

Sunday 21st February 2021

A Note from Linda

We find ourselves now in the first week of Lent (wow, it doesn't seem that long ago that we were celebrating Christmas!).

Our theme is: "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 exasperation 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.

A Lent devotion booklet is available for each family to make use of as you wish. There is also a booklet with devotions for families with children. Please see Linda or Meg if you don't have a copy yet.

In addition, we will have a Prayer Wall to which we will add our prayers each week. Lent Event materials will also be available soon.

I encourage you to engage as much as you are able this season and pray that you will experience an even deeper connection with our God who chooses us.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held this Sunday February 21 at 10.45 am.

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 Caffè 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.

Baptism – Sunday 28 Feb

We look forward with anticipation to the long-awaited baptism of Amelie Stevenson next Sunday morning.

Linda

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.

TOFS

Our next TOFS catch up will be at Sosta and Gusta Café, 161 St Bernard's Rd, Rostrevor starting at 2pm. This is a new café near Romeo's Foodland. Their coffee is good and they have a range of cakes and gelati. It was fun last month to have so many people turn up to enjoy each other's company. Please RSVP to Sheralyn.

Stay and Play @ Home

Yummy! Making faces and eating them is a delicious way to learn about body parts. In Term 1 Stay and Play @ Home will explore our sense of sight, with the first program learning about our body parts, naming in Kaurna and English. 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.



Messy Church

We are back for 2021 and this year we are learning more about the fruits of the spirit. We 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.

Bigpond Users and Elvanto Emails

Paul Howland and his IT team have been working on resolving the email issue that has cropped up between our Elvanto church management system and Bigpond email users. Some of you may have seen some test emails from Paul's IT team using Elvanto as they work through this. For now, you should be receiving emails for now due to a temporary fix and it is hoped this will be resolved more permanently soon. You can talk to Paul Howland for more details if you want to understand the exact nature of the issue.

Carol Lang

Use of the Kitchen during the Covid Pandemic

Please remember that the kitchen is still out of bounds and not cleaned regularly. Remember to bring your own water bottles to church services or to other activities at the church. Please do not take glasses or mugs from the kitchen.

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 <u>at all other times</u>	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

	21 st Feb	28 th Feb
Prayer with Preacher	Ann Brown	Sheralyn Robertson
Preacher	Linda Driver	Linda Driver
Worship Leader	Di Curtis	Meg Edwards
Singers	Allan Amber Yvonne Mitchell Ann Brown	Lyndon Rowe Ann Brown Jeanine Dry
Sound	Don Brown	Don Brown
Data	Shelley Walker	David Walker
Chair Steward	Bob Stevenson Paul Howland	Glen Luestner Don Brown
Flowers	Di Curtis	Ruth Henderson
Building Steward	Eric Hurrell	Richard Read
Covid Marshall	Jeff Dry	David Walker
Door Greeter	Jenny Riggall David Riggall	Ray Walter Carole Walter
Tick and Flick	Trevor Curtis	Trevor Curtis
Notices	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
Bible Reader	Eric Hurrell	Sylvia Maywald
Count Offering	Gus Robin Glen Luestner	Sylvia Maywald Paul Howland
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**

