



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 2nd March 2025

SECRETARY

Bob French

PASTORAL CARE &
SUPPORT

Joel Hammen



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www.merredin.church



Grace and peace to you all.

Sometimes a sermon in Merredin contains statements that might be controversial, and the Elders have to decide whether or not to post it on-line to avoid misinterpretation. Last Sunday Kevin made some comments about certain politicians and we had a discussion about whether it was appropriate to post the full sermon, or better to cut those bits out.

We are often shy about making political statements in the church, saying faith and politics shouldn't mix. The Australian media often ask politicians known to have a strong religious faith if they will be able to make decisions without letting their faith influence them as if that's a bad thing. But that shows a fundamental misunderstanding of what faith is. If our faith is central to who we are, and gives us our values and sense of moral purpose and meaning, how can it not influence all our decisions and attitudes, including our political ones?

As Mike Fawcett points out in his video on labels today (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q17GHBdS-00>) Evangelical Christianity has become conflated with right-wing politics over the past 50 years. But this has not always been the case. In the 18th and 19th centuries John Wesley and William Wiberforce, impeccably evangelical, were at the forefront of the campaign to abolish slavery in Britain, at the time very radical.

There is diversity of political opinion in the Church, and the people who hold those opinions can often provide good reasons based on their understanding of the faith. We should not shy away from expressing our opinions, but we should do so in a way that is respectful and focuses on issues rather than individuals. And what does God require of us? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. What could be more political than that?

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN

	Today	Next Week
Preacher	David de Kock (video)	Paul Mulroney
Worship Leader	Bob French	Tania Higgins
Elder	Kevin Tengvall	Sal Marais
Musician	Joel Hammen	Tom Higgins
Greeters	Louise French and Betty Iburg	Sal and Kobus Marais
Readers	Louise French Sarah Higgins	Sal Marais Rosey Paterson
Offering & Counting	Tom Higgins Luke Higgins	Kobus Marais Steve Higgins
Sound/Video	Hayley Higgins	Matt McCubbin
Projection/Lap Top	Debbie Tengvall	Bob French
Cleaner		Cathy Jolly
<p><i>Note: if you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a substitute and inform the Worship Leader and the Newsletter Editor</i></p>		

News and Coming Events

24/7 Prayer Room

The 24/7 prayer room will run in the Merredin Church from 1 pm today until midnight on Friday 7 March. There are still plenty of time slots available so you can nominate a one hour slot to pray. You can do this on-line at [Prayer Room Bookings](#), or on the chart Louise has set up in the Church. There is a space in the Church with various aids to help you pray, but you can pray from home if you want to. Our aim is to have continuous prayer for the whole week.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer will be held in the Merredin Church from 10 am to 12 noon

this coming Friday. The theme for this year is the Cook Islands and all are welcome to attend.

Lent begins this Wednesday

The season of Lent begins this Wednesday and runs until Easter. It is traditionally a time for spiritual reflection, repentance and preparation for Easter, and you may want to give something up such as a favourite food, drink or habit as a symbolic gesture, and to allow more time for spiritual reflection.

Uniting Church Election Resources

The Synod Social Justice Commission has prepared some resources for the coming State election to help people think about issues

continued overleaf....

from previous page....

impacting our society as they decide how to cast their vote. You can access it at [WA Election Resource](#).

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 ...

- * François, Vanessa and Madison Marais

Intercession

Pray for ...

- * The adoption of CVE (Christian Values Education) in Merredin College.
- * A just peace in Eastern Europe and in Palestine.
- * People suffering anxiety and uncertainty.
- * Elderly members of our congregation.
- * 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 ...

- * Applecross St Stephen's, Beth Shalom Tongan, and Bicton Uniting Churches and UnitingCare Australia.

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 2nd March

Merredin Church	9.00 am	Bible Study "Why Do We Need Labels? What is an Evangelical?."
Merredin Sunday School Hall	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting
Merredin Church	10.00 am	Morning Worship David de Kock "The Transfiguration" (by video)

MONDAY 3rd March

Merredin Church	5.30 pm	Ladies KYB Bible Study in Prayer Room. See Debbie Tengvall for more information.
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TUESDAY 4th March

Merredin Church	7.00 pm	Men's Bible Study. See Luke Higgins for more details.
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WEDNESDAY 5th March

Northside Tavern	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 6th March

Merredin Church	5.30 pm	Merredin Elders meet.
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FRIDAY 7th March

Merredin Church	10.00 am	World Day of Prayer
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SATURDAY 8th March

Merredin Church	2.00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Group
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SUNDAY 9th March

Merredin Church	9.00 am	Bible Study "Why Do We Need Labels? What is a Fundamentalist?"
Merredin Sunday School Hall	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting
Merredin Church	10.00 am	Morning Worship Paul Mulrone

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

2 Corinthians 3 : 17, 18

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."

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