



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 16th August 2020

CHAIRPERSON

Steve Higgins

SECRETARY

Bob French

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Grace and peace to you all.

Decisions, decisions, decisions. We have to make decisions all the time. Some are small and inconsequential, like what are we going to have for breakfast, and some are big and affect the whole future path of our lives, like whom we are to marry. We cannot avoid making decisions. The question I want to consider is how and why we make the decisions we do.

Making decisions is about making choices, which in turn is about what is important to us. Do we always choose according to our own selfish interests, or according to how God is calling us? Mike will touch on this subject today when he preaches on the contrast between the stubbornness and hard-heartedness of the ancient Israelites and the humility and spirit of repentance Christians are called to. Do we come to God asking him to endorse, and smooth our path to, decisions we have already made, or do we genuinely seek his will for our lives, willing to go where he leads?

We may collectively have make such a choice quite soon when Alison Gilchrist comes to Merredin a few weeks time to follow up on the workshop she ran for us last year (see notice inside). A choice about the future mission direction of the church in the Eastern Wheatbelt. It would be easy to stick with the status quo, to do things as we always have done. But will God challenge us to reach out into our communities in new ways that take us beyond our comfort zones? Let us hope we make these decisions according to God's will rather than own.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN

	Today	Next Sunday
Preacher	Mike Fawcett (video)	Kerry Hermon
Worship Leader	Bob French	Debbie Tengvall
Elder	Louise French	Sal Marais
Musician	Sal Marais	Bob French
Greeters	Louise French and Gloria Banks	Kobus and Sal Marais
Readers	Gloria Banks Kevin Tengvall	Kobus Marais Hayley Higgins
Offering & Counting	Val Hooper Kobus Marais	Doug Hermon Cathy Jolly
Sound	François Marais	Steve Higgins
Projection	Debbie Tengvall	Kevin Tengvall

Note: if you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a substitute and inform the Worship Leader and the Newsletter Editor

Next week at Merredin:

Laptop prep: **Tom Higgins**

Cleaning: **Margaret Dalton**

News and Coming Events

Combined Parish Service Mukinbudin 30 August

Mukinbudin will host the other Eastern Wheatbelt congregations for a combined Parish service on 30 August at 10 am. Mike Fawcett will be preaching. Further details will be provided next week.

Mission Planning Workshop

Presbytery Mission Minister Alison

Gilchrist will run a workshop in Merredin on Saturday 5 September to help us discern the mission direction God is calling us in. This is a follow-up to the one she ran in August last year.

Bonfire night at the Higgins farm

A barbecue followed by a bonfire will be held at the Higgins farm on the evening of Saturday 5th September.



prayers

A Prayer for the Uniting Church in Western Australia

God of Grace and truth, renew and revive your church,
Deepen our love for you and others,
Broaden our love for our church, our neighbours and your mission in the world,
Holy Spirit breathe new life into us.
In the name of Christ who loves us beyond measure.

AMEN

Intercession

Pray for ...

- * Joel who is searching for spiritual meaning.
- * Luke, Sarah, and other members of the Higgins family.
- * People of Beirut recovering from the recent accidental explosion.
- * People in Victoria and New South Wales under tightened COVID restrictions
- * For chaplaincy in Eastern Wheatbelt schools: Merredin, Bruce Rock, and Mukinbudin. Pray for staff, students, and chaplains.
- * For 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 ...

- * South Perth and Star Street Uniting Churches. Please also pray for the United Church in Papua New Guinea.

Do you have a special need for prayer? Remember the Elders are always available for one on one prayer following services at Merredin, and while we are isolating are only a phone call or email away.

ELDERS CONTACT DETAILS

Bob French	9041 1780	Sal Marais	9041 2473
(mobile)	0428 125 613	(mobile)	0427 788 809
Louise French	9041 1780	Steve Higgins	9041 5080
(mobile)	0438 337 490	(mobile)	0476 231 928
Kerry Hermon	0409 400 153	Debbie Tengvall	90443269
Gordon Jones	9047 1073	(mobile)	0459 579417
(mobile)	0417 848 793		

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 16th August

Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Mike Fawcett (video)

MONDAY 17th August

Merredin church 5.30 pm Ladies Bible Study (see Debbie Tengvall for details)

TUESDAY 18th August

Merredin church 5.30 pm Merredin Elders meet

WEDNESDAY 19th August

Northside Tavern? 7.00 pm Who Let The Blokes Out? We may meet for dinner—see Bob French for details

THURSDAY 20th August

Zoom 7.00 pm Merredin Prayer meeting (see Bob French for details)

FRIDAY 21st August

SATURDAY 22nd August

SUNDAY 23rd August

Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Kerry Hermon preaching

Mukinbudin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Joy Jones

Matthew 15:11

"It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

Items for Newsletter:

If there is anything you would like included in the next newsletter, including prayer requests, please let Bob French know on 9041 1780, 0428 125 613, or robert.french1@bigpond.com