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Linda's Day off: Monday

Don't forget to light a candle at 9.30 am each Sunday as a sign of us being connected to God and to each other!

Sunday 10th May 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

If you are a mother or a grandmother, we wish you a very Happy Mother's Day and hope you enjoy your day on Sunday!

A note from Linda

I read this opening sentence in an email recently: "As we continue living and working in a 'world interrupted'..."



That expression 'a world interrupted' took me back to when I worked in administration at Uniting College. I had a number of responsibilities including the reception desk. I remember getting frustrated by the interruptions... phone calls, visitors, emails. It was hard to focus on the list of tasks I had before me. It took a while for me to work out that I needed to embrace the interruptions because they were an important part of my work! By treating every interruption as valued as those other things on my list I became less resentful and found so much joy in my role.

Today as we try to live out our daily lives, we can get frustrated by interruptions... a phone call during dinner, a knock at the door, an email with a new request, and so on. Each interruption represents a person, a moment, something which in itself is important and to be valued. Without interruptions our lives would be mundane, boring with no change, no progress. We can resent the interruption or we can give it our full attention and be in that moment for just a while.

What can we learn in the interruptions of life? What do they teach us about our life and ourselves? How might they change us?

And now, we find ourselves experiencing a doozy in interruptions, unprecedented in interruptions... the COVID-19 pandemic. Can we apply the same questions? Can we give it our full attention and be in this moment for a while? What is living in a pandemic teaching us about life and ourselves? How might this change us? Can we embrace this interruption?

Please pray with me: Loving Patient God, we do not naturally enjoy interruptions and we certainly are not enjoying this pandemic! People are falling ill and some are dying, lives are disrupted, jobs have been lost, people are hungry, isolated and anxious. Yet, you call us to life overflowing. What does that look like in a pandemic? Help us to give full attention to this strange new world we find ourselves in and to be fully in this moment of time.

Help us to be aware of your presence in all our moments.

Help us to be open to what we can learn about life and ourselves in this time.

Shine a light on those things we need to see.

Help us to be open to whatever change may come out of those new insights. Help us to look forward with hope to whatever those changes will bring. Amen

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 4 weeks some of us opted to join in for an online service using Zoom. Last Sunday 57 joined us, with an estimated 76 people joining in overall.

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.

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

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, Office Coordinator

Stay and Play @ Home



This week, we commenced our Term 2 program with Stay and Play @ Home families being provided with a once/fortnight program. Activities continue to follow our annual theme of "Save the plants, save the planet" with an emphasis this term on "Family, like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one." With thanks to Linda, these programs will also eventually be available on the AUC web site. Emailed resources will be sent out on 19th May, 2nd June, 16th June and 30th June for Term 2.

Bruce and Joy Stewart: Phone: 8336 2671 or Email: bruceandjoy@bigpond.com

Food Donations to Uniting Communities

Thanks to all who have dropped off food donations which are to be given to the Uniting Communities Eastern Services Emergency Relief Food Appeal. As you can see much has been donated and will be very well received. Further donations are welcomed any time. I have also received cash donations and in particular some very generous amounts including a donation of the \$750 Covid-19 payment provided by the Federal Government as the recipients believe that they are in a better position than many others in this current environment. A big thank you to our very generous and giving Church community. Brenton Summers



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

COVID-19 devotions from UCA leaders

UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer and the Moderators of the six UCA Synods have released a seven-day devotional resource for the Church. *What Sustains Us* is a collective reflection on faith and spiritual practice, shared with love and hope. We have attached this resource for you to use in your household. The President is also inviting UCA members to share about how their faith is sustaining them.

Read more <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/3179-covid-19-devotions-from-uca-leaders>

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.

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. The Moderator invites us to support UnitingWorld as the COVID-19 fallout has plunged every one of our international regional partner church communities into crisis. 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**.

#NobodyLeftBehind

This campaign aims to ensure people seeking asylum, refugees and other vulnerable groups are included in the Government's COVID-19 responses. Go here to find out more: <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/nobodyleftbehind>

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/>

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

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.

Roster

Week Beginning	11 th May	18 th May	25 th May	1 st June
Volunteer Walk-Through	Lyndon and Wendy	Ann	Brenton	Paul D

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 close 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**

