



# The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

## SUNDAY 17th May 2026

SECRETARY

Bob French

PASTORAL CARE &  
SUPPORT

Joel Hammen



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Grace and peace to you all.

Last Thursday was Ascension Day, when we remember the ascension of the resurrected Jesus into heaven, leaving his disciples alone in this world. It was inevitable Jesus would return to heaven eventually, leaving the disciples to continue his work without his physical presence. He warned them about this many times—the dialogue in John chapters 13 - 17 at their final Passover meal together was largely to prepare them for this—but it was still a wrench when it happened. Despite all that had happened some of them still thought he would bring about a political restoration in Israel.

It is natural for people to grow up and become more independent as they age. Children start life completely dependent on their parents, but as they grow they learn to think and act for themselves until they become independent people in their own right. If they have been well brought up they will be thoughtful, compassionate, loving, moral and productive

members of society. While most retain lifelong bonds with their parents they no longer rely on them to make every important life decision.

The ascension is the start of the disciples growing up, or perhaps we should say growing into the work of the church. Jesus had set the model and equipped them with moral skills and patterns of thought to do this, but now was the time for them to put it into action. It was a little frightening at first, but they were emboldened in a few weeks when the promised Holy Spirit was poured out upon them at Pentecost. Jesus had not really left them alone.

Modern Christians need to grow up too. It is great to have a mentor, and people to look up to, but God wants us to develop our own relationship with him, and to discern our own course of action as his people, which may or may not be an extension of what our mentors have done. The Holy Spirit will guide us.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

## SERVING IN MERREDIN

	Today	Next Sunday
Preacher	Kevin Tengvall (Communion)	Mark Beadle
Worship Leader	Joel Hammen	Sal Marais
Elder	Tania Higgins	Joel Hammen
Musician	Bob French	Tom Higgins
Greeters	Sarah and Luke Higgins	Norm and Val Hooper
Readers	Tania Higgins Karen Hammen	Val Hooper Hayley Higgins
Offering & Counting	Luke Higgins Phil Kuhne	Kobus Marais Norm Hooper
Sound/Video	Sarah Higgins	Matt McCubbin
Projection/Lap Top	Tom Higgins	Debbie Tengvall
Cleaner		Sarah Higgins
<p><i><b>Note: if you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a substitute and inform the Worship Leader and the Newsletter Editor</b></i></p>		

## News and Coming Events

### Uniting in Prayer 2026

From Pentecost Sunday on 24 May to the 49th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia on 22 June, the UCA are embarking on a shared season of national prayer. Over these thirty days, thirty voices from across the Church will come together. Each day, a new voice will lead us in praying as one body around a single, unifying question: "What does it mean to be woven together in Christ's love across cultures and boundaries?"

Congregations and individuals are invited to journey with the Uniting Church in this

prayer series beginning on Pentecost Sunday. You can follow the daily prayers at <https://uniting.church/uniting-in-prayer-2026/>

### Coming Meetings

The next Merredin Congregational Meeting will be held after the worship service on 31 May, and the next Eastern Wheatbelt Church Council meeting will be held at 9 am on Saturday 6 June in Merredin. Please send agenda items to Bob French.

*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 ...

- \* Kerry and Doug Hermon.

### *Intercession*

Pray for ...

- \* Enid Crook in hospital.
- \* Steve Higgins's dad and other elderly people feeling anxious.
- \* Pauline Bennett recovering from knee surgery.
- \* The Food Ministry run by the UCA in Merredin and other similar ministries run by other Merredin churches.
- \* School chaplains, especially in Merredin College and schools in Mukinbudin, Southern Cross and Moorine Rock, as they try to shine the light of Christ into those school communities.
- \* The Moderator of UCA WA David Jackson as he leads the people of the church into the future.
- \* 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 ...*

- \* Church Law Committee and the Nominating Committee, the Commission for Theology, Formation and Leadership, and the Church Polity Reference Committee.

**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	Tom Higgins	0427 510 160
(mobile)	0417 848 793	Sal Marais	0427 788 809
Steve Higgins	9041 5080	Debbie Tengvall	0459 579 417
(mobile)	0473 231 928	Kevin Tengvall	0459 835 521

## THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY 17th May

Merredin Sunday School Hall 9.30 am Pre-service prayer gathering

Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Kevin Tengvall (Communion)

### MONDAY 18th May

Merredin Church 5.30 pm Ladies' KYB Bible Study. See Debbie Tengvall for more details.

### TUESDAY 19th May

Merredin Church 7.00 pm Men's Bible study. See Luke Higgins for more details

### WEDNESDAY 20th May

Wild Poppy Cafe 10.00 am Ladies' Morning Coffee. See Tania Higgins for more details.

Merredin Church 6.30 pm Who Let the Blokes Out? Join other men for a meal and fellowship. See Kevin Tengvall for more details.

### THURSDAY 21st May

Merredin Church 5.30 pm .Merredin Elders meet

### FRIDAY 22nd May

Merredin Church 9.30 am Ladies' Bible Study. See Tania Higgins for more details.

### SATURDAY 23rd May

Merredin Church 2.00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous group meets.

### PENTECOST SUNDAY 24th May

Merredin Sunday School Hall 9.30 am Pre-service prayer gathering

Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Mark Beadle

**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**

#### Acts 1 : 7, 8

“It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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](mailto:robert.french1@bigpond.com)