins Val Hooper	Louise French Sarah Higgins
Offering & Counting	Norm Hooper Kobus Marais	Tom Higgins Luke Higgins
Sound/Video	Sarah Higgins	Hayley Higgins
Projection/Lap Top	Bob French	Debbie Tengvall
Cleaner		Tania Higgins

Note: if you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a substitute and inform the Worship Leader and the Newsletter Editor

News and Coming Events

24/7 Prayer Room

The 24/7 prayer room will run in the Church from 1 pm (not 12 noon as stated in the previous newsletter) on Sunday 2 March until midnight on Friday 7 March. If you want to participate please nominate a one hour slot when you will pray. You can do this on-line at [Prayer Room Bookings](#), or on the chart Louise has set up in the Church. A space will be set aside in the Church for personal prayer, but you can pray from home if you want to. There will be suggestions for prayer topics.

World Day of Prayer

The Merredin Church will host a gathering

for the World Day of Prayer from 10 am to 12 noon on Friday 7 March. The prayer room will not operate separately for these two hours but will resume at 12 noon.

Uniting Church Election Resources

The Synod Social Justice Commission has prepared some resources for the coming State election to help people think about issues impacting our society as they decide how to cast their vote. You can access it at [WA Election Resource](#).

Alcoholics Anonymous Group

An Alcoholics Anonymous Group has started meeting in the Merredin Church every Saturday afternoon between 2 and 4 pm.

continued overleaf....

from previous page....

They held their second meeting yesterday which Joel attended for a short while. If you wish to participate let Bob French know and he will put you in contact with the

coordinator.

Remember that you can view recordings of previous Merredin worship services on the [Merredin Church YouTube channel here.](#)

prayers

Our Church Family

This week we are praying for ...

- * Phil Kuhne

Intercession

Pray for ...

- * Jill Tennent suffering increasing knee pain.
- * Betty Iburg having surgery this week.
- * People suffering anxiety and uncertainty.
- * People who have been recently bereaved.
- * The Moderator of UCA WA Ian Tozer as he leads the people of the church into the future.
- * For chaplaincy in Eastern Wheatbelt schools: Merredin, Bruce Rock, Mukinbudin and Southern Cross. Pray for staff, students, and chaplains.
- * For the Prime Minister and members of the Australian Parliament, the WA Premier and members of State Parliament, and the Police Force.

From the Synod Prayer Calendar ...

- * Hedland Fijian Uniting Church and Uniting Church Adult Fellowship WA.

Do you have a special need for prayer? Remember the Elders are always available for one on one prayer following services at Merredin, and are only a phone call or email away at other times.

ELDERS CONTACT DETAILS

Bob French	0428 125 613	Tania Higgins	9041 5080
Louise French	0438 337 490	(mobile)	0457 106 596
Gordon Jones	9047 1073	Sal Marais	0427 788 809
(mobile)	0417 848 793	Debbie Tengvall	0459 579 417
Steve Higgins	9041 5080	Kevin Tengvall	0459 835 521
(mobile)	0473 231 928		

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 23rd February

Merredin Church	9.00 am	Bible Study "Why Do We Need Labels? Reformed Christianity."
Merredin Sunday School Hall	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting
Merredin Church	10.00 am	Morning Worship Kevin Tengvall "God's Relevance Today"

MONDAY 24th February

Merredin Church	5.30 pm	Ladies KYB Bible Study. See Debbie Tengvall for more information.
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TUESDAY 25th February

Merredin Church	7.00 pm	Men's Bible Study. See Luke Higgins for more details.
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WEDNESDAY 26th February

Merredin Church	6.30 pm	Who let the Blokes Out? All men welcome to join for conversation and a meal. See Kevin Tengvall for more details.
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THURSDAY 27th February

FRIDAY 28th February

Merredin Church	9.30 am	Bible Study. All Welcome. See Tania Higgins for more details
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SATURDAY 1st March

SUNDAY 2nd March

Merredin Church	9.00 am	Bible Study "Why Do We Need Labels?"
Merredin Sunday School Hall	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting
Merredin Church	10.00 am	Morning Worship David de Kock (video)

You can make an on-line contribution to the church's finances using direct debit. Why not set up a regular contribution? The account details are: BSB: 036-105 Account number: 920019 Account name: Uniting Church in Australia Eastern Wheatbelt Parish

Luke 6 : 1

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

Items for Newsletter:

If there is anything you would like included in the next newsletter, including prayer requests, please let Bob French know on 0428 125 613, or robert.french1@bigpond.com