



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 13th September 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.

This weekend I have been at the 50th meeting of the Synod of Western Australia. That is something of a milestone, and something you will hear much more about next year when the Uniting Church in Australia has its 50th anniversary. But that is not what I want to talk about. I want to share something with you from bible study led by Dr Ali Robinson from the NSW/ACT Synod.

Christians often bemoan the dwindling influence of the church in the modern world. As budgets shrink, people find other things to do on Sunday mornings and church buildings are sold off to become art galleries or restaurants, we ask is the church dying? Ali's answer is a resounding No! Statistics do not tell the story of the church. It is not measured by the grandeur of its buildings or the number of likes on a Facebook account. We are used to being told the church is the people, and indeed it is, but it only exists because God calls it into

being. In Ephesians 2 : 19 -22 Paul tells us we, who were once strangers and aliens, are being built into a dwelling place for God. We are part of God's household; he has invited us in. We believe God refuses to abandon his creation, so why would he abandon his church, whom he has called?

Ali suggests the church is still being built, of "living" stones, with Christ as the cornerstone (1 Peter 2 : 4 - 6). We are a growing structure so our future is far more important than our past. Being built into a dwelling place for God means the church is not a holy lifeboat that whisks us away to safety, but God's presence in the world so the world can encounter God.

What does that mean for us in the Eastern Wheatbelt? It means God has not finished with us, but his presence may appear in different ways from the past. Whatever ways they are, they promise to be exciting.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN		
	Today	Next Sunday
Preacher	Tania Higgins	Mike Fawcett (Communion)
Worship Leader	Louise French	Debbie Tengvall
Elder	Kevin Tengvall	TBA
Musician	Joel Hammen	Tom Higgins
Greeters	Doug and Kerry Hermon	Norm and Val Hooper
Readers	Kevin Tengvall	Val Hooper
	Kerry Hermon	Doug Hermon
Offering & Counting	Doug Hermon	Norm Hooper
	Tom Higgins	Steve Higgins
Sound/Video	Sarah Higgins	Kevin Tengvall
Projection/Lap Top	Debbie Tengvall	Sal Marais
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 Events

There are quite a few Merredin Church events planned for October. These include a Church Picnic at Merredin Rock on Sunday 4 October, a Garage Sale on Saturday 10 October and a Quiz Night on Saturday 24 October. More details will be announced closer to each event. The church will also be participating in the National Church Life Survey on Sunday 18 October. This can be completed either online or on paper forms

Passing of Gloria Banks

We learned this week that former member Gloria Banks passed away in Geraldton on

Wednesday night. Her funeral will be held in Merredin on Tuesday 22 September.

Fund Raising for Merredin Renovations

We are now actively seeking funds for the Merredin church building renovations, with a target of \$30k. The congregation also relies on donations for the running costs of the church building such as water and power. 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 if you are donating for renovations.

prayers

Our Church Family

This week we are praying for ...

- * François, Vanessa, Madison and Josiah Marais.

Intercession

Pray for ...

- * The Banks and Goddard families on the passing of Gloria.
- * People affected by recent flooding in Nepal and those assisting in the recovery.
- * 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 ...

- * The Legal Advisory Group, Council for Mission, Ecumenical Affairs Network, Ministerial Benefits Committee, Covenanting Commission, the Committee for Counselling and the UnitingCare Forum

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 13th September

Merredin Sunday School Hall 9.30 am Pre-service prayer gathering
Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Tania Higgins

MONDAY 14th September

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

TUESDAY 15th September

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

WEDNESDAY 16th September

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 17th September

Merredin Church 5.30 pm Merredin Elders meet

FRIDAY 18th September

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

SATURDAY 19th September

Merredin Church 2.00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous group meets.

SUNDAY 20th September

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

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 Wheat-belt Parish

Ephesians 2 : 19 - 22

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are the citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

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