



The Uniting Church in the Eastern Wheatbelt

SUNDAY 30th August 2020

CHAIRPERSON

Steve Higgins

SECRETARY

Bob French

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"Grace and peace to you all.

Have you ever noticed that when publically prominent Christians, often politicians, but also writers, sportspeople, businesspeople, or others, speak about or act on their beliefs, there is very often a public outcry. A person's religion should be a private affair, we are told. How dare they allow it to influence their decisions or behaviour in ways that might affect others!

But that is exactly how Jesus wants his disciples to live. When we give our lives to Christ he expects us to give our entire lives. That means EVERYTHING we think, say, and do should be consistent with the Christian beliefs we profess to hold. To do otherwise would be to betray our Lord.

This does not mean we should be constantly preaching, or doing overtly religious things. Our faith is based on love—after all the reason Jesus came into this world is because God loved it so much. It follows that our attitudes and behaviour should be shaped by love. This morning's reading from Romans 12 reminds us how important it is our love is sincere. That means doing many things that are alien to the spirit of the world and, admittedly, sometimes very hard to do. We should bless, rather than curse, those who persecute us. We should not repay evil with evil, but are called to overcome evil with good. Paul quotes Proverbs 25 "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." This is the opposite of the widespread attitude that we should kick our enemy when he is down to ensure he does not become a threat to us again. Christians should live differently from non-Christians. That should be seen in how we respond to those who mistreat us, and with whom we disagree, as much as anything else.

Until then, stay blessed

Bob French

SERVING IN MERREDIN

	Today	Next Sunday
Preacher	Mike Fawcett	Alison Gilchrist (communion)
Worship Leader	Steve Higgins	Sal Marais
Elder		Bob French
Musician		Tania Higgins
Greeters		Norm and Val Hooper
Readers		Val Hooper Tamara Freestone
Offering & Counting		Norm Hooper Doug Hermon
Sound		François Marais
Projection		Debbie 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: Debbie Tengvall

Cleaning: Tania Higgins

News and Coming Events

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. The workshop will run from 10 am to 3 pm, but morning tea will be available from 9.30 am. Please bring something to share for lunch. This is an important

workshop likely to influence the life of the Merredin congregation for some time to come.

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. Further details will be announced this morning.



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 ...

- * Lucy's mum recently diagnosed with COVID-19.
- * Suzette, Fanie, and family after the passing of Suzette's dad in South Africa yesterday.
- * The Jones family, especially Gordon after his accident.
- * Luke, Sarah, and other members of the Higgins family.
- * 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 ...

- * Prison Chaplains, Uniting Church Archives and the Uniting Church Centre.

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 30th August

Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Kerry Hermon preaching

MONDAY 31st August

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

TUESDAY 1st September

WEDNESDAY 2nd September

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

THURSDAY 3rd September

Merredin Church 5.30 pm Merredin Elders meet

FRIDAY 4th September

Merredin Church 1.00 pm Knitting and Crochet group—see Margaret Dalton for details

SATURDAY 5th September

Merredin Church 9.30 am Mission planning workshop
Higgins Farm 5.30 pm Barbecue and bonfire

SUNDAY 6th September

Merredin Church 10.00 am Morning Worship Alison Gilchrist preaching

Romans 12:11-13

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people in need. Practice hospitality.”

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.