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Linda's Day off: Monday

Sunday 17th May 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

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!

A note from Linda

This week we continue with our Easter Season - because Easter isn't just one day! He is risen! *He is risen indeed!* In our worship this week we are reminded to keep Jesus' commandments. To love one another is to keep each other in our hearts. Every week we remind ourselves why we gather. We are forming a habit of spending time together, breaking bread together, praising God together and having goodwill for all the people. In the account of the early church, they did just that:

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." (Acts 2: 46-47a NRSV)

We create a "temple" of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance and time. And as we share this worship, we will stay connected. At the "heart of the matter," we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

*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.

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.

A note from Church Council Executive

Church Council Executive met this week to discuss a number of matters, in particular the implications of the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions and how this impacts on our church community moving forward. A letter is being prepared for our congregation updating them on the situation. During this meeting Executive expressed its appreciation to Linda on the tremendous leadership and commitment she has shown during this time that COVID-19 has impacted on our normal church life. It has resulted in Linda dedicating significant number of hours to the increasing pastoral care demands, setting up the self-guided resources and the ZOOM on-line services, while at the same time being heavily involved in the establishment of the Medical HQ Respiratory Clinic and submitting an assignment as part of her study leave. Executive has acknowledged this has created a huge workload for Linda with her working many more hours than her 0.8 load. As a result Church Council has agreed to offer Linda the opportunity to take an additional week's leave as time off in lieu of extra hours worked during this recent period which she has accepted for the week of 18-24 May inclusive (next week). In her absence the services for Sunday 24 May will still be offered in both forms and will be managed by a team of volunteers.

Jeff Dry (Chairperson)

Message of appreciation from Medical HQ

"It has been a hectic week for me as the Respiratory Clinic Manager, but I am pleased to announce that all building work has completed and we passed the government inspection on Thursday 30 April. Our website is now live and we are listed on the Adelaide Primary Health Network website. We will be listed on more websites on Monday 11/5/2020 when the clinic officially opens for its first day. We already have a number of patients who have rung up and made bookings for that day.

I apologise, I don't have all the contact emails of all the wonderful staff involved from the Athelstone Uniting Church, but please convey my enormous thanks to all involved. I also want to pass on my deep gratitude to your congregation who have graciously supported this community effort to defeat COVID-19.

I expect the first week will be busy but will endeavour to send updates towards the end of the week so that the church can continue this journey with my team and I."

With great thanks,

Dr Nathan Lam

Stay and Play @ Home

Last week, we commenced our Term 2 program with Stay and Play @ Home families being provided with a once/fortnight programs. 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 Carol, these programs will also eventually be available on the AUC web site. Email resources are sent out on 19th May, 2nd June, 16th June and 30th June. Bruce and Joy continue to maintain the wirra and are enjoying the new growth that comes with the rain. Bruce and Joy Stewart Phone: 8336 2671 or Email:bruceandjoy@bigpond.com



Fun in a mud kitchen cooking charcoal hamburgers!

Food Donations to Uniting Communities

We thank all those who have given generously in previous weeks by providing food or cash donations to Uniting Communities Eastern Services Branch Emergency Relief Program. Food or cash donations are still welcomed at any time. For more information contact Brenton Summers. Phone 0400 632 829.

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

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

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)

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>

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	18 th May	25 th May	1 st June	8 th June
Volunteer Walk-Through	Ann	Brenton	Paul D	Jeff

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**

