



**uniting
church**

in Australia
Grahamstown

October 2026

<https://grahamstown.uca.org.au/>

Grahamstown Congregation News

Karuah, Medowie, Raymond Terrace, Tea Gardens, Tilligerry

"By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Matthew 21:23



Welcome to Church! Welcome to Community!
Welcome to what God is teaching
us today and every day.

Please stay for a chat and a
cuppa after the service.



Services

The link for the 9.00 am Raymond Terrace Livestream Service is as follows:

4 Oct 2026 - <https://youtube.com/live/Un7luMaDjY8?feature=share>

11 Oct 2026 - <https://youtube.com/live/sXkfolsoqTM?feature=share>

18 Oct 2026 - <https://youtube.com/live/vlp7140yogE?feature=share>

25 Oct 2026 - <https://youtube.com/live/WDWG6zVy1cs?feature=share>

Date	Tilligerry 9.30 am	Medowie 9.30 am	Raymond Tce 9.00 am	Karuah 11.00 am	Tea Gardens 9.00 am
27	Lyn Bratten	-	Ian Matthews	Mark Naden	Frontier Services
4	-	9:00 am Join with Raymond Tce	Dianne Holden	Rev Neil Smith	Rev Neil Smith
11	Tilligerry Team	-	Rev Christine Sheppard, HC	Barbara Lyle, HC	Barbara Lyle, HC
18	9:30 am Grahamstown Congregation Service at Raymond Terrace Rev Pablo Nunez, Uniting Church Moderator Elect Pot Luck Lunch to follow – please bring a plate to share.				
25	-	Cliff Barclay	Lothar Nowak	Mark Naden	Lothar Nowak (Livestream)

Readings

Date	Week	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
27	Pent 18	Exodus 17:1-7	78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
4	Pent 19	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Isaiah 5:1-7	19 or 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
11	Pent 20	Exodus 32:1-14	106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
18	Pent 21	Exodus 33:12-23	99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
25	Pent 22	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

Regular Happenings around Grahamstown

Wednesdays

9am – Tilligerry Craft Group meets all year round.

1- 3pm – Medowie Craft Group during school terms.

Thursdays

10am – 12.30pm – Raymond Tce Craft Group meets in the hall. Drop in for a cuppa, chat or some craft.



Fridays

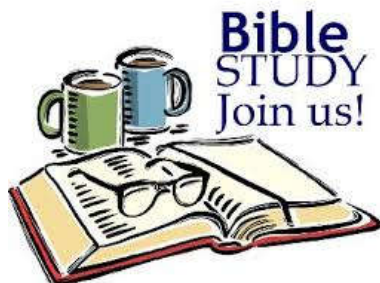
10.30am – 12 noon The **Living Through Grief** group meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at Karuah RSL and on the 4th Friday of the month at the Grange Village, Tea Gardens. This month's dates are:

10th October at Karuah RSL

24th October at The Grange Village, Tea Gardens

Fridays

10am – Discipleship Share and Care Bible Study at Raymond Terrace. Please ask Ian for the venue as it does change week to week.



Saturdays

The Toy Library at Tea Gardens is on the first Saturday of each month.

Pause With God

Grahamstown Congregation – October 2026 Newsletter

A Pause with God: Resting in Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." These opening words of Psalm 23 are familiar to many, even to people who have never opened a Bible. But familiarity can make us stop listening. When words become too well known, we can repeat them without letting them speak to us. So, this month, let us slow down and read Psalm 23 as if for the first time, letting each line settle in our hearts.



David, the shepherd-king, understood sheep well. Sheep are vulnerable. They wander easily. They cannot defend themselves. They need a shepherd who watches, guides, and protects. So, when David calls God his shepherd, he is not being sentimental. He is expressing complete dependence. And then he says, "I shall not want", not because life is simple, but because God is enough.

Psalm 23 is honest about life. It does not pretend that everything is peaceful. It speaks of "dark valleys," enemies, and evil. But it places all these realities inside the larger truth of God's presence. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." Notice the shift: earlier David says, "He makes me lie down... He leads me..." But in the valley, he speaks directly to God: "You are with me." Hard times make faith personal. In the dark, we do not need more information about God, we need God himself.

The psalm also speaks deeply about rest. "He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul." Sheep lie down only when they feel safe. So, this picture is not just physical rest but inner rest—security, calm, and peace. God is not a frantic shepherd pushing us from one thing to another. He leads us to stillness. He restores the whole inner self, not just the body.

Psalms 23 also speaks of guidance: "He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake." God's is about walking in ways that reflect his character, paths of righteousness, integrity, and love. He leads us not because we are clever or deserving, but because he is faithful to his own name.

Then comes one of the most striking images: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." God does not wait for the enemies to disappear before offering care. He sets a feast right in the middle of the conflict. He anoints the head with oil, a sign of welcome and honour. The cup overflows. This is God's abundance: not the absence of trouble, but grace in the middle of it.

The psalm ends with confidence, not a request: "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." The word "follow" can also mean "pursue." God's goodness and mercy do not trail behind us slowly, they chase us. And the destination is not a building but a relationship: living with God forever.

So, what does Psalm 23 offer us today? Maybe three simple invitations:

1. Rest

Whatever you are carrying, hear the shepherd's voice: "Come away and rest a while." You do not need to solve everything today. You do not need to be strong every moment. The shepherd stays awake even when you sleep.

2. Trust

The valley is real, but it is not the whole story. God is not absent in the dark. He is closer than you realise. The path may be difficult, but it is not pointless.

3. Receive

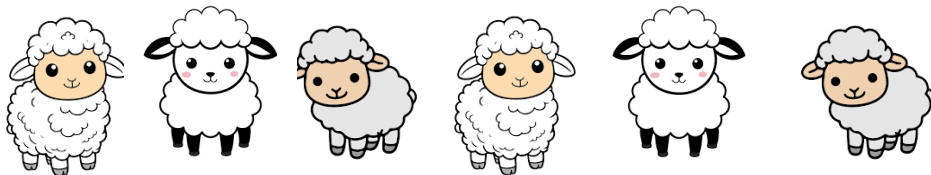
The table is already set. The cup already overflows. You are not an outsider at God's table; you are a welcomed guest. God is honoured by your trust.



As you pause today, let Psalm 23 become your prayer. You may not feel like a sheep in green pastures. You may feel more like a wanderer in a dry wilderness. But the shepherd has not changed. His goodness does not depend on your circumstances. It follows you. It pursues you. It will not let you go.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” May this be enough for today.

(Ian Matthews)



Sunday, October 18th –

Grahamstown Congregation Service at Raymond Terrace

Followed by a Pot-Luck Lunch

Come and meet the Moderator-Elect of the Uniting Church !

On 18 October, the next preaching plan has a joint Grahamstown Congregation service at Raymond Terrace at **9.30 am**. It will be led by the Moderator-Elect of the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT, Rev Pablo Nunez.

Save the date to come along and meet him before reading about him in the press!!!

In the meantime, click the link below if you would like to find out more

[Meet Rev Pablo Nunez – Uniting Church Australia](#)



Dear Alison,

On behalf of everyone at **Margaret Jurd College**, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and the Grahamstown Multi Congregation for the incredibly generous donation of food, toiletries and essential items collected across your congregations.

It was a privilege to attend the worship service and meet members of your congregation. The kindness, generosity and community spirit shown by everyone involved was truly heartwarming.

Your donations will make a meaningful difference to many of our young people and their families. The items received will help stock our campus pantry and provide essential support to students who may be experiencing financial hardship or housing instability. Knowing that our wider community cares so deeply about the wellbeing of our students is both encouraging and inspiring.

Please convey our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the collection. Their generosity will have a direct and positive impact on the lives of the young people we support each day.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support and for welcoming me so warmly. We greatly value our connection with the Grahamstown congregations and appreciate the compassion you have shown to our school community.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Kind Regards

Kylie French

Risk and Property Manager
Margaret Jurd College

A lovely letter from Kylie French after the Grahamstown Congregation service at Karuah where your donations were gratefully received.



Thank you for your freewill offering.
Here are the relevant numbers:

Uniting Financial Services **BSB 634 634**

Account numbers as follows:

Grahamstown 100035375

Karuah 100046015

Medowie 100046201

Raymond Terrace 100046088

Tea Gardens 100046084

Tilligerry 100046093

LET'S PRAY !

Thank you for praying for our brothers and sisters.

Les, Jennifer, Jeff, Lyn, John, Denise, Peri, Anne and Elizabeth.

Lagi, Michelle, Ruth, Judy, Paul and Val.

Wendy, Matthew, Peter, Tracy & Barbara, Anne.

Rachel Pitchford, our generous Lay Preachers, Revs Maz and Neil Smith. The new Northern Presbytery.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send any items, photos, articles, or things to advertise to

karen@totalrisk.com.au

or 0438 299 969 by the last Thursday of the month.

Our Mission

Loving God and all
creation:
a living example of
God's love in our
community

Our Vision

An active,
relevant and
meaningful
church, a safe
and welcoming
place in our
community.

Our Values

Visible; Inclusive;
Relevant; Active;
Faithful; Innovative
Looking to the future