

Sunday 21st June 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 recognise the 43rd anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia, which was inaugurated on June 22nd 1977. We'll unravel some of the story of the Uniting Church, reflecting on our own church communities, and on the various ways in which we worship, witness and serve. Hopefully by Sunday you will have received another pack from me which includes a resource for the Anniversary. Put it aside ready for the service. (Don't worry - I have a back-up plan if your pack doesn't arrive in time!)

The State Government has announced further stages in the easing of restrictions due to COVID-19. Your Church Council has received correspondence from the Uniting Church SA Synod Office and is in the process of considering what this means for us. There are many things to be taken into consideration before we are able to meet again for worship face-to-face in our church building. Thank you all for your patience and your grace. This is a challenging time for all of us. Please pray for us as we discern.

The good news is a number of activities held off the church premises are continuing or have re-commenced. Worship continues with resources available for you to use at home and through Zoom.

Last Sunday we shared Communion online through Zoom. Thank you so much to those of you who welcomed others to your 'table' so they could join in too. We now have an average of 50 people joining in via Zoom each week, with a total of 84 who have given it a try so far. People value being able to see and hear each other. If you haven't tried it yet and are wondering what it might be like, please give me a call.

We continue to show our love and care for one another through prayer and by phoning and messaging each other. Some folk are now venturing out to cafés or visiting one another as appropriate.

Triple Cs, ToFs and Threads are recommencing.

Stay and Play at Home continues with quality resources sent out to playgroup families each fortnight, then made available on our website.

Messy Church at Home continues with resources made available to families along with a Celebration time through Zoom.

The Wirra is always open for you to make use of.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in coordinating these activities. Thank you for creativity and flexibility as we navigate these stormy waters together.

What have I missed? If there is an activity that you are part of that has recommenced then please let us know (or remind me) through the newsletter. If you are unsure whether the time is right for your activity to start again, please contact Jeff Dry or me to discuss.

Blessings and peace,

Linda

Worship Services at Home

Worship services as a gathered community continue to be suspended for the time being. 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 Paul a call.

Community Art Project

As part of the *unraveled* series, we have started a **community art project** at the Church. We invite you to add and weave into our art project... not just a strip of fabric or yarn but you may also like to write on your strip of fabric and weave in your hopes, dreams and prayers as well...

Find some time to visit our Church Building where you'll find the growing artwork up on the veranda. Take a strip of fabric (or some yarn) and tie it to the end of the previous fabric strip, or tie it to one of the ribbon spokes, and continue the weaving pattern of going over and under in a circular pattern.. Please use the sanitiser provided.

"This project helps us embody the promise of the great weaver - that our loose ends can be woven into something new, something beautiful." (Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Increase in scam emails asking for assistance

Reports of scam emails (phishing) which pretend to come from ministry leaders, using a similar email address, and asking for urgent assistance and gift cards, are on the rise. If you receive one, please do the following:

- Check the email address carefully
- If you are not sure whether or not the email is real, DON'T reply, instead start a fresh email using the contact details you already have or phone the person
- DO NOT reply (however if you have already done so, just cease any further conversations / contact). Please know that Linda and other ministry leaders do not ask for assistance in this way.

Note re contact details in the newsletter

In light of the above, we will no longer be publishing personal email addresses in this newsletter.

If you wish to contact a specific person mentioned in these articles then please first refer to your church member's directory or contact the AUC office (details top of page 1) and they would be happy to redirect your enquiry.

Carol Lang

Threads

With the easing of restrictions we are planning to meet again at Indigo Café, where Shirin and Mohammed will make us welcome. We plan to recommence on June 30, then on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 2-4pm.

We bring along our WIPs (works in progress) and enjoy a coffee and chat. So, if you enjoy creating with thread, or would like to learn, and/or enjoy a chat over a cuppa, come join us!

Jeanine and Linda

TRIPLE C's (Chaps Coffee Chatter)

It is anticipated that we will hold our first meeting since Corona on July 8th all things being equal, meeting no doubt at Settebello. It is under new ownership, and old "discount" key rings no longer valid.

Then please diarise August 5 for a special get together. Looking forward to the conversation buzz.

Keep well and safe, and if not feeling OK then reach out for help or to discuss.

Ray Walter

TOFS (Tuesdays on Fox)

Our next TOFS meeting is Tuesday July 7th at Café Va Bene, 1.30-3.00pm. Join us at Lower Gorge Village, Lower North East Rd, Campbelltown for tea/ coffee/ cake and a chat. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Sheralyn to make sure that you have a seat booked.

Stay and Play @ Home

Our Term 2 and 3 program continues, with Stay and Play @ Home families being provided with a once per fortnight program. Activities follow our annual theme of "Save the plants, save the planet" with a focus this week on "A tree is a home for many creatures". Families are being encouraged to get together in small groups and to use the wirra for nature play. Dates for Term 2: 30th June. Dates for Term 3: 28th Jul, 11th Aug, 25th Aug, 8th Sept and 22nd Sept. *Bruce and Joy Stewart.*



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.

New Times – June Edition

The June edition of New Times can now be viewed, or downloaded and printed, from <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/new-times-print-edition/>.

COVID implications for our church: Rules upon entering the church building

If for some reason you do need to visit the church building then it is very important that you do the following every-time you enter the building. This applies whether you plan to be there 5 minutes or a few hours. This procedure is not only a legal requirement of our Covid-safe plan but it allows us to conduct thorough contact-tracing should a case of COVID-19 arise in a user of the site. Even if you are only at the church 5 minutes there is still a small risk that you may touch something with active virus if a contagious person has been in the building before you and the virus has come to rest on something you touch after the person has cleaned and wiped it down and left.

So if for some reason you need to enter the church building, at any time, for anything, no matter how brief your visit, then you must:

1. Use the hand-sanitiser at that door on entry
2. Write your name* and the time of arrival in the Attendance Book (located at each entry door)
3. Follow the instructions any other instructions by the doors and the covid-safe plan
4. Maintain social distancing (1.5 m) from others at all times
5. Clean and disinfect all surfaces and rooms that you touched or used with anti-bacterial wipes or cleaning items provided.
6. Sign-out in the attendance book when you leave

*Any visitor or tradesperson to the church must also leave their contact details (mobile phone # or email address) in the attendance book so that we can contact them if a case of COVID-19 occurs in a user of the building.

Please 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.

Pastoral care

The Pastoral Care Oversight Team 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

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 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)

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.

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.

Church Rosters

Date	Worship via Zoom Roster			Volunteer Walk-Through* Week Beginning:
	Lead	Prayers for others	Scripture reader	
June 21	Linda	Robyn	Ann	Paul H
June 28	Di (Dave – Zoom)	Brian	Ray	Lyndon and Wendy
July 5	Linda	Nola	Eric	Ann
July 12	Linda	Dave	Lee	
July 19	Linda	Lynton	Jayne	
Jul 26	Meg (Dave – Zoom)	Brenton	Noel M	

***Note:** We strongly encourage you to do your walk-through on Saturday because Medical HQ has extended their hours and now operate Monday through Friday. 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.

Church Bookings

Hirer	Location	Day	Time
Waratah Calisthenics	Main auditorium	Monday	4.45 -6.45pm
Waratah Calisthenics	Main auditorium	Wednesday	6.30 – 8.30pm
Waratah Calisthenics	Main auditorium	Saturday	9.30 – 12 noon
Pilates	Lower hall	Monday	6.30 – 8.30pm
Pilates	Lower hall	Tuesday	9.30 – 10.30am
Pilates	Lower hall	Wednesday	9.30 – 10.30am
Pilates	Lower hall	Thursday	6.30 – 7.30pm
Pilates	Lower hall	Saturday	9.30 – 11.30am
Medical HQ	Top hall	Clinic operates Mon-Fri 1.30-5.30pm but top hall remains out of bounds at all other times	
Medical HQ	Top carpark	Clinic operates Mon-Fri 1.30-5.30pm but this top car park remains out of bounds at all other times	