



**2 FEBRUARY, 2025**

## Welcome

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

## Lectionary Readings

**This week 2 February, 2025**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

**Next week 9 February, 2025**

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will resume this Tuesday 4th February at 3pm in the chapel. Their new study series is entitled "Promises Kept - the whole story of the Bible". The first study is "A very good world: Creation (Genesis 1 - 2; John 1)

All ladies are welcome to join the group, see Gwen or Heather for more details.

## Gail on leave

Rev Gail is still on leave until 10 February, please contact Sue in the office or Adrian if you have any pastoral concerns during this time.

## World Vision Child Sponsorship

We are still collecting donations for the three children we sponsor through World Vision.

If you are able to make a contribution towards the \$1700 our sponsorship costs us, 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.

## Offering Envelopes

The new Offering Envelopes for the year commencing 2 March, 2025 are now available on the back table, please take a box if you would like one.



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## ***Encouraged to Encourage.***

We all need encouragement. We all need someone to lift us up from time to time. When we receive encouragement we feel that others care about us.

In Acts 4:36 we read of one of the great encouragers in the Bible. The church was young. It had really just got its start there in Jerusalem and all of the church was in one accord the scriptures tell us. There is one man though who was singled out for his generosity and encouragement of others, Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement").

As you look through the New Testament you will find that everywhere he went, Barnabas was an encourager.

I encourage you this morning to be a Barnabas, an encourager.

When we encourage someone, we walk beside them which means to share in their life showing support and strength, to do what we can to strengthen instead of tear down.

If we are to become encouragers, the first thing we must realize is that encouragement must be "Spoken". It doesn't do any good just to think good thoughts about a person, we need to communicate with people in order to encourage them. We need to learn to speak words that encourage each other and these words should always be authentic. That is, when encouragement is the appropriate response. To encourage someone when you don't really think they are correct or you are simply trying to "suck up" is empty and meaningless. Real encouragement in love is precious.

While we need to speak words of encouragement, it's easy to speak words of discouragement. It's easy to put someone down isn't it?

Scripture warns us about this repeatedly. The words that we choose to use are so important. We need to think and speak carefully.

Not only do we encourage with our words, we Encourage with Our Actions. I'm sure that you have heard the saying, "Actions speak louder than words". While that may be true in some cases, in the context of encouragement, they go hand in hand with each other. We encourage people with our actions as well as our words.

While this message is powerful in itself, I "encourage" you to be especially mindful of building one another up, encouraging one another in our individual and our joint Christian journeys.

Be a Barnabas in thoughts, words and actions.

Adrian