



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 16th August 2026

SECRETARY

Bob French

PASTORAL CARE &
SUPPORT

Joel Hammen



Bob's mobile: 0428 125 613

Joel's mobile: 0457 332 109

Website:

www.merredin.church



Grace and peace to you all.

Faith and grace have been prominent themes in our recent worship, and today's gospel reading from Matthew continues with the story of the Canaanite woman whose daughter had a demon. At first Jesus ignored her and his disciples tried to send her away, but she persisted and eventually Jesus commended her faith and healed her daughter.

This story reminds us of the persistent widow and the unjust judge but this woman is not a Jew and Jesus initially says his mission is only to the Jews. This seems contrary to our understanding of the gospel as universal, but perhaps Jesus was testing her to make a point. Many Jews had a strong sense of exclusivity in the eyes of God and thought God was their God alone, shunning Gentiles like this woman. Much of the rest of the New Testament tells of the struggle within the early church to embrace non-Jews in God's reconciling grace.

Of course this argument was resolved a long

time ago in the eyes of the church and we, as non-Jews, are secure in our belief that God's grace applies equally to us as to the Jews. But do we sometimes make a similar mistake by assuming that we, as western Christians, have special privileges in God's eyes? There has been a troubling xenophobic trend in Australia in recent years that seeks to deny our freedoms and relative prosperity from people fleeing oppression and poverty in other parts of the world. I know Australia is not a Christian community, and our freedoms and prosperity are not the same as God's grace, but when we hear people say the equivalent of it is not fair to throw the children's food to the dogs, we should remember the Canaanite woman's response that even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table. We have been blessed by God and should be willing to share these blessings with others.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN		
	Today	Next Sunday
Preacher	Mike Fawcett (Communion)	Joel Hammen
Worship Leader	Tom Higgins	Bob French
Elder	Sal Marais	Tania Higgins
Musician	Tania Higgins	Sal Marais
Greeters	Tom and Hayley Higgins	Joel and Karen Hammen
Readers	Sal Marais	Cathy Jolly
	Hayley Higgins	Karen Hammen
Offering & Counting	Norm Hooper	Luke Higgins
	Steve Higgins	Tom Higgins
Sound/Video	Sarah Higgins	Kevin Tengvall
Projection/Lap Top	Matt McCubbin	Debbie Tengvall
Cleaner		Tania Higgins and Sandy Treloar
<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

Coming Meetings

The next Merredin congregational meeting will be held after the worship service next Sunday 23 August. One of the agenda items will be the election of a new Chair to replace Steve Higgins. Send nominations and other items for the agenda to Bob French before Saturday 22 August.

The next meeting of the Eastern Wheatbelt Church Council will be held on Saturday 29 August at Merredin.

Her Community

This event is happening next Saturday 22 August at the Merredin Bowling Club,

dealing with addiction and domestic violence-related issues. There are still places available - see flyer distributed with 12 July Newsletter or on the church noticeboard.

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 ...

- * Sandy Treloar.

Intercession

Pray for ...

- * Members of our church who have recently undergone medical tests or who are going to.
- * 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 ...

- * Penrhos College and Wesley College and Hospital Chaplains.

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	. One	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 16th August

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

MONDAY 17th August

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

TUESDAY 18th August

Merredin Church 7.00 pm Men's Bible study "Unveiled. A Christian Study of Islam". See Luke Higgins for more details

WEDNESDAY 19th August

Wild Poppy Cafe 10.00 am Ladies Morning Tea. See Tania Higgins for more details.
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 20th August

FRIDAY 21st August

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

SATURDAY 22nd August

Merredin Bowling Club 10.00 am Her Community Event for Women
Merredin Church 2.00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous group meets.

SUNDAY 23rd August

Merredin Sunday School Hall 9.30 am Pre-service prayer gathering
Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Joel Hammen

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

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