



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 19th July 2026

SECRETARY

Bob French

PASTORAL CARE & SUPPORT

Joel Hammen



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www.merredin.church



Grace and peace to you all.

There was a time, not so long ago, when the church enjoyed a position of respect, if not authority, in societies like Australia. That time is now past and, while Christian leaders continue to make pronouncements on cultural and moral issues and seek to influence political outcomes, the church is now one voice among many, and not always the most respected one.

This may not be a bad thing. Graham Joseph Hill from Uniting Mission and Education in NSW writes there is a surprising gift hidden inside the church's loss of cultural power. Much of public Christianity over the past two centuries has been a caricature of what Jesus taught. It has been used to justify imperial expansion of some nations at the expense of weaker ones, the exploitation of some races by others, e.g. slavery in America, and the rampant greed and inequality in our own society. Christian politicians have sought to impose their own view of morality by coercion

through draconian laws and punishments.

Jesus's teaching directly challenged the model of cultural domination by powerful coercive leaders—the way of the Roman empire and all empires since. In the kingdom he describes in the gospels the people the world overlooks, such as the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers and those hungry for righteousness, are the ones heaven lifts up. The leaders in this kingdom do not impose their will by exerting their authority, but establish their greatness by service. They serve those they lead in love, rather than hold them in contempt as many of our so-called leaders have done in the past.

The loss of the church's cultural power allows us to focus on leading through service without fear of losing prestige. You can read Graham Joseph Hill's piece at <https://www.insights.uca.org.au/the-towel-and-the-basin/>

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN		
	Today	Next Sunday
Preacher	Mike Fawcett (Communion)	Mark Beadle
Worship Leader	Joel Hammen	Kevin Tengvall
Elder	Tom Higgins	Steve Higgins
Musician	Tania Higgins	Tania Higgins
Greeters	Norm and Val Hooper	Cathy Jolly and Betty Iburg
Readers	Val Hooper	Cathy Jolly
	Tom Higgins	Steve Higgins
Offering & Counting	Norm Hooper	Steve Higgins
	Doug Hermon	Tom Higgins
Sound/Video	Hayley Higgins	Sarah Higgins
Projection/Lap Top	Matt McCubbin	Debbie Tengvall
Cleaner		Rosey Paterson
<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>		

News and Coming Events

Worldviews and Ways of Life in Australia

ANU researchers are exploring how perceptions and ways of thinking (i.e. worldviews) relate to experiences and ways of living (i.e. participation and inclusion) in Australia. They are seeking respondents for an online anonymous 15-20 min survey from any and all adult Australian citizens and permanent residents living in Australia. You can contribute to this research by completing this survey at https://anu.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0Ao5q9gu3ysrbVQ. There are \$100 vouchers to be won if you complete it! Any questions can be emailed to the

researchers (u7870746@anu.edu.au).

Prayer Walk Around Merredin Schools

You are invited to pray around Merredin Schools from 3 pm this afternoon. See details in attached flier.

Fund Raising for Merredin Renovations

We are now actively seeking funds for the Merredin church building renovations, with a target of \$30k. You can make donations to the Merredin Congregation account: BSB 036-105 Account no. 920043 Account name: Uniting Church in Australia Merredin

Congregation. Remember to put Building Fund as the reference.

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 ...

- * Corné, Mel, Zeke and Kara-Lee Goosen.

Intercession

Pray for ...

- * François and Vanessa Marais awaiting the birth of their next child.
- * Phil Kuhne with various health concerns.
- * Families with broken relationships.
- * Neville and Cathy Jolly.
- * 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 ...

- * Eastern Wheatbelt Group (Merredin and Southern Cross Uniting Churches) and the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

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 19th July

Merredin Sunday School Hall 9.30 am Pre-service prayer gathering
Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Mike Fawcett (Communion)

MONDAY 20th July

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

TUESDAY 21st July

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

WEDNESDAY 22nd July

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

THURSDAY 23rd July

FRIDAY 24th July

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

SATURDAY 25th July

Merredin Church 2.00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous group meets.

SUNDAY 26th July

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

Psalm 139 : 1 - 3

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways."

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