

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

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter.

*To help Sue get to know us,  
please continue to wear your name badge  
over the next few weeks!*

### From the Supply Minister

*"Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

This greeting begins at least three of Paul's letters in the Bible. It is a blessing of peace.

Our advent theme of 'When will it be time?' for 2020 continues this week with the focus today on "PEACE: A Time to Make Peace."

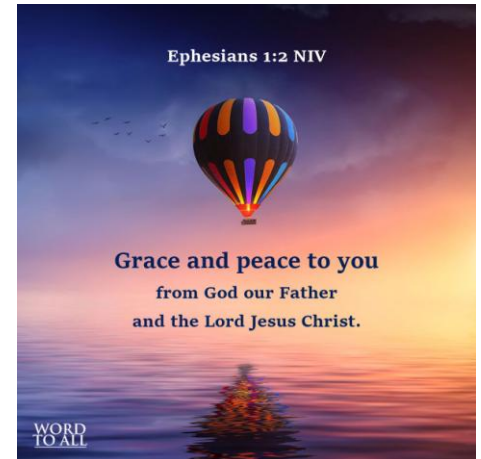
What does 'peace' mean to you?

How might you have peace within yourself?

Is it the absence of conflict, or something more?

How might you foster peace with others, even with those with whom relationships are difficult?

Consider these questions as we share together today.



### Update from Linda

It has been 3 weeks since my hip replacement and 2 weeks since my return home. I'm making slow and steady progress. Every day I do rehab exercises and practice walking around the house without my walking stick (I'm hardly ever using the walking frame now). Paul is continuing to do a wonderful job caring for me. I'm so thankful that he has so much Leave accrued which means he can take Carers Leave and be home with me. I'm still home most of the time as it is quite a challenge to get into the car plus I need special raised seating to protect my new hip. I'm quite enjoying the luxury of being able to discover Netflix! Please pray for continued motivation to do the exercises and rest. There are some days when I feel quite impatient with my progress and other days when I feel too tired to get moving! I am thankful for this slow season of healing. Thanks for the prayers, meals, calls and messages. All are much appreciated.

*Linda Driver*

### Christmas services

Following the Church Council's decision to have two Christmas Eve services at both 6.30 pm and again at 9.00pm. please note that these two services will be the same service repeated, to allow estimated numbers of attendees to be distributed in a covid-safe way across the two time slots. It is anticipated that the usual Christmas Day numbers will be achievable. Both services will be suitable for families.

**The congregation is requested to give an indication of their attendance at these services along with any estimates of additional family members/guests who may attend.**

This will help the planning for covid safe seating arrangements.

6.30pm Christmas Eve 24th December - It's Time to Receive the Christmas Gift!

9.00pm Christmas Eve 24th December - It's Time to receive the Christmas Gift (repeat)

9.30am Christmas Day 25th December - Time to unwrap the Greatest Gift!

## Church Activities

Please note that under the restrictions that were introduced on 1 December 2020, the provision for **indoor church services** stands at **one person per 4sqm** density. The new 'approved' SA Government **QR Code** contract tracing system must be enabled by each congregation and they (to the extent possible in the circumstances) must ensure all persons upload their contact details on entry. Whenever you are on site at Athelstone Uniting you must sign in using our Athelstone Uniting Church QR Code (or the visitor's books when use of the code is impossible).

## COVID Safe Check-In process

The South Australian Government is introducing COVID Safe Check-In, to enhance contact tracing and keep our community COVID safe. If someone in South Australia tests positive to COVID-19, the COVID Safe Check-In enables SA Health to quickly contact others who may have been exposed to the virus and stop the spread of COVID-19. Every person who attends activities on our church property is now required to register their attendance by using the COVID Safe Check-In where at all possible.

COVID Safe Check-In is a new feature that has been added to the free [mySA GOV app](#). Download the app from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#) using your smart phone. In the mySA GOV app, select the COVID Safe Check-In tile. Then when you arrive at church on Sunday morning, you can follow the prompts to scan the unique QR code and check in. When you first enter the COVID Safe Check-In tile, you will be asked to fill in your details and mobile number. You will then get a text message with a unique code to enter in to the app. This is to verify your phone number. You will only have to do this once. Note that the mySA GOV app can be used to record your driver's license and motor registration details, however, you do not need to fill in all your license or registration details to use the covidsafe Check-In, just scroll down the page to the CovidSafe Check-In feature at the bottom of the screen. If the check-in tab doesn't appear (i.e. on Android phones) then you may need to uninstall the mySA GOV app and reinstall the app to update to the latest version of the app.

If you do not have a compatible smart phone, you will need to sign in by hand and ensure that the church office has your current contact details. A sheet will be provided in the foyer for you to check off your name if you are not using the QR code. **Note that this sign in step is now necessary and will be in addition to** our Tick and Flick register, which records everyone's service attendance for our own records. Children in the presence of parents do not need to sign in.

## Worship on-site

***It is so important for us to remain vigilant with regard to our response to COVID-19.***

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

- **Please don't come if you are unwell or if you have been in any of the high risk locations at times identified by SA Health.**
- **Think about wearing a mask, although this isn't mandatory it is one more thing we can do to keep others and ourselves safe in enclosed spaces.**
- Wear warm clothes! 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.
- We 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.

## 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 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86912199103>
- Meeting ID: 869 1219 9103
- We will also provide a lectionary-based Worship at Home resource.

## Christmas Bowl

Christmas Bowl donation envelopes are available to pick up from the foyer of the church each Sunday. You can return them with cash any Sunday until the end of January or you can make a donation online. There is more information about the work of the Christmas Bowl as well as videos and stories on the website at [www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl). Any other questions ask me and I will try to answer them.

Friederike

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Bringing peace to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh**

The coronavirus has reached the world's largest refugee camp and widespread misinformation about the virus is making it harder for doctors to contain the virus. Act for Peace's local partner is working with doctors, community workers and religious leaders to dispel myths and teach people how to stop the spread. Your Christmas Bowl gift will help give refugees around the world the long-term support they need. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is now in the church for donations of items to be distributed by Uniting Communities. You are invited to take a decoration off the tree, purchase the item listed on the back of the decoration and then place the item under the tree next week. Return the decoration to the tree if you remember and if possible take another one! Final day for donations will be Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

## Payneham Road Uniting Church ORGAN CONCERT

Featuring Veta Brown Organ Scholar, Val Estrella and supporting artists, including: Vocalists - Vincent Kim, Kelly Yun and Charlotte Mathias; Flutist - Katherine Yoo; Organist - Gina Dutschke; and Indonesian instrumental group, Adelino Angklung. Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at 7 pm At Payneham Road UC, 343 Payneham Road, Marden  
Tickets: Adults \$25, Children \$10, Family \$50 <https://www.trybooking.com/BMQEO>

## Stay and Play @ Home & Wirra Play Day 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

What a delight it was to watch children exploring the 10 Christmas themed activities at Wirra Play Day last Tuesday and collect their stars on “The Star Treasure Map”. Chatting to Rudolph and his team, making mud mince pies and acting out the Nativity story were all part of the play experience. Families took home a CD of photos and a Tea tree (*Leptospermum continentale*) seedling to plant and care for in their own garden as a memory of their Stay and Play @ Home 2020 experience, International Year of Plant Health – Save the plants, save the planet. Don't forget an enrolment form for 2021 and activity ideas for Stay and Play @ Home can be accessed on the AUC website.



*Bruce and Joy Stewart*

## Stay and Play Farewell to Bruce and Joy

Last Tuesday morning a Wirra Play Day was held which marked the end of Stay and Play activities for 2020. It also marked the end of Stay and Play at Athelstone Uniting as we know it under the magnificent leadership of Bruce and Joy Stewart. Many families have benefited from the commitment, passion and contribution they have made and the Stay and Play program and Wirra garden have been recognised as outstanding programs in the Athelstone area and the Campbelltown Council region.



Bruce and Joy have made the decision to retire as coordinators and hence face to face Stay and Play Playgroup will not be refreshed in the near future. The continuance of their involvement in Stay and Play @ Home on-line programs and Wirra Play Days is being reviewed for 2021.

So the final Wirra Play Day for 2020 was an appropriate way to say thank you to Bruce and Joy. Without their contribution the Wirra garden would not be as it is today, the plants, the flowers, the signage, the street library, the nook, the activity areas – all made possible through their vision and initiative over the past 9 years and then made available to more than 130 children and their families and supported by the wonderful group of volunteer helpers. Bruce and Joy were presented with a gift on behalf of the church community and participating families in recognition for all they have done in developing a natural space for the local community and assisting young families with pre-schoolers especially, to make connections with one another through that space. From small beginnings in 2012, Stay and Play has grown, expanded and evolved to what we see today. We wish them well as they look to explore other opportunities and enjoy special family time with their grandchildren.

***Well done good and faithful servants.***

*Jeff Dry*

## **Tear Fund Useful Gifts**

Tear Fund Useful Gifts Catalogues and cards will be available at Church from Don and Brian from this Sunday until Dec 20. We have a great array of projects available to be supported as you give that special gift to friends and family at Christmas and at the same time express your solidarity with needy people and communities throughout the world. All the gifts in the catalogue contribute to long-term community development or advocacy programs that enable people to become self-sufficient. What a great privilege it is to be engaged in this ministry!

## **Messy Christmas 2020 is on December 13th 4-6 pm at Lovell Reserve**

All invited for an afternoon of fun, faith and Christmas cheer! Bring along drinks and snacks to accompany the hot chicken we will provide for dinner and wear your best Christmas outfit! Speak to Meg Edwards for more details

## **Christmas Lunch 2020**

Sadly due to COVID19 we are unable to offer a community Christmas Lunch this year. After the great success of last year with our friends from the disability support group in Campbelltown, we thought it would be lovely if we could still provide something for them for Christmas Day.

We are asking for donations of the following for 7 hampers:

Tinned Salmon (John west 210g); Tinned peas, corn, carrot (425g cans); Tiny taters (canned edgell 822g); Individual Christmas puddings; Long life custard or cream; Tinned fruit (410g in JUICE); Jam; Biscuits and wrapped chocolates. You can also donate money if you would like to - either in an envelope or electronically - please mark it "Christmas Lunch", so that it gets to the right place.

We would also like to include some knitted angels in the hampers and be able to share them in the community as well, for details and patterns please speak to Robyn Fry, Meg Edwards or Judi Foster.

*Let's not let COVID19 overshadow the Christmas cheer!*

## **Triple C's**

Sorry Chaps but Covid made finding a Christmas lunch venue too hard this year. However I have booked VA BENE FOR DEC 09, with a table request for 12+ Chaps, at time of writing it will be 2 tables as Covid Max is 10 per table. January will be a rest month so first meeting in 2021 will be February 10. Meantime keep well and safe, but should you not be OK reach out.

Ray Walter.

## **Next TOFS Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

Mark your 2021 Diary for the next TOFS coffee and chat time on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. More details will be in the newsletter closer to the date.

*Sheralyn Robertson*

## **Church Council Strategic Plan**

The final snippet from the draft Strategic Plan has been attached to the emailed version of the weekly newsletter. Remember Council is very keen to receive feedback from members of the congregation so this is an opportunity for you to have your say. Please email - [jeffdry@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffdry@bigpond.com) providing written feedback on any aspect of the Strategic Plan.

## 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.

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

Thank you to everyone who has completed a written report and submitted it to Carol and Allan. 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. 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*

## 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/>

## 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.

## Church Bookings

Special Event or changes to regular bookings or location are highlighted in bold.

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Sunday	Evenings – 6.30 pm unless told otherwise, then can come later	Main building	VIP Cleaning Service
Monday	4.45 – 6.45 pm	Main Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Monday	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesday	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesday	9.30 - 10.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Thursday	7.30 -8.30 pm	Main auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday	9.30 – 12.00 pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Saturday	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
At all times	Clinic operates Mon-Thurs 12.30-5.30pm and Saturday mornings but top hall remains out of bounds <b>at all other times</b>	Top hall & Top carpark	Medical HQ

**Reminder re activities in the church during Covid-19:** In order to comply with COVID Marshal Requirements any 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.

**Practice  
Good  
Hygiene**



## Church Roster

	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec
<b>Prayer with Preacher</b>	Robyn Fry	Jeff Dry
<b>Preacher</b>	Sue Ellis	Sue Ellis
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Di Curtis	Nola Pearce
<b>Singers</b>	Allan Amber Nola Pearce Sylvia Maywald	Ann Brown Friederike Ashby-Weiss Marie Bartsch
<b>Sound</b>	Noel Maywald	Don Brown
<b>Data</b>	David Walker	Samantha Walker
<b>Chair Steward</b>	Trevor Goldsmith Paul Howland	Glen Luestner Jeff Dry
<b>Flowers</b>	Di Curtis	Raelene Anderson
<b>Building Steward</b>	Eric Hurrell	Noel Maywald
<b>Covid Marshall</b>	David Walker	Lee O'Connell
<b>Door Greeter</b>	Robyn Fry Stella Waugh	Gus Robin Jan Robin
<b>Tick and Flick</b>	Trevor Curtis	Trevor Curtis
<b>Notices</b>	Don Brown	Brenton Summers
<b>Bible Reader</b>	Jayne Nicholas	Ray Walter
<b>Count Offering</b>	Gus Robin Paul Howland	Sylvia Maywald Glen Luestner
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Leanne Shirlock	
<b>Communion Server</b>	Robyn Fry Friederike Ashby-Weiss Roslyn (Ros) Howland	
<b>Cleaning</b>	VIP	VIP

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 Sue Ellis (0427 162 009) or the worship leader for that service. Thank you.

**Note:** Re Chair Stewards: Calisthenics classes will cease on December 12th, so after setting up chairs for the service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, there will be no need to move chairs specifically for this hirer until at least the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.