The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 8th October 2026

SECRETARY
Bob French
PASTORAL CARE & SUPPORT
Joel Hammen

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www.merredin.church

Grace and peace to you all.

Some of you with long memories may remember Bob Dylan singing a song called 'You've got to serve somebody.' 'It may be the Devil, it may be the Lord,' it went, 'But you've got to serve somebody.' Stated like this it seems it a very stark choice, but sometimes things need to be put bluntly. We do need to make a choice, and perhaps not making a conscious choice is making a choice without realising it.

At the end of Joshua's life, after leading Israel into the land of Canaan to settle, at the end of their long journey through the wilderness, he challenged them to make a choice. He reminded them where they had come from. They had come not just from Egypt, but many years prior to that Abraham had come out of Ur, far to the east, where his family had served other gods. God had called him, he responded, and God blessed him and his family.

In the same way God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and they responded as well, although perhaps a little reluctantly at times. Now they had reached the end of that journey, and the prospect of God's blessing lay before them.

It is here Joshua reminded them they had to make a choice: either serve the Lord, or the gods of the land where they found themselves. They could not serve both. Deferring a decision was not an option. Not choosing to serve the Lord was the same as choosing not to serve him, but to serve others.

It is the same with us. We may inherit a long heritage of Christianity, but we ourselves must choose whom we will serve. No-one else can make that decision for us. There is much in our world to distract us from the way of the Lord; much injustice, much pride, much greed, and much intolerance. I hope you will choose to serve the Lord, and live justly, generously, and humbly before him.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN		
	Today	**Next Sunday**
Preacher	David de Kock	Joel Hammen (Communion)
Worship Leader	Louise French	Sal Marais
Elder	Steve Higgins	Louise French
Musician	Sal Marais	Tania Higgins
Greeters	Sarah and Luke Higgins	Norm and Val Hooper
Readers	Sarah Higgins Luke Higgins	Val Hooper Jess McCubbin
Offering & Counting	Steve Higgins Kobus Marais	Norm Hooper Luke Higgins
Sound/Video	Hayley Higgins	Sarah Higgins
Projection/Lap Top	Debbie Tengvall	Tom Higgins
Cleaner		Sarah Higgins
Note: if you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a substitute and inform the Worship Leader and the Newsletter Editor		

News and Coming Events

National Church Life Survey

We will complete the NCLS survey as part of the Merredin service today. The paper attender surveys will take 15–20 minutes to complete. You can do the attender survey online if you prefer here. You will need the church code, which is UA509108, to complete it. The same code is used on the paper forms too.

Men's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

The Tuesday bible study on different streams of Christianity will look at Seventh Day Adventism this week with Pastor Douw from the Merredin SDA Church.

Merredin Congregation AGM and Elections

The Merredin congregation will hold its AGM on Sunday 29 November after the worship service. All Elder and Church Councillor positions will be declared vacant. We will elect 6 new Elders and 4 new Church Councillors. Nominations (for these positions in writing) will close next Sunday 15 November.

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 ...

* Luke, Sarah, Thomas, Valerie, and Silas Higgins.

Intercession

Pray for ...

* Graham in hospital
* May Hayes-Thompson in hospital
* safety on farms and on the roads during this year's harvest period
* 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 ...

* Esperance Uniting Church and the Council of Christians and Jews WA
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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 8th November		
Merredin Sunday School Hall	9.30 am	Pre-service prayer gathering
Merredin Church	10.00 am	Morning Worship David de Kock
MONDAY 9th November		
Merredin Church	5.30 pm	Ladies' KYB Bible Study. See Debbie Tengvall for more details
TUESDAY 10th November		
Merredin Church	7.00 pm	Men's Bible study on different streams within Christianity. See Luke Higgins for more details
WEDNESDAY 11th November		
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 12th November		
FRIDAY 13th November		
Merredin Church	9.30 am	Ladies' Bible Study on the Minor Prophets. See Tania Higgins for more details
SATURDAY 14th November		
Merredin Church	2.00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous group meets
SUNDAY 15th November		
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*

Joshua 24 : 15

"Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

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