

Sunday 14th February 2021

A Note from Linda

This week, we will go to the mountaintop up amongst the clouds as we focus on the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is a transition week between Epiphany and Lent.

Then on Wednesday, the Lent season will commence with Ash Wednesday.

Our theme for Lent will be "Again & Again, A Lenten Refrain." In this season we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

Lenten resources will be made available for you. I encourage you to make use of them to help you connect even deeper with our God who chooses us.

Linda

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...

- 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. This is a government requirement, so please ensure you bring your mobile phones to church. A sign in sheet will be available when use of the QR code is absolutely impossible.
- 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.
- Also remember to:
 - Wear warm clothes! We'll have the exhaust fans on and windows open to keep the air circulating.
 - 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. 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.
 - 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.

Messy Church

We are back for 2021 and this year we are learning more about the fruits of the spirit, starting with LOVE this Sunday! Don't forget this is an all age interactive service (so not just for little ones) and we would love to see you there! We also would love to have more helpers in our team! So if you would like to know more, feel called to share your talents, or love to talk to people then please speak to Meg Edwards to find out more.

Small Groups

Are you part of a small group? ... particularly a small group who studies the Bible together and grows in faith as you share deeply together? We have four groups like this at Athelstone:

Friday Night Small Group - meet every two weeks. Their Home Group is limited to 10 people. They currently have a vacancy of one person. Words to describe this group are: Curious, open, tolerant, purposeful, caring, frank, supportive, Christ-centered, friendly, welcoming, and with thoughtful discussion aimed at understanding the Bible better. If you are interested in joining, contact Co-Leaders Sheralyn Robertson or Sam Bailes.

Mid Week Bible Study - Nola Pearce is starting a new group. Her focus will be on getting to know the Bible and learning how to appreciate and love ourselves. Please contact Nola on 0427 995 799 if you are interested in joining this group. Where: Athelstone Uniting Church, in the meeting room off the lower Hall (Enter via the Patio) When: 1st and 3rd Wed afternoons 1.30 -3.30 after starting on Wed 24th Feb. Main Focus: Scriptures for the next Sunday. Secondary Focus: I would like to share some techniques I have learned which encourage us to appreciate and love ourselves more. Please Bring: your Bible, a notebook, pen, and your drink. A minimum of 4 people would be appreciated.

Lenten Small Group - Rev Linda welcomes anyone who would like to join her for a short term small group during Lent. The group will meet on Wednesdays for 5 weeks, commencing Feb 24. Linda is open to meeting during the day or evening either at the Church or at the Manse, to be decided together with the group. Please contact Linda asap if you are interested.

Stevenson Home Group - meets every three weeks. Currently they are at capacity with no space for new members.

Small groups are a wonderful way to connect with God and with others. Perhaps you are considering starting a small group of your own. If so, we encourage it, and ask that you contact Rev Linda.

Stay and Play @ Home

Stay and Play @ Home programs are returning in 2021. Activities will be based on the International Year of Peace and Trust, experiencing peace through the senses. Programs will also be available on the AUC web site but families must be enrolled in the Stay and Play @ Home program to be eligible to attend Wirra Play Days. A new enrolment is required for 2021 and can be made via the website or by contacting Bruce and Joy Stewart. Term 1 email resources will be sent out to enrolled families on the 2nd February and 2nd March. A Wirra Play Day will be held on 23rd March.

Annual General Meeting

Church Council wishes to advise that the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday February 21 at 10.45 am. Reading material for this meeting has been emailed out on Thursday 11th Feb. Hard copies will be delivered by Ann for those few people not receiving via email.

Ann Brown- Secretary of Congregation

Bigpond Users and Elvanto Emails

We have had a few issues with our emails since returning to the office. It seems that all bigpond users are not receiving messages sent via the Elvanto Church Management System. Last week and this week, I have instead had to send critical emails relating to the AGM to you all using webmail. This is clumsy and not as easy to manage as Elvanto for bulk emails. I have trouble shooting this with Elvanto and was told that the problem now lies with Bigpond. I am not a bigpond customer and cannot deal with this 'receiving email' issue from my end. So I'm not sure what the solution is yet and will hopefully be able to further advise in coming days. You may wish to take up the matter and see where you get with bigpond from your side of things. Let me know if you get anywhere if you do so that I can advise others. Please be aware that this is the reason why you may have missed emails from us that you otherwise expected in February.

Carol Lang

WIMALA Presbytery Opportunities

As you know our church is part of the Wimala Presbytery and a number of opportunities exist for people to be involved in various Presbytery committee positions in the coming year. A call is being made to find suitable people to take the role of Secretary of the Presbytery and to make up the various committees of the Presbytery and in some cases the committees of the Synod. This task is important in the way it recognises the particular gifts of members of the Wimala congregations and enables those gifts to further the mission of the Presbytery and Synod.

On our notice board at the back of the church we have listed the roles and committees that need to be filled at this time along with some detail about each of those roles and committees. If you feel called to nominate for any of the available positions then please notify Jeff Dry (jeffdry@bigpond.com) or on 0408 254 489 and your nomination will be forwarded to the Wimala Presbytery Nominations Committee. Nominations close by 19 February. All nominees will then be contacted by the Nominations Committee to test their willingness to serve in this important way ready for the elections that will then be held at the meeting of the Wimala Presbytery on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

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
Sundays	Evenings – 6.30 pm unless told otherwise, then can come later	Main building	VIP Cleaning Service
Mondays	4.45 - 6.45pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mondays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesdays	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	9.30 - 10.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Thursdays	6.30 - 7.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Thursdays	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Main auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturdays	9.30 – 12.00 pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Saturdays	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Sunday 21 st Feb	10.45 am – 12 pm	Main auditorium	Annual General Meeting
At all times	Clinic operates Mon-Thurs 12.30-5.30pm but top hall remains out of bounds at all other times	Top hall & Top car park	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.

Church Roster

	14 th Feb	21 st Feb
Prayer with Preacher	Bob Stevenson	Sheralyn Robertson
Preacher	Linda Driver	Linda Driver
Worship Leader	David Walker	Di Curtis
Singers	Marie Bartsch Jean Richardson Lynton Nicholas	Allan Amber Yvonne Mitchell Ann Brown
Sound	Don Brown	Don Brown
Data	Samantha Walker	Shelley Walker
Chair Steward	Sharon Tilley Scott Tilley	Bob Stevenson Paul Howland
Flowers	Jenny Riggall	Di Curits
Building Steward	Noel Maywald	Eric Hurrell
Covid Marshall		Jeff Dry
Door Greeter	Gus Robin Jan Robin	Jenny Riggall David Riggall
Tick and Flick	Trevor Curtis	Trevor Curtis
Notices	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
Bible Reader	Jayne Nicholas	Eric Hurrell
Count Offering	Frederike Ashby-Weiss Lynton Nicholas	Gus Robin Glen Luestner
Communion Prep	N/A	N/A
Communion Server	N/A	N/A
Cleaning	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 Linda Driver or the worship leader for that service. Thank you.

**Practice
Good
Hygiene**

