



2 AUGUST 2026

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 2 August 2026

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Next week 9 August 2026

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Trivia Night Request

Our next church family and friends Trivia Night will be on Saturday, August 22nd.

If you have any items at home which would be suitable for a prize, please see Carol.





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Rev Gail's Message

Greystanes Uniting Church Values: Families and Children

The last value that appeared in the 2021 Greystanes Uniting Profile (the profile your church leaders put together to describe who you are as a church for prospective ministers) is Families and Children. What does it mean to value Families and Children and how does a church enact that value? Well, there are a few clues in the Profile itself, for example the inclusion of a children's message in worship services, building relationships with the families and staff of the former Childcare Centre, developing programs for children and young people, and having a multicultural focus on the younger families moving into Greystanes and Pemulwuy. These are all wonderful aspirations.

The church's vision to reach families, children and youth was the reason your Ministry Team and I approached the Growing Young Team from Synod. Once a month we were coached by a mentor from the Pulse Team (Synod's first third of life ministry). We read through a resource with six main themes including "Prioritize Young People (and Families) everywhere". To be honest I am not sure how to go about this and I need your help.

For those of you who attend with children please offer the Ministry Team Leaders and I any suggestions you might have. For those of you who now have grown up children and/or grandchildren what do you notice about our church and its approach to families? If you never attend with a young person in tow, imagine what you would like to see in our church, if you were bringing a baby, or a toddler, or a primary schooler or a teen along.

I will conclude this entry with a warning out of the Growing Young resource book: "Churches who have keychain leadership (*my note*: meaning they share the leadership of the church beyond a few key leaders), empathize with young people, focus on Jesus, and nurture warmth can be lovely churches, (*however*) they can get comfortable, face inward, and ultimately grow old. If they fail to prioritise young people everywhere and help them live as good neighbours in the world, over time the congregation will age out."

Church leaders cannot make the church more effective on their own. They "need everyone in the church to prioritise young people if they hope to make worthwhile and lasting progress. Simply put priority is the game changer for churches that want to grow young."

More salient advice from the Growing Young resource goes on to say that "good intentions are not enough" and that "young people can't be fooled into thinking your church has made them a priority".

So what do we do with that information?

I for one will continue to pray that God leads us forward, as we embark on a new mission starting out as that tiny mustard seed that grows into a tree big enough to offer shelter, warmth and comfort to all who seek it.

