

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

### Worship Services at Home

At this stage there will be **no face to face church services** for the next 2 Sundays and we hope these lockdown restrictions will be lifted then to allow us to share worship together again. This Sunday we will be offering the worship at home resource as it became too difficult to try and arrange an online ZOOM service with everything that was happening and changing daily.

***Don't forget to once again light a candle at 9.30 am each Sunday  
as a sign of us being connected to God and to each other!***

### Church Activities

As you are no doubt aware the lockdown prevents us offering our regular church activities. Where possible activity leaders might consider offering the activity through an online ZOOM process although it is understood most activities will not be able to do this. However, if this is of interest to you then please contact Paul Driver if you need assistance in setting this up.

### Supply Ministry

We are about to welcome Rev Sue Ellis as our supply minister from 25 November to 25 December. What a time for Sue to commence with us with the current lockdown restrictions in place! Sue's first service will be Sunday 29 November but we have to wait and see what format that will take as we do not know what the lockdown situation will be then. Please pray for Sue as she commences her ministry with us.

### COVID Reminder

The most recent 'cluster' has spread to a considerable number of potential hotspots with an ever increasing spread across Adelaide suburbs. It is strongly recommended that if any of our congregation has been in any of these hotspots then you should get tested as soon as possible and isolate yourself until the results are provided.

### Office is closed

The office is closed and Carol will be working from home (at least while schools are also closed). If restrictions ease in coming weeks and you can move about more, then please be aware that the church office will likely remain closed to all visitors for a time until advised otherwise by the synod. This is to ensure the safety of UC employees and staff. So do not enter the front office area of the church even when the office is unattended. If you need anything just check in with Carol first. Thank you. Please note that we did not have time to divert the phones before hard lockdown so the best way to contact Carol is via the office email on [office@athelstonechurch.org.au](mailto:office@athelstonechurch.org.au). Carol will check this daily. Carol's personal mobile number is also listed in the online church directory. However, for urgent pastoral concerns please call Brenton Summers on 0400 632 829.

## Pastoral Care Update

**Rev Linda Driver** - Rev Linda was discharged from hospital last Monday and is now at home. She reports that she has had mixed days since being home particularly with pain management. She is being well supported by Paul who is balancing some work commitments as well as providing care to Linda.

**Graham Richards** – Graham remains in hospital and continues to receive appropriate treatment. He reports that he is feeling a little better and believes that plans are being made for him to be transferred to a rehabilitation facility.

**Graham Jennings** – Graham is now out and about following his health scare last weekend.

**Graham Warren** – Graham has also been discharged from hospital and is now recovering at home.

**Rev Allan George** – Rev Allan suffered a stroke last weekend and remains seriously ill in hospital.

Please continue to hold each of the above and also their respective families in your prayers.

*Brenton Summers, Pastoral Care Team*

## 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 one of the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Brenton Summers, Ann Brown, Bob Stevenson). All prayer requests going to the team will be kept strictly confidential within this team.

"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)

## Good news

In the midst of the distressing COVID situation, there has been some exciting news which can be shared. Jeff and Jeanine Dry are pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson SULLIVAN CHARLES DRY, born to their son Joel and his wife Jess in Brisbane on Monday 16 November. Jeff and Jeanine are eagerly awaiting an announcement on when the Queensland border restriction will be lifted so they can share in the cuddles!

## Christmas Services

We are planning to hold 3 services this Christmas at the following times:

6.30 pm Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Family Focus

9.00 pm Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Carol's and Candles

9.30 am Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Celebration Service

We need to be aware of possible number restrictions if the current COVID situation remains and as such Church Council is interested in gauging an idea of possible numbers for each service. So over the next weeks we are asking people to nominate which service they are likely to attend. We will have placed a list of all our congregation members in the foyer and you are asked to indicate on this list which service you are thinking about attending so we can get some estimate of possible numbers. So when we do return, if you could just tick which service you plan to attend, and also indicated how many people (including yourself) you expect to join you then this will help us know how many seats we will require.

## 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)

## Uniting Communities Christmas Appeal

Christmas is a time of joy for most of us. But it is also a time to remember those who are less fortunate.

The Uniting Communities Eastern Services Branch, in association with The Spire Community, is holding its annual Christmas Appeal. In the past the congregation of The Athelstone Uniting Church has been very supportive of the Christmas Appeal.

There are 2 ways in which donations can be made :

Food donations with a Christmas relevance – ie. Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes, canned ham, canned vegetables, mince pies etc

Monetary donations which can be made online via : <https://donate.unitingcommunities.org/eastern-service-christmas-appeal>

For any further information please contact Brenton Summers on 0400632829

## Stay and Play @ Home

The theme for the program of activities this week is “Yarlu (sea), Wauwa (coast, beach)”. Mindful of keeping everyone safe, including our wonderful team of helpers, we have sadly, cancelled our last Wirra Play Day for 2020 due to the latest Covid 19 outbreak. The Nook is a favourite spot in the Wirra and at our last Wirra Play Day; it was a place for drawing and stories. Now anyone can draw or add a comment to our chalkboard as we have installed a chalk box. Don't be shy, come and add your art-work. Other activity ideas can be accessed from Stay and Play @ Home on the AUC website. These are available for anyone to use and I know of at least one grandparent who is making use of them for children who are not enrolled in Stay and Play @ Home.

*Bruce and Joy Stewart*



## Congregation AGM – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Church Council wishes to advise all members of Athelstone Uniting Church that we will be holding our AGM on Sunday 21 February 2021 at 10.45am. There will be vacancies to be filled, so we ask you to prayerfully consider whether this is for you and if you would like to nominate. If you are a Convenor, run a small group or a leader in any capacity please can you provide a written report to Carol by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at: [office@athelstonechurch.org.au](mailto:office@athelstonechurch.org.au) Please cc your report to Allan Amber (Chair of Congregation) at [allan.amber@mga.com](mailto:allan.amber@mga.com). More details about nominations and voting will be advised early in 2021 but if you have any questions please contact Jeff Dry 0408 254 489.

*Ann Brown, Secretary Church Council and Congregation*

## Lectionary readings

Refer to your Uniting Church Calendar for lectionary readings and key dates.

## Wider Church News

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/>

Wimala Presbytery website: <https://wimala.ucasa.org.au/>

**Practice  
Good  
Hygiene**

