



29 JANUARY, 2023

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 29 January, 2023

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Next week 5 February, 2023

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel. They are resuming their study on Grandparenting, study no5.

Change of Op Shop Hours

From this year the shop will be closing at **3.30pm Monday to Friday**, please allow for this if you are dropping off donations.

Donations of Baby Items

We have had a request from a member of our community for a cot and items suitable for a newborn. If you have baby things you no longer need, which are in good condition, please talk to Gail.

World Vision Child Sponsorship

You will be aware that our congregation currently sponsors three children with World Vision. They are Stanley, who lives in Kenya, Lojan, who lives in Sri Lanka and Mohammed, who lives in Bangladesh.

Each year we collect donations towards the \$1548 our sponsorship costs us and tax-deductible receipts are available if desired.

If you are able to make a contribution it would be appreciated; you can give your gift to Karen S or transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.

Our sponsorship helps provide support for child protection and child rights education, educational support and training for teachers, clean drinking water, farming support, increased access to health education and care and business training for communities.



Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162

revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au

Office Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

Gail's Message

Thank God for the role of Elder.

The Elders who lead this community of believers here at Greystanes Uniting Church have meet with me regularly over the last six months. We have spent some time considering the role and duties of an Elder, mainly I must admit for my own benefit. Elders are charged with assisting the Minister, by sharing in the oversight of the congregation. Depending on the Elders individual giftings this can mean assisting with the Sacrament of Communion, leading prayer or discerning how each member is doing in regards to their spiritual health and developing maturity in Christ. Elders may also have the gifting to be pastoral carers, people you can reach out to for prayer support and more. Why is the role of Elder crucial to the overall health of the church you may ask?

In the Uniting Church our founding document, the Basis of Union, states that the Elders work together with the Minister in being responsible for building up the congregation in faith and hope, sustaining its members in hope, and leading them into a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world (Basis of union 14b, link: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/basis-of-union>). This approach to being the church can be summed in the statement that "the church is the only organisation in the world that does not exist for its own benefit."

The Elders and I have also decided to offer Pastoral Care training to anyone who is interested (Note: this does not mean you have to take on a particular role or already be in a role). This training will assist all of us to continue shaping this community into one based on love for one another and love of neighbour (Matthew 22: 36-40).

Over the next few months we will keep you all posted on when and how we will deliver this training. We also will occasionally spend some time in the regular Sunday service exploring the particular roles within the church, thinking about why they are important, and how they are founded in both the Word in Scripture and the Word, Jesus, who if we allow him lives on in us day by day. In March we explore the role of Presbytery when Geoff Stevenson comes as our guest and in August we will welcome the Moderator Rev. Simon Hansford.

I give God thanks for those who have been had called to particular roles within the church and I feel blessed to have such a great team working with me here at Greystanes Uniting. In working together we can continue becoming the church God has called us to be. **Amen**