

Sunday 12th April 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

A Note from Linda

How are you going this week?

Some of you will know that I've had a day or so of feeling 'flat' (feeling a little down, a little grumpy and demotivated). So yesterday I spent some time in the garden and enjoyed being out in this beautiful autumn weather. I also shared how I was feeling with others through our church private Facebook group. I am so thankful for the ways people have responded and shown their care for me. Some of you have also shared ways that you look after yourselves: gardening, walking, baking and it is such a lovely time of the year to be able to do these things. What do you do to care for yourself? If you are feeling 'flat' please take courage and let someone else know. So, today is a new day with a fresh perspective on life. Today I am feeling thankful. "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

*Blessings and peace,
Linda*

Easter Services

Worship services as a gathered community continue to be suspended until we are advised by government and the Uniting Church Synod that it is time to gather again. In the meanwhile we hope you have been making use of the Worship and Prayer resources, collated by Linda, that have been sent out each week. Later today (Thursday) a self-guided Worship resource will be sent out for Good Friday. Then in the next day or so, you will receive a Worship and Prayer resource for Easter Sunday. For the first time for our community we will be giving you the option on Easter Sunday of joining Linda in an online worship service. Using Zoom, Linda will lead us through the worship and prayer resource. If you would like to join in and have not used Zoom before, we recommend that you get yourself set up before Sunday. The self-guided Worship and Prayer resource will still be available for those who do not wish to, or are not able to, join in through Zoom.

A Quick Guide to Zoom

If you would like to join the online service using Zoom on Easter Sunday, here are a few things you can do to prepare:

You will either need a computer with a microphone and speakers or a smartphone or tablet.

If you are using a smartphone or tablet, download the Zoom app.

If you haven't used Zoom before, you might like to have a practice run.

Contact a family member or a friend in our church community and try it out!

We have attached a guide that you might find helpful too.

The Worship and Prayer resource will include a link to click on to join the service.

Be ready to go from 9.15am on Sunday so we can welcome everyone and be ready to start with our candle lighting at 9.30am.

**Don't forget to light a candle at 9.30 am
on Good Friday and Easter Sunday!**

Kindness calling cards

Do you need more kindness calling cards to pop in a neighbour's letterbox? You can now download your own and print from our website: <https://athelstonechurch.org.au/members-2/forms/>

A note from the Treasurer

During these uncertain times we are now in it is prudent for me to revisit our 2020 budget and look at what impact a potential reduction in income may have. We are fortunate to have a significant proportion (79%) of our income via electronic giving with 13% via envelopes and loose plate. The remaining 8% is via fundraising and property rental income. The majority of our expenses are fixed being salaries, insurance, Synod mission fund, property rates and maintenance. Whilst we will have some savings i.e. electricity and cleaning costs, these are basically offset by the reduced property income from the Calisthenics and Pilates groups. Online communication and additional electronic resources now being utilised are somewhat offset by savings in other areas. We are currently investigating technology (Zoom conferencing) to enable face to face meetings/contact over the internet which will have a cost. Having perused our budget I am confident that if we can maintain close to our original income position we will not see a significant negative impact financially. I invite anyone looking to transfer to electronic giving to contact me personally if they have any issues.

How to give electronically

Regular electronic giving or one off donations can be made using the following details:

Account name: Athelstone Uniting Church Account BSB: 704 095 Account number: 110043

Application forms for setting up regular e-giving through UC e-give are available at <https://ucinvest.com.au/forms-and-information#page=page-1>.

Contact Glen Luestner for more information. Phone: 0401-052-842 or E-mail: glenluestner@gmail.com



STAY AND PLAY @ HOME

Email resources will be sent out to enrolled families on the dates below.

DATES for 2020

Term 2

5th May

19th May

2nd June

16th June

30th June

Stay and Play @ Home

With the extended school holiday break and Easter, Stay and Play @ Home families have been provided with an extra mail out of activities, as well as a new enrolment form specifically designed for Stay and Play @ Home.

Thanks to one of our grandparents and Robyn Fry there is a "heart project" involving knitting and making felt hearts for the wirra. If you would like to be involved, please contact either Joy or Robyn.

Bruce and Joy Stewart. Phone: 8336 2671 or Email:

bruceandjoy@bigpond.com

Sign

Church Council decided to put up a sign at the front of our property which communicates how we are responding to COVID-19. This temporary sign is now in place. We have used this opportunity to try out some words and images that we are developing which have come out of our Planning Day held in February. Please let us know what you think of the look, the words and the message it conveys.

Send your feedback to Council Secretary Ann Brown:

Email: brownanndon@gmail.com



New Times – April/May 2020

The New Times April/May 2020 edition is out now. As you won't be able to collect a hard copy from the church, we encourage you to read the online version here: <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/new-times-print-edition/>. You can download a pdf version to read if you prefer. If you are not able to do so, and would like a print copy delivered to you, please let Carol know by email (office@athelstonechurch.org.au) or send a text to Linda (0458 500 656).

Lenten Appeal 2020

Each year the Uniting Church of Australia, through Uniting World, carefully selects a significant project of outreach and Christian mission. The 2020 project in partnership with the Protestant Church of Maluku in Indonesia seeks to bring Muslims and Christians together to build peace and beat poverty. We encourage you to give online. Further information www.lentevent.com

Pastoral care

The Pastoral Care Oversight Team are working on ways for us to care for one another during this time. Whilst this provides structured ways of caring for people, we encourage you to still continue to reach out and love and care for one another, as so many of you do so well, within our church community, and also those around us. Please do let us know if you are need of support. Contact a member of our Pastoral Care Oversight Team for assistance:

Rev Linda Driver 0458 500 656

Bob Stevenson 0400 641 242

Brenton Summers 0400 632 829

Ann Brown 0413 581 554

Lee O'Connell 0438 865 508

Prayer Requests

Can we support you in prayer? Here's how:

Prayer Chain - send an email to, or call Brenton Summers, who will pass your prayer request on to a group of people who faithfully pray in response to Prayer Chain emails.

Confidential Prayers - if the issue is more personal you are invited to contact Linda for individual prayer or one the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Brenton Summers, Ann Brown, Bob Stevenson and Linda). All prayer requests going to the team will be kept strictly confidential within this team.

Prayers for Others (Sunday Worship) – While our community is scattered, Linda will include these in a weekly Worship and Prayer resource. If you have something you would like to be included, please contact Linda. "We are all called to pray for one another, and so we are all encouraged to offer to pray for, or with others, especially if they share a concern with you." (James 5:13-16)

Wider Church news - <https://sa.uca.org.au>

You can also subscribe to receive UC E-News personally.

Website

We encourage you to visit our website: www.athelstonechurch.org.au

Lectionary readings

You will find these in your copy of the Uniting Church Calendar.

Newsletter contributions

Please email newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wed.

**Practice
Good
Hygiene**

