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Linda's Day off: Monday

## Sunday 31st 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

Throughout this Easter season, we have proclaimed that love is that which connects us (the root of "religion") to God, to Jesus, to each other. Love IS our religion.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday - a time to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the church received the power of the Holy Spirit to let this message of love flow out to all. The power of this message is so important to spread in the world today. Let us be a community of messengers letting living compassion flow from our hearts.

In the coming weeks and months we will be working towards a gradual return to our 'normal' gathered worship and programmed activities. This is something to be done carefully and not to be rushed. Church Council will be taking into consideration advice from the Federal and State governments and the Uniting Church Synod. There will be a number of things we will be required to comply with before we can open our church building and begin to gather again. So please pray for your Church Council and keep an eye out for updates. If you have any questions, please direct them to Jeff Dry or myself.

In June we will begin a new series called *Unraveled*.



What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be?

In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need to be unraveled for God to be able to work in and through us. This worship series will explore stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiralling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new. My hope is that through these stories we will find hope and inspiration as we move forward toward a new normal.

*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.

## Church Council update from ZOOM meeting of 28 April

- Medical HQ proposal to establish a COVID -19 Respiratory Testing Clinic was endorsed and a strategy to advise the congregation, nearby residents and the broader community was adopted
- Council gave its approval to the alternative methods of worship being used currently and the positive feedback from those involved in both types of service was noted and Council supported the cost to purchase a licence for the ZOOM online program
- During this period when the church building is not being used a roster of volunteers has been organised to do a walk-through of the property to ensure all is in order
- Following the Council Planning Day in February a draft document has been produced and council members are providing feedback prior to the final document being distributed to members of the congregation
- Safe Church under the leadership of Victoria Pederick has been progressing well with email invitations being sent to members of the Church who need to complete the Safe Screening process.
- Numerous property matters are being actioned including repairs to the church (passage floor adjacent the toilets, exterior painting/repairs) and the manse (roof leak, quotes to replace air conditioning).

## Reconciliation Sunday

This Sunday we will celebrate Reconciliation Sunday, the first Sunday of National Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June each year). For the past 13 years, the Synod of South Australia has encouraged this celebration as one way of continuing to recognise the Covenant between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Uniting Church in Australia. Reconciliation Sunday encourages us to participate in one of the major themes of our Christian faith: God was in Christ reconciling the world. We too can contribute to this reconciling by developing mutually respectful relationships between First and Second Peoples within our congregations and the wider church. We particularly pay our respects to Uncle Ivan-Tiwu Copley OAM (Member of the Order of Australia). Ivan is a local aboriginal Peramangk/Kaurna man who has been publicly honoured for his achievements for working with non-Aboriginal & Aboriginal peoples for reconciliation & the recognition of his people. Ivan has been very generous in teaching us much about the Land and the First Peoples of this area where we live and worship



*Celebrating ReconciliationWeek  
in wakwakurnaku wirra.  
How appropriate is 2020 theme - "In this together"*

## Stay and Play @ Home

Our Term 2 Program continues, with Stay and Play @ Home families being provided with a once/fortnight program. Activities 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 Bruce, the wirra blog is being updated regularly. With visiting birds and rocks, it's a busy spot! Bruce and Joy continue to maintain the wirra and are enjoying the new growth that comes with the rain. Email resources will be sent out on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June for Term 2.

Bruce and Joy Stewart.

Phone: 8336 2671 or Email: [bruceandjoy@bigpond.com](mailto:bruceandjoy@bigpond.com)



## Find me in the wirra

.....but beware, we move and  
change!



## Food Donations to Uniting Communities

Food or cash donations for Uniting Communities Eastern Services Branch Emergency Relief Program 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](mailto:glenluestner@gmail.com)

## 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	1 <sup>st</sup> June	8 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> June	22 <sup>nd</sup> June
Volunteer Walk-Through	Paul D	Jeff	Glen	Paul H

**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**

