



26 JULY 2026

Welcome

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

Congregation Annual General Meeting

We will be having a congregation Annual General Meeting after church this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week 26 July 2026

Genesis 29:15-28
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Psalm 128, Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Next week 2 August 2026

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

*¹ Give praise to the LORD,
proclaim his name;
make known among the
nations what he has done.*

Psalm 105:1

We are anticipating doing the final cleanup of the childcare centre this week and there are several items still looking for a new home.

We have

Speedqueen washing machine
2 filing cabinets
4 cots
5 large tables
20 m of netting
Several bookcases
Kids tepee
2 automated nappy-change tables



If you are interested in any of these, please see Sue





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Rev Gail's Message

Greystanes Uniting Church's Values: Humour, Laughter and Fun

A church that holds humour, laughter and fun as a value is a church that does not take itself too seriously. We take faith seriously, we take belonging and inclusivity seriously, we take caring and respect seriously, but in being able to have a laugh, we provide a warm, down to earth welcome and friendly accepting atmosphere. You do not need to be incredibly pious and religious to belong in this church; all you need is to have heart, mind and soul that earnestly seeks God, the God who created us to find things funny.

Scientists are still debating why we laugh and they have quite a few theories, some suggest that smiles and laughter evolved in humans as a way to cement social cohesion and let off steam. Others suggest that humour allows individuals to feel superior by laughing at the silliness of others. The theory that should interest us as Christians explains that we laugh when the expected becomes the unexpected, but in a safe non-threatening way. For example, you are in a crowded elevator and no one makes a sound, that's expected, then someone loudly and proudly breaks wind, that is unexpected and it because it surprises you will find it hard not to smirk.

In the Bible there are many instances of people laughing at the unexpected and the reversal of their misfortunes. Sarah laughed at the thought of becoming a mother in her old age and when her baby arrives, she names him Isaac, which means, 'one who laughs or rejoices'. In Psalm 126 we read that when the Israelites remembered their liberation from exile in Babylon their mouths were filled with laughter and their tongues with songs of joy. We also read in the Old Testament, accounts of God laughing at the wickedness of rulers who expect their evil plans will succeed only to suffer the reversal of their success.

Jesus also turns our expectations on their head in the Beatitudes reversing social norms, by blessing the poor in spirit, the meek, and the grief-stricken. Jesus finishes this teaching by explaining that even though we may endure hardships we can rejoice and be glad because our reward is found in belonging to the Kingdom of heaven.

My favourite early church Mother, Julian of Norwich, famously laughed at the devil, who she saw standing at the end of her bed after a long battle with ill health. Julian saw her ability to laugh as a gift that gave her courage. Her laughter was underpinned by her vision of everyone and everything that ever was, and ever will be, being held safe by God in love.

Christians above all others should be able to laugh at the absurdities of life and even at times at adversity, because they know that in Christ we can never be separated from the love of God.

We know that in the end all will be well.

Funny Church Bulletin Typos

"Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons."

"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our Church and community."