

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

### A note from Linda

It's Spring! The weather is warming up, trees are in blossom, birds are nesting, and there are signs of new life emerging all around us. This is a good time to be able to join with Christians from many denominations around the nation and the world in the **Season of Creation**. It will be a joint celebration in which we not only give thanks for creation but also celebrate with creation.

The Season of Creation provides for different Bible Readings than the Revised Common Lectionary. You will find these texts listed here.

This week is Forest Sunday. The Biblical texts call us to reconnect with our special relationship with forests, the communities of trees, plants, and fungi that sustain our breath and make our lives liveable.

I invite you to **bring a leaf or twig** from a tree from your own garden, or to collect one on the way, and bring it to worship.

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>

Attached with this newsletter you will find an "Earth Examen", a prayer resource to use anytime during this season.

This Sunday is also Father's Day, a day to celebrate and give thanks for our Dads and for all those who have been a 'Dad' for us. It can be a day of joy and happy memories and it can be a day of making new memories. It can also be a day marked by sadness for those who have lost their Dads or who did not have a good relationship with their Dad. I pray that, whatever your experience is, you will know the love of God our Father, who cares for us, can be trusted and is always faithful.

Finally, I hope you have been enjoying catching up for coffee with others after Church on Sunday mornings in various locations. Please note that this week, **Café Settebello** is not available - they are booked out because of Father's Day. They will welcome us back the following week with a special menu for us with light snacks including toasted sandwiches.

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

*Blessings,*

*Linda*



Season of Creation Pentecost 2 2020	
	
<b>September 6, 2020</b>	Genesis 2:4b-22 Psalm 139:13-16 Acts 17:22-28 John 3:1-16
<b>September 13, 2020</b>	Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16 Psalm 139:7-12 Romans 5:12-17 Matthew 12:38-40
<b>September 20, 2020</b>	Joel 1:8-10, 17-20 Psalm 18:6-19 Romans 8:18-27 Matthew 3:13-4:2 or Mark 1:9-13
<b>September 27, 2020</b>	Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17 Psalm 104:27-33 Revelation 22:1-5 Matthew 28:1-10

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**Please email newsletter items to [newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au](mailto:newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au) by 5pm Wednesday.**

## A film to watch for Forest Sunday (Season of Creation)

We invite you to watch *Our Planet, Episode 8: Forests* narrated by David Attenborough.

It is available on Netflix and Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkaxUblCGz0>

This iconic episode provides footage of the inhabitants of the world's seasonal forests. The scenes cover the splendour and the threatened nature of the forests that keep planet Earth healthy.

Some questions you might like to consider:

What were your favourite scenes? How did they connect to the biblical readings of the week?

This series focuses on the fragility of forests today. Thinking theologically and ethically, what can we do? What is our duty here?

What do you think of the interconnectedness of forests?

With what animal in the show do you most identify?

How do the forest's inner workings shed light on how we might live?

What were scenes of struggle? joy? wonder?

How does wonder relate to spirituality and nature?

## 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 Caffè 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.

## 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.

## Advance Notice

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 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, inclusive. Carol will be away from the 25<sup>th</sup> Sept to the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, inclusive. We both return on the 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## COVID Marshal Update

Over the past 2 weeks numbers at our morning service have been over 70 which has been fantastic to see and has been a challenge for those setting up the chairs to make sure we have enough seating available. So that everyone can find a chair when they arrive, please ensure if you are on your own that you occupy one of the single chairs as we need to leave the double chairs for couples.

There are already a number of our congregation who have completed the COVID marshal training for other organisations and so this means they could apply the training to be a COVID marshal for our congregation if required. If you have done the necessary training and are willing to offer yourself as a COVID marshal for our congregation can you please notify Jeff Dry so he can add you to his list.

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

The newly built library is about to be installed and so we are seeking assistance from families to help stock the library. If you have any children's books that you no longer read/need and are happy to donate them we would be very happy to add them to our collection for the street library. Please search your book shelf and see what you can find that you are willing to part with and then bring them to church over the next few Sundays. Sheralyn Robertson will be looking after the Street Library.

## 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*



## Threads

If you enjoy creating with thread, or would like to learn, and/or enjoy a chat over a cuppa, come join us 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 2-4pm. The Indigo café owners are spreading us out due to their covid-safe plan, so please come with the understanding that they are doing this as part of meeting their own covid-safe requirements.

*Jeanine and Linda*

## TRIPLE C's (Chaps Coffee Chatter)

NOTE DIFFERENT VENUE FOR this WEDNESDAY 09 September. HAVE BOOKED "VA BENE" Cnr of Gorge And Lower N E Roads, at normal time of 1030hrs. Need a lift? Contact Ray or Bob.

*Ray Walter.*

## 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.

## Stay and Play @ Home

Stay and Play @ Home dates for Term 3 are 8<sup>th</sup> Sept and 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

*Bruce and Joy Stewart*

## Soup and Scones for Paradise Primary School

Thank you to all those who have promised soup and/or scones to bless the staff at Paradise Primary School next Friday. Linda will contact you directly to discuss arrangements.

## SA Volunteers for Frontier Services

Frontier Services Bush Chaplain Sunny has been in touch about an Aboriginal family and community in need of Outback Links' practical support in remote South Australia. Their vision is to restore and save Adnyamathanha Country and they are in need of developing alternative sources of revenue to enable the restoration of resilient and diverse natural ecosystems in a culturally appropriate manner. Outback Links will support this vision by providing a team of volunteers for a week at the end of September to assist with the long list of practical jobs that need doing on the property including painting, plumbing, electrical, cleaning, gardening and general maintenance to support this family.

When: Thursday 24th to Wednesday 30th September 2020 - travel day either side with 5 work days in between.

Accommodation: BYO or provided.

To find out more head to <https://frontier-services.force.com/outbacklinks/s/detail/a287F00000185CgQAI>.

If you can lend a hand, please contact the National Program Manager, Michelle

at [michellem@frontierservices.org](mailto:michellem@frontierservices.org) or call 1300 787 247

## 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.*

## 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.

**Practice  
Good  
Hygiene**



## Church Bookings

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Sunday	Evenings	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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> )*	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 <b>at all other times</b>	Top hall & Top carpark	Medical HQ

\*Held fortnightly on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month

## Church Roster

	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept
<b>Prayer with Preacher</b>	Meg Edwards	Jeff Dry
<b>Preacher</b>	Linda Driver	Linda Driver
<b>Worship Leader</b>	David Walker	Lynton Nicholas
<b>Sound</b>	Noel Maywald	Don Brown
<b>Data</b>	Samantha Walker	Samantha Walker
<b>Chair Steward</b>	Glen Luestner Paulo Howland	Sharon Tilley Scott Tilley
<b>Flowers</b>	Jenny Riggall	Carole Walter
<b>Building Steward</b>	Paul Howland	Eric Hurrell
<b>Door Greeter</b>	Stella Waugh Robyn Fry	Coralie Summers Brenton Summers
<b>Tick and Flick</b>	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
<b>Notices</b>	Lee O'Connell	Lee O'Connell
<b>Bible Reader</b>	Eric Hurrell	Jayne Nicholas
<b>Count Offering</b>	Sylvia Maywald Gus Robin	Friederike Ashby-Weiss Paul Howland
<b>Cleaning</b>	VIP	VIP
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Robyn Stevenson	
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Robyn Stevenson Sam George Crisi George	

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.