

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### A Note from Linda

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2021. These weekly newsletters are designed to keep you connected with your Church as well as keeping you informed about opportunities in the wider church and local community.

As we look back to Christmas (which seems so long ago!) I want to thank everyone who worked alongside Rev Sue Ellis to make our Christmas services so special. Thank you all so much! Thank you too to anyone who has picked up extra tasks and responsibilities while I have been away. I greatly appreciate all you have done.

This week you will find invitations to serve in different ways – either in our Church or in the Wimala Presbytery. Please prayerfully consider if there is something you are being called to offer this year.

As information comes out in relation to our Annual General Meeting I invite you to set aside some time to read it all. There is much to be thankful for and much to pray about as we seek to join in on God's ongoing mission.

You may have already noticed that there has been a change in our pattern of worship on Sunday mornings. We had Communion last Sunday and I will be away this Sunday. From March we will settle back into the pattern of Communion on the first Sunday, and me taking the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday off.

God bless, and see you next week!

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 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.

## Annual General Meeting & Call for Nominations

Church Council wishes to advise that the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday February 21 at 10.45 am. At the meeting we will need to elect people for the following positions:

1. 3 Council Members
2. Secretary of Congregation
3. Representative for Synod for 2021
4. Representative for Presbytery for 2021

*Note: Items 3 and 4 may be the one and the same person.*

We are now calling for your nominations for these roles.

Please note that we are giving you a short time to make nominations.

**Nominations close 11.30 am this Sunday 7th February 2021.**

Nomination forms will be available at the church from Thursday (4th Feb) along with a box in which you can deposit your completed form. Nominees need to be confirmed or Associate members of Athelstone Uniting Church. Please note that all elected candidates will require a Safe Church clearance. If you have been nominated please provide a short personal profile with an attached photo to Ann Brown at [brownanndon@gmail.com](mailto:brownanndon@gmail.com) by Tuesday 9th Feb. If you would like to discuss what is involved please contact Jeff Dry at [jeffdry@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffdry@bigpond.com) or phone 0408 254 489.

*Ann Brown- Secretary of Congregation*

## Strategic Plan

Late last year you would have received advice about Church Council having developed a draft Strategic Plan and excerpts from the draft were included in weekly newsletters. An invitation was also offered for feedback to be provided and to those who did so I say thanks. The draft has now been amended a number of times and as a result the final version of the Strategic Plan needs to be adopted in principle by the congregation at the upcoming AGM on February 21. A copy of the final Strategic Plan has been provided as an attachment to the newsletter. I would encourage you to have a read and get excited about the vision we have and the various plans we have proposed for our future. Remember while this has been developed by Church Council on behalf of the congregation this is a whole of congregation plan. It is a plan that will give us a vision for a bright future, but we know for the plan to work we will all need to be committed to it and take responsibility for implementing the plan. Enjoy reading the Strategic Plan and see where you feel you might be able to make a contribution in creating our exciting future vision.

*Jeff Dry – Chairperson, Church Council*

## Roster Planning for March-May 2021

As the church office reopened this week, things have been very busy. A slight hiccup in the office with the switching of our email servers has meant the reminder email I had scheduled to send to you all in January did not go out. Thus, I'm allowing you all an extra few days before I start the rostering planning process. If you have not done so, please consider when you are available in March to May. I will try to accommodate your needs so you don't have to swap later! Some roster planning forms are in the entry foyer. Please return completed forms to the marked tray in the vestry before **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. If nothing about your volunteer roles is changing (i.e. task and timing preferences) then you don't have to fill in the form unless you want to – just email me any unavailable dates and I will leave all other info the same! I thank those of you who have already responded.

*Carol Lang*

## **Dangerous trees**

Late last year Max Amber brought to our attention the danger associated with overhanging branches on the two gum trees at the northern entrance to the church car park. Campbelltown Council was contacted and having agreed about the risk to our members, their cars and the community using the footpath, follow up action has seen the gum trees significantly pruned to reduce the risk from falling branches and dead limbs. Council also modified another tree in the Wirra garden that was very unwell to allow it to be now an attractive feature and a natural habitat for birds.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **Celebration of Ministry Service**

7 February 2021 2:30pm

A Celebration of Ministries service will be held at Burnside City Uniting Church. This service celebrates the ministry of those who have retired since the last Synod meeting, and those who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination. This service will be both in person and live-streamed online. RSVPs for this event are essential to ensure Covid-19 room density requirements are adhered to. To book, go here: <https://events.sa.uca.org.au/moderator/celebration-of-ministry#register>

## **Triple C's**

RESUMPTION. We have a booking for 10 February i.e. Wednesday for 10.30 am at Va Bene, located at start of Gorge Road Campbelltown. So chaps come along and join in for news, gossip and laughter. Wives, partners enjoy 2 hours or so of your quiet time!! Need a ride? then contact Ray or Bob.

*Ray Walter*

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March. A Wirra Play Day will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## 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
At all times	Clinic operates Mon-Thurs 12.30-5.30pm but top hall remains out of bounds <b>at all other times</b>	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

	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb
<b>Prayer with Preacher</b>	Lee O'Connell	Bob Stevenson
<b>Preacher</b>	Nola or Dean Pearce	Linda Driver
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Nola or Dean Pearce	David Walker
<b>Singers</b>	Nola Pearce Bob Stevenson Robyn Stevenson	Marie Bartsch Jean Richardson Lynton Nicholas
<b>Sound</b>	David Walker	Don Brown
<b>Data</b>	Shelley Walker	Samantha Walker
<b>Chair Steward</b>	Sharon Tilley Scott Tilley	Sharon Tilley Scott Tilley
<b>Flowers</b>	Carole Walter	Jenny Riggall
<b>Building Steward</b>	Paul Howland	Noel Maywald
<b>Covid Marshall</b>	Jeff Dry	
<b>Door Greeter</b>	Stella Waugh Robyn Fry	Gus Robin Jan Robin
<b>Tick and Flick</b>	Trevor Curtis	Trevor Curtis
<b>Notices</b>	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
<b>Bible Reader</b>	Ray Walter	Jayne Nicholas
<b>Count Offering</b>	Paul Howland Glen Leustner	Frederike Ashby-Weiss Lynton Nicholas
<b>Communion Prep</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Communion Server</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Cleaning</b>	N/A	N/A

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**

