

**Don't forget to light a candle at 9.30 am every Sunday morning**

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

### A note from Linda

*"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." -- John 10:1-10*

Jesus used the metaphor of a shepherd several times in his ministry. In this passage, the sheep know the shepherd's voice and they follow because this Shepherd offers abundant life.



Some questions to ponder this week: How and where do you hear and recognise the Shepherd's voice? Do you make space in your life to listen? What does a loving Christian community look like, particularly at this time? How can we share this abundant life with others?

One simple example is the image of the heart. Last year we gave our hearts as acts of kindness. On Easter Sunday a 'heart tree' appeared next to our church sign, on the corner of Fox and Kantilla, covered in beautiful multi coloured hearts. Our hope is that people will take a heart to keep for themselves or to pass on to others. This image has been shared through social media, particularly the LOVE Campbelltown Facebook page as an image of hope. Julie-Ann Bennett, one of the administrators of the LOVE Campbelltown initiative shared a photo of our tree and said this about it:

*"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions and the roots spring up and make new trees."  
Amelia Earhart*

Kindness is LOVE in action and a great way WE can show care, concern and consideration to other people in our local community. There are many opportunities each day to practice kindness...but don't forget to be kind to yourself too.

#bekind #kindnesspandemic #gratitude #community  
#peopleofaction #makeadifference #bethechange #ourcityourfuture"

How wonderful that the heart tree, a symbol that came out of the creative and generous hearts of a number of people from our church, has inspired others! A gift that keeps on giving. So, if you are looking for an ISO-project, consider making a few hearts for the tree and for the Wirra (see Joy's note further on in this newsletter).

*Blessings and peace,  
Linda*

## **Worship Services at Home**

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 resources, collated by Linda, that have been sent out each week.

Over the last 3 weeks some of us opted to join in for an online service using Zoom. Last Sunday 56 joined us. Resources will continue to be sent out each week with options to connect via Zoom or to worship in your own time and at your own pace using a self-guided resource.

If you haven't used Zoom before and you'd like to know more, Paul Driver has offered to provide support and help you get set up if you need it. Give him a call on 0428 161 918.

## **Did you realise?**

While COVID19 has certainly impacted on our church community meaning we cannot conduct our normal worship services and ongoing activities it is wonderful to see evidence of church life continuing despite the restrictions. Here are some examples of activities that are occurring albeit in a very different way.

- Stay and Play @ Home – Bruce and Joy have done a fantastic job in preparing a resource package containing lots of ideas and activities for the families to continue their involvement at home so the children and parents/caregivers can be "on deck" all term!
- Messy Church – the leadership team have been in touch with the Messy Church families to see what help they need and to offer to drop off a 'care package' with some nature play ideas for the kids as well as ideas for parents and caregivers to focus on their own mental health, spiritual journey and connection to each other
- Small Groups – The Stevenson small group has arranged to meet this coming Monday night through the online ZOOM program so they can stay connected
- Sunday service – over the past 3 weeks altogether 70 people have opted to join in worship via Zoom and numerous others have been using the self-guided worship resource

Isn't it fantastic to see how creative our church leaders are to facilitate these connections with one another as we encourage and build each other up on the good days and the challenging days? Thank you and congratulations to those leaders for having a heart for connecting with their church community.

Jeff Dry Chair Church Council

## **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](mailto:glenluestner@gmail.com)

## **With Love to the World**

The next edition of With Love to the World (4 May – 2 August) has been delivered to those of you who I knew received copies last time. If I have missed you then please let me know. We have three extra copies that can be collected from the letter box at Athelstone Uniting Church (green letter box on Fox Avenue just right of exit to Fox Avenue from car park). So if you would like a copy of this daily devotional resource then please take one from the church letter box this week. If you insist on making your \$5 payment then this can be made via direct debit into the AUC bank account (details in newsletters) or just keep an envelope at home and drop in to offering when church services eventually resume in future.

Carol Lang, AUC Office Coordinator

## Stay and Play @ Home

STAY AND PLAY @ HOME

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

DATES for 2020

Term 2

5<sup>th</sup> May

19<sup>th</sup> May

2<sup>nd</sup> June

16<sup>th</sup> June

30<sup>th</sup> June

With the extended school holiday break and Easter, Stay and Play @ Home families have been provided with extra mail outs of activities, as well as a new enrolment form specifically designed for Stay and Play @ Home. So far families have received Easter, relaxation, Anzac and Nature Play themed activities. Thank you to those of you who have knitted more hearts to add to the farm gate and the rope between the shadows. Check them out when you are passing by next. Bruce and Joy  
Stewart Phone: 8336 2671 or  
Email: [bruceandjoy@bigpond.com](mailto:bruceandjoy@bigpond.com)



## Pastoral care

The Pastoral Care Oversight Team has been working on ways for us to care for one another during this time. We have developed a network of people who are checking in on and praying for each other regularly. 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:  
Brenton Summers 0400 632 829 Rev Linda Driver 0458 500 656 Bob Stevenson 0400 641 242 Ann Brown 0413 581 554 Lee O'Connell 0438 865 508

## Vacancy – Board Director Uniting Communities

A unique opportunity exists for a Uniting Church person to apply for a vacant Board Director position with Uniting Communities. Interested people with a work or academic background in either social or human services, business, management, strategic planning, or organisational governance, should email Dr Sue King, Chairperson, Uniting Communities at [chairperson@unitingcommunities.org](mailto:chairperson@unitingcommunities.org).

## UnitingWorld appeal for COVID-19 affected partners

UCA partner churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific are providing emergency food, access to clean water and sanitation, care for those at risk of violence in locked-down communities. Your gift will save lives. Find out how you can help here: <https://www.unitingworld.org.au/actnow>

## Bush Chaplains hit the phones

While volunteers have stood down due to COVID-19 pandemic, Frontier Services' chaplains are providing a vital lifeline for people in the Australian Outback. Read about their work in the May edition of Frontier News. <https://frontierservices.org/news-media/media-resources/frontier-news/download-our-latest-issue-of-frontier-news/>.

## SA COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line

Uniting Communities is operating the South Australian COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line, established by the State Government to help those struggling with the current situation or with feelings of isolation. Counselling is offered over the phone and via video calls, along with referrals to a range of services if needed. The Support Line is open 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm on **1800 632 753**.

## 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/>

## Food Donations to Uniting Communities

For many years now, the Athelstone Uniting Church congregation has been a great supporter of the Uniting Communities Eastern Services Branch Emergency Relief program through its donation of food items.

One of the casualties of not meeting as a Church family due to the Covid-19 restrictions has been the loss of food donations to Uniting Communities. Since the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic, many people/families within our community have suffered a reduction or a total loss of their income due to restrictions put in place, resulting in the number of people seeking assistance increasing dramatically. At the moment, I am not able to provide counselling assistance as in the past, but I have been in regular contact with the manager at Uniting Communities to keep in touch.

Although restricted services can only be provided now, the requests for food assistance has increased and the need for food donations remains. One suggestion put forward is to find a box or grocery bag to collect food donations for the next few weeks. Use markers or paints to decorate it with symbols of love. Include messages and intentions like "straight from the heart" or "feast of love." Go through your pantry and take out things you wish to donate. The next time you go to the supermarket, intentionally purchase items to add to your food donation collection. When you place any items in the box/bag, say a prayer of thanks for those that prepared it, and a prayer of goodwill for those who will eat it. If you wish to donate any food items, I can either collect them from your front door or they can be left on my front door step. Cash donations will also be received with great thanks.

This week I was able to secure a \$1,000.00 donation from The Rotary Club of Morialta for the emergency relief program. This money will be used to purchase Coles "food vouchers" which can be issued to those in need and will provide the opportunity for those people to select food items of their choice from Coles in addition to receiving a food parcel.

Brenton Summers

## Fair Trade Mother's Day Shopping

The Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that increases awareness, understanding and support of Fair Trade. On Mother's Day we have the opportunity to show appreciation for our own mothers and for the mothers in other communities that created many of these Fair Trade products - mothers who are skilled and resilient artisans, farmers or workers and mothers who are leaders and who advocate the same values of fairness as our own did. The Fair Trade Mother's Day Shopping Guide 2020 showcases a wonderful selection of Fair Trade products. Purchasing from businesses advertised in the guide means you are directly supporting vulnerable communities, ensuring their purchase has far reaching positive impact in these trying times. The guide can be found at [https://issuu.com/fairtradeassociation/docs/ftaanz\\_mother\\_s\\_day\\_guide\\_2020](https://issuu.com/fairtradeassociation/docs/ftaanz_mother_s_day_guide_2020).

## 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 at <https://sa.uca.org.au/uc-e-news/>

The New Times is available online as well at <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/new-times-print-edition/>

## Website

We encourage you to visit our website: [www.athelstonechurch.org.au](http://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](mailto:newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au) by 5pm Wed.

## Roster

Week Beginning	4th May	11 <sup>th</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> May
Volunteer Walk-Through	Paul H	Lyndon and Wendy	Ann	Brenton

**Note:** We strongly encourage you to do your walk-through on either Friday or Saturday. Remember that the designated areas used by Medical HQ are out of bounds. There is no need to conduct a walk-through in the top hall and adjacent car park as these will be cordoned off for exclusive use by Medical HQ. Remember that there should be no interaction with anyone from the Respiratory Clinic if they are at the premises when you go or with patients who may be waiting in the cars.

**Practice  
Good  
Hygiene**

