



**13 JULY , 2025**

## Welcome

Welcome to worship this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us. Thank you to Lola for leading the service this morning while Gail is attending Synod.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 13 July, 2025

Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

### Next week 20 July, 2025

Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 52  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

### Next Sunday 20 July 2025

Rev. Geoff Stevenson, our Presbytery Mission Strategist, will be visiting us on July 20<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> to help us discern a new mission statement for our church and then assist us in visioning and discerning God's will for us.

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon in the chapel at 3pm. They are commencing their new study, 'Life to the full', looking at study 1 John 1:1-2;12 Meeting the Word.

## Free Lounges to Good Home

One of our members has a couple of lounges looking for new homes, if you know of anyone who might be interested, please see Sue for more details and pictures.



**Greystanes Uniting Church**

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From Friday morning until Sunday afternoon I will be attending the meeting of the Synod in my own backyard, right here in Penrith. The Synod meeting which occurs every two years draws up to 500 members of the UCA together across NSW and the ACT, including both lay and ordained people. Anyone is welcome to apply to attend the Synod meeting through the relevant Presbytery.

The Synod as a board and committee carries the responsibility of general oversight of the wider church giving direction and the administration to the Church's worship, witness and service. The Synod Board and its committees also ensures the decisions and discernment of the biannual Synod meetings are implemented. This cut and dry information may not be very exciting but the duties and responsibilities of the councils of the Church actually exist and serve you, the people who diligently turn up regularly for worship, and who give their time to witness and serve others in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You, people of Greystanes Uniting are the "primary expression of the corporate life of the Church" or in other words its 'all about you'. The Uniting Church maintains that there is no hierarchy in the offices of the church, which include at grassroot level the Congregation, then the Presbytery (local area) then the Synod (State) and finally the Assembly (Nation). This is very countercultural and hard to get our heads around. In general, society is geared to look towards people at the top as more important than everyone else, people like Prime Ministers, CEO's, the heads of state, the Pope and the Monarchy to name but a few, yet our Church follows the way of Christ, the Holy One who stooped down to wash the feet of his own little congregation of twelve, his disciples (John 13:1-17).

There is a groundbreaking and life-changing proposal being discussed at Synod 2025. A proposal which will combine the current 12 Presbyteries into 3. The reasoning behind this proposal is the awareness that each Presbytery needs more staff and funding in order to serve each Congregation well. The Presbytery exists in order to encourage us to strengthen one another's faith, to bear one another's burdens, and fulfil our high calling in Christ Jesus. The Presbytery is called to provide us with opportunities for counsel in the strengthening and assistance of one another and in our participation in the wider work of the Church. As I said it is "all about us".

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It is early days and we may not have any answers for quite some time but a wise person recently reminded me, that we need to wait with patience and confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ because in the end it's really all about Him! - Rev Gail