

Sunday 13th September 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

A note from Linda

We are currently celebrating the Season of Creation - a joint celebration in which we not only give thanks for creation but also celebrate with creation. Our goal is a mutual ministry in which we are not only called to serve and sustain life, but recognises how creation serves and sustains life. Our vision is to celebrate Christ as personal redeemer and also as the cosmic power at work renewing and healing a suffering creation.

This week, we reflect on our relationship with the land. Each of these texts asks us to think of the land as a character who witnesses us in our kindest and most brutal moments. They suggest that the land, which holds all the pain of the world, teaches us how to go on, how to continue growing – how to heal.

'Let the field exult and everything in it'. Psalm 96:12

I invite you to **bring your heart stone to worship**. (We do have extra stones if you don't have one).

This Sunday morning we will also welcome Lynette Beck from Operation Christmas Child. It will be good to hear about what happens to the shoeboxes and how they bless the children and communities who receive them.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday and don't forget to wear your new nametag when you come!

Blessings,

Linda

Season of Creation

If you have a Smartphone, I encourage you to download the **Just Earth app**. This is a beautiful free App to use as a daily devotion during The Season of Creation. More info

here: <https://www.environmentalaction.org.au/post/2018/12/10/just-earth>

The Season of Creation provides for **different Bible Readings** than the Revised Common Lectionary. You will find these texts listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Worship Online or at Home

- If you choose not to attend for whatever reason, you can view the service as it is happening, using the same Zoom link as before: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86912199103>
- Meeting ID: 869 1219 9103
- We will also provide a lectionary-based Worship at Home resource.

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Please email newsletter items to newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wednesday.



Season of Creation

Pentecost 2 2020



September 13, 2020

Genesis 3:14-19; 4: 8-16

Psalm 139:7-12

Romans 5:12-17

Matthew 12:38-40

September 20, 2020

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20

Psalm 18:6-19

Romans 8:18-27

Matthew 3: 13-4:2 or Mark 1:9-13

Worship Onsite

It is so important for us to be vigilant with regard to our response to COVID-19. There are things we miss and changes we don't like. We are currently blessed to be able to worship together, so let's take on these temporary changes as a demonstration of the love we have for one another.

As you prepare to come to worship onsite, here are some important things to remember...

- Please don't come if you are unwell.
- Wear warm clothes! We aren't kidding when we say you'll need this! We'll have the exhaust fans on and windows open to keep the air circulating - this reduces the risks of COVID, especially as we will be singing.
- Avoid parking next to the top hall – this space is still being used by Medical HQ.
- Once you enter, you will be welcomed with a warm *Hello*, and possibly an elbow or toe tap. (Please refrain from handshaking, kissing or hugging at church for the time being).
Please remember that we are still being encouraged to maintain the physical distancing of 1.5 m when gathering with others outside of our immediate household.
You'll be signed in (as we need to keep a record of attendance) and please use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Seating is spaced out to allow for physical distancing. Those who come from the same household can sit together (if you wish to!)
- The Offering will be received at the end of the service. A receptacle will be provided near the exit. We continue to encourage regular giving through direct debit or electronic transfer.
- Morning tea will not be provided. We encourage you to connect with others by either having a coffee at a local café to support their business (many of our folk frequent Caffe Settebello and the Rezz on Sundays) or consider inviting others to share a coffee in your home.
- I encourage you to approach the 'Zoom screen' at the back of the church before and after the service and interact with those who are connecting online. It's important for us to help everyone feel welcome and included wherever they are.
- More details are in the letter from Jeff Dry (Church Council chairperson), sent out on July 11.

Kitchen closed

Please note that the kitchen remains closed. We encourage you to BYO coffee or water.

Office Closure – Sept 27th – 12th Oct

Both Linda and Carol will be on leave and therefore, will be away for two weeks at the end of this month. Linda's will be away from the 27th Sept to the 12th Oct, inclusive. Carol will be away from the 25th Sept to the 12th Oct, inclusive. We both return on the 13th October. The office will be closed during this time and there will be no newsletter produced. If you have anything you need to organise with the office please contact Carol prior to this time.

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the love and care you have so freely and thoughtfully given me since my dear Barbara passed away from us to be with our Lord.

This time has been, and continues to be, a very difficult time for me. God's love has been very obvious to me in many ways including your understanding, involvement in the funeral service, prayers, cards, emails, phone calls, visits, phone calls, chats over coffee, afternoon teas, evening meals and providing meals for another time. I feel very cared for! Thank you again for your very generous and loving support.

Eric Hurrell

COVID Marshal Update

In order to comply with COVID Marshal requirements, any future activity held on site **must have** a covid marshal in attendance. The training can be completed at <https://marshal.clickontraining.com.au/>. The training should take you no more than 15 minutes to complete. Please notify Carol once you have finished the training and email the office a copy of your certificate of completion. Covid Marshall badges are located in the cupboard in the vestry for you to wear, along with a hard-copy record of the COVID Marshal certificates, should you need to produce them during an inspection.

Street Library

Our first Street Library has been installed in the Wirra. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the design, creation, and installation. It looks fantastic! What is a Street Library you may ask? It is an opportunity to recycle books in our community. It helps our environment by passing books that you have finished with, onto other people to read. People take a book and can give a book. Street Libraries are a means of bringing neighbourhoods together. There are around 1800 street libraries across Australia. As part of an international movement that has gained more traction recently, they are one way for churches to get involved in the life of their local community and to offer generosity and neighbourliness. This Street Library is for books for children. If you have any children's books at home that are gathering dust, consider donating them to the Street Library. They will be taken and not returned so don't donate any family treasures. Children's books can be placed directly into the Street Library. Our next project is to have another Street Library for adults.



You can read more about street libraries here: <https://www.insights.uca.org.au/give-the-gift-of-reading/>

Sheralyn Robertson

TOFS

Our next TOFS catch up will be in the Lower Hall of Athelstone Uniting Church. We will be packing shoeboxes to be sent to children overseas. If you have been collecting or making items to go into shoeboxes please bring them along. Each shoebox costs \$10 to transport overseas so cash towards this fee is also welcome.

Under the current rules, we will be either bringing our own thermos of tea or coffee with an individual snack or else picking up a takeaway on the way to Church.

If you have any questions please contact Sheralyn 0418404018.

An update on the Shoeboxes!

Now that September is here, it is time we again think about filling those shoeboxes. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. I will have the shoeboxes and pamphlets on hand each Sunday for you to take. ToFS will again use their October meeting to pack shoeboxes.

Due to COVID I will not have a display up each week but am happy to answer questions you might have. If you feel you cannot pack a box, remember that we still need donations, not only of goods, but also of money. It costs \$10 for each shoebox and our congregation has been wonderful in the past in helping to cover these costs for us. Thanking you all.

Friederike



Book Club

Book Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9 am for those who are able to do so. We are back into reading Denise Champion's *Yarta Wandatha*. Anyone is welcome to join us. Our plan is to meet in the Indigo Café at 9 am to order our take-away coffee and then come up to the church to meet in the auditorium for the discussion time.

Soup and Scones for Paradise Primary School

Thank you to all those who have made soup and/or scones to bless the staff at Paradise Primary School.

Food Donations to Uniting Communities

Food or cash donations for Uniting Communities Eastern Services Branch Emergency Relief Program are welcomed at any time. For more information contact Brenton Summers. Phone 0400 632 829.

Ladies Clothing Donations to Eastern Domestic Violence Shelter

Our local Eastern Domestic Violence Shelter currently has a need of ladies clothing in smaller sizes.

So sizes 8, 10 and 12. Are you able to help with donating clean clothing in good condition to assist these ladies, some of whom may enter the shelter with only the clothes they are wearing? If so, please bring along to church and give to Sylvia Maywald, or drop at her home. Your assistance and care will be very appreciated by ladies who are trying to escape abuse. Thank you so much!

Sylvia Maywald.

Festival of Nature "A volunteer opportunity"

Here is an opportunity for us to connect with our local community *and* do something that connects with The Season of Creation: We are invited to join LOVE Campbelltown who are participating in a *community led* event with CLEAN (Campbelltown Landcare Environmental Action Network).

Saturday 26th September

CLEAN* Amongst It – Festival of Nature

It will include:

Welcome to Country – Ivan 'Tiwu' Copley – Kurna/Peramangk elder (10.00)

Native Bee Hotel Workshop, installation and planting with Sophie Thomson (10.30-12.30)

Stobie pole painting workshop featuring endangered plants and animals with the Campbelltown ArtHouse

Workshops by Birds SA (1130), Butterfly Conservation SA (1230), Friends of Black Hill and Morialta and 2030 Species

Catering by Athelstone Kiwanis (including vegetarian and halal options) and Franks Coffee van (with compostable cups). Please bring your Keep Cups and refillable water bottle. This family friendly event is supported by

Campbelltown City Council and the Nature Conservation Society of SA. Register here for a free

ticket. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/clean-amongst-it-festival-of-nature-tickets-118261520391>

If you are planning on attending, would you contribute one hour of your time?

There is a *volunteer opportunity* to suit you! Assist with set up the day before, Help out on the event registration desk, Become a Covid Marshal, and so on

If interested please contact Linda Driver.

Wimala news

Attached with this newsletter you will find the latest news from our presbytery: the Wimala presbytery.

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/>

Wimala Presbytery News: <https://www.facebook.com/Wimala-Presbytery-109646960529095/>

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) 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)

Lectionary readings

Refer to your Uniting Church Calendar for lectionary readings and key dates. Season of Creation readings are on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Church Bookings

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Sunday	Evenings – 6.30 pm unless told otherwise, then later	Main building	VIP Cleaning Service
Monday	4.45 - 6.45pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Monday	6.30 - 8.30pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesday	9.30 - 10.30am	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesday (1 st & 3 rd)*	9.00 – 10.30 am	Main auditorium	Book Club
Wednesday	9.30 - 10.30am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.30pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Thursday	7.30 - 8.30pm	Main auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday	9.30 - 12 pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Saturday	9.30 - 11.30am	Lower hall	Pilates
At all times	Clinic operates Mon-Fri 12.30-5.30pm and Sat mornings but top hall remains out of bounds at all other times	Top hall & Top carpark	Medical HQ

*Held fortnightly on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month

**Practice
Good
Hygiene**



Church Roster

	13 th Sept	20 th Sept
Prayer with Preacher	Jeff Dry	Di Curtis
Preacher	Linda Driver	Linda Driver
Worship Leader	Lynton Nicholas	Jeff Dry
Sound	Don Brown	Don Brown
Data	Samantha Walker	David Walker
Chair Steward	Sharon Tilley Scott Tilley	Brenton Summers Jeff Dry
Flowers	Carole Walter	Marie Hickman
Building Steward	Eric Hurrell	Paul Howland
Door Greeter	Coralie Summers Brenton Summers	Jan Robin Gus Robin
Tick and Flick	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
Notices	Paul Howland	Lee O'Connell
Bible Reader	Jayne Nicholas	Ray Walter
Count Offering	Friederike Ashby-Weiss Paul Howland	Sylvia Maywald Paul Howland
Cleaning	VIP	VIP
Communion Prep		
Communion Servers		

Please swap with someone if you can't do the date you are assigned and if possible, please also notify the office of the change. It is very important during this pandemic that you do not attend services when you are unwell. Please swap with someone, or if late notice on the Sunday morning, then contact Linda Driver (0458 500 656) or the worship leader for that service. Thank you.