



Minister:

Rev Linda Driver:

Mobile 0458 500 656

Linda's day off: Monday

Sunday 19th September 2021

A Note from Linda

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
(Psalm 19:1)*



Welcome to the third week of the Season of Creation. We worship this Sunday morning with the skies. We celebrate with the clouds, the winds, the dusk and the dawn. We listen to the sounds of sky proclaiming God's presence. We stand in awe before the vast reaches of space above us and thank God for the fragile piece of stardust we call Earth. And we do this with our guest Rev Dr Aunty Denise Champion. Aunty Denise is the theologian in residence at Uniting College. This is a unique opportunity to hear from an internationally respected theologian author, teacher and speaker.

Have you considered going to one of the Synod Expos? I'll be going to the Adelaide one which is on this Saturday at Adelaide West. Depending when you read this, it's not too late to register!

Blessings,

Linda

Worship on-site

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

Every person who attends activities on our church property is required to register their attendance by using the COVID SAfe Check-In. 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 ensure you print your name and phone number neatly so that it can be read by contact tracers.

Please don't come if you are unwell or if you have been in any high risk locations identified by SA Health. Please **wear a mask** unless you have a valid reason not to wear one. This is currently a mandatory requirement for indoor public spaces, including our church building.

Given the ever changing covid restrictions we are doing our best to keep the congregation informed as things change. Currently we have a density ruling of 1 person per 2 sq metres, masks must be worn and seated morning tea is allowed.

Worship Online or at Home

If you wish to join in our online Zoom service on Sunday morning at 9.30am, you can view the service as it is happening, using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88191652947?pwd=M1pMZCtXY2FGOENtaGN3M3EwcVh6Zz09>

or enter this **Meeting ID:** 881 9165 2947 and **passcode:** 7777

Worship and Discipleship resources will be sent out on Saturday. Services are recorded each week. To request a copy, contact Paul Driver who will send you a link to download the video. Paul: 0428-161-918

or pddriver@gmail.com.

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Please email newsletter items to newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wednesday.

Worship by Zoom

If you have a device on which you can watch YouTube videos, then you have all the technology you need to be able to view our Zoom services. This could be a desktop or laptop computer, tablet or smartphone which is connected to the internet. It is helpful to have a camera and microphone so you can interact if you choose, but you don't need to. If you have never tried Zoom or are unsure about whether you can connect to our online service, please call Paul Driver (M 0428 161 918) before Sunday morning. He can talk you through what to do and test your connection so that you will feel confident on Sunday morning.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Season of Creation

During September, Christians around the world take part in acts of worship and actions focused on how we live in relationship with, and care for, God's creation. The international theme for the 2021 Season of Creation is *a home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God*. Oikos is the Greek word for "home," or "household." The theme calls us to reflect on the integral web of relationships that sustain the Earth, our common home.

Blessing of the Animals

Our Season of Creation will culminate with a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday October 3rd.

Linked to Saint Francis Sunday, there is a growing tradition of churches hosting Blessing of the Animals services. It is a time to show our gratitude for the animals that have graced our lives. This is the first time in many years that that we will be having such a service. It will be a wonderful way for us to build connections with our local community and our world.

Campbelltown Council has given us permission to hold the service at Lovell Reserve on Ryan Avenue. We will be inviting people from the community to join us.

All will be invited to bring along their pets or a picture of an animal they love or an endangered species they care about. All animals must be on a lead or in a secure pen for the safety of other animals and humans.

This service will take the place of our morning service and will be held at the slightly later time of 10am.

There will be a special Offering for the Animal Welfare League. People are invited to give:

gifts of cash or

blankets for cats, or

treats and toys for dogs or cats.

(If the weather is inclement, we will relocate to the church. Please pray for good weather!)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Morning Tea

Thank you to all the volunteers who are helping to organise Morning Tea after Church. It is wonderful to see so many people taking the opportunity to share this time together.

If you aren't sure how to make your tea or coffee, just sanitise your hands, line up at the counter and help yourself to a cup, tea or coffee, milk, sugar or sugar substitute and the volunteer will fill your cup with hot water. Simple! Tubs are provided at the counter for rubbish or recycling.

If you would like to be added to the Morning Tea roster please contact Sheralyn

EVENTS

Blessing of our Community Garden

Last week, at the end of the Congregation General Meeting, we had a blessing of the new Community Garden. It was very brief as the weather was coming in! For those who missed it, here is the prayer (based on a prayer by Christine Sine):

God bless this garden, through which your glory shines,
May we see in its beauty the wonder of your love.

God bless the soil, rich and teeming with life,
May we see in its fertility the promise of new creation.

God bless our toil, as we dig deep to turn the soil,
May we see in our labour your call to be good stewards.

God bless each seed, that takes root and grows,
May we see in their flourishing the hope of transformation.

God bless the rains, that water our efforts to bring forth life,
May we see in their constancy God's faithful care.

God bless the harvest, abundant and bountiful in season,
May we see in God's generosity our need to share.

God bless this community, as we work side by side,
May we see God's love in the relationships that will grow

God bless this garden, as you bless all creation with your love,
May we see in its glory your awesome majesty,
Amen.

50th Anniversary Celebrations



50th Anniversary Celebration plans are starting to come into shape and we are making good progress. Please see the attached flier for more information. Postcards and Posters will be available soon. More information will go up on the website soon. Keep checking for updated details.

You can register using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/yHbWC1V8qx>

or scan the QRcode.



CONNECT GROUPS

At Athelstone Uniting Church we encourage everyone to find ways to find connections within our church community. Here are some of the Connect Groups you might consider joining.

TOFS - Tuesday 5th October, 2- 4pm

Our next TOFS catch up will be in the Lower Hall of Athelstone Uniting Church on Tuesday October 5th from 2-4 pm. We will be packing shoeboxes to be sent to children overseas. If you have been collecting or making items to go into shoeboxes please bring them along. Each shoebox costs \$10 to transport overseas so cash towards this fee is also welcome. If you are bringing cash please give this to Freddie.

Last year we had fun packing the shoeboxes and finished the afternoon with coffee and cake at the Indigo Café. Let's see if we can do that again this year.

Book Club

We meet regularly to read and discuss books together. We normally meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9am in the Indigo Espresso Cafe in the Athelstone shopping centre across the road. We are reading, "Faith after Doubt" by Brian MacLaren. You are welcome to join us! For more info, ask Rev Linda.

Threads

If you enjoy creating with thread, or would like to learn, and/or enjoy a chat over a cuppa, come join us on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 2-4 pm at the Indigo cafe.

Stay and Play @ Home

Painting is always a favourite. What better way to explore "Feel the peace – Sense of touch"! Our last Wirra Play Day was celebrated in sunshine to welcome Spring.

Check out the Church website to enroll for Stay and Play @ Home, get some ideas for preschoolers at home, make new friends through Face book and Buddy Play Dates, or explore the Wirra Blog.

New families, team members and wirra workers are welcome.

Email resources will be sent out to enrolled families on 19th Oct and 6th Nov in Term 4. Wirra Play Day Sessions will be held on Sat 23rd Oct as part of Athelstone Uniting Church's 50th Anniversary and on Tuesday 7th December in Term 4.

Bookings for our 50th Anniversary Wirra Play Sessions (Session 1: 9.45 am – 10.45 am and Session 2: 11 am – 12 pm) on 23rd October can be made via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/yHbWC1V8qx> or by scanning the QR code on the previous page of this newsletter.

Joy and Bruce Stewart



MISSIONAL

Red Dove Café Offering

Thank you to all who donated generously last week. If you are still wishing to contribute, please place your cash in a marked envelope and place in the Offering Box on the Giving Table on Sunday.

An update on the Shoeboxes!

Now that September is well and truly here, it is time we again think about filling those shoeboxes. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. I will have the shoeboxes and pamphlets on hand each Sunday for you to take. ToFS will again use their October meeting to pack shoeboxes.

Due to COVID I will **not** have a display up each week but am happy to answer questions you might have. If you feel that you are unable to pack a box, there are other ways that you can help: We still need donations, not only of goods, but also of money. It costs \$10 for each shoebox and our congregation has been wonderful in the past in helping to cover these costs for us. You can now give boys and girls in need a tangible expression of God's love through a gift-filled shoebox packed from your computer or mobile device.

Just follow this link: <https://occdonations.samaritanpurse.org.au/product/pack-a-shoebox-online/>

Bless you all. Friederike



What do you do with plastic bread tags?

Are you passionate about recycling? Would you like to make a difference?

We are supporting the charity Aussie Bread tags for Wheelchairs.

How does it work? We collect up our plastic bread tags and bring them in to Church. (You'll find a container in the Church Entry when we are back worshipping together). The tags are collected and sent to recyclers in Robe. The recyclers (Transmutation) make a donation for the tags. These donations fund wheelchairs for disadvantaged people, currently in South Africa. Transmutation makes door knobs, coasters, bowls, cheese boards, clocks and pens from the bread tags. More details here: <https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/>.

Uniting Communities – Food Donations

The ongoing need for food donations to Uniting Communities continues. Please bring in your donations and let's fill the giving table! The management of Uniting Communities at Beulah Park is very grateful for the ongoing generous support of the Athelstone Congregation.

Brenton Summers

NOTICES TO MEMBERS

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)

Worship and Discipleship Resources

Refer to Worship Email coming on Saturday.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Synod Expo Event is this weekend – please consider registering by Friday!

The Synod Expo on Saturday Sept 18th will feature speakers from both within and beyond the church in South Australia and a host of workshops and information that will help us all to take another step in pursuing God's plans for the church. Please consider registering by Friday 17th September. More information below:

Synod Resourcing Expo Events: *Chasing the Wind of the Spirit:*

Commencing this Saturday the Synod is holding six expo events throughout South Australia. These free events are being designed to be engaging, enabling and will act as a catalyst for the church. It will include speakers both from within and beyond the church in South Australia and a host of workshops and information that will help us all to take another step in pursuing God's plans for the church.

The theme of 'Chasing the wind of the Spirit', speaks to God's activity already occurring around us and the Spirit calling us to follow to where God's mission is taking the church; making disciples to be part of God's mission in congregations and through connections with local communities. To quote Paul Dearborn, 'It's not the church of God that has a mission; it is the God of Mission who has a church.'

The Synod is planning six events commencing on September 18th with an Expo at Adelaide West Uniting Church before travelling to five regional areas in October and early November. It is imagined that these events will take on a 'fair-like atmosphere' warmly welcoming everyone. Food vendors and community groups are encouraged to participate with stalls during the breaks. These free events are open to church groups and individuals who may or may not be regularly involved in church. We aim to connect people while at the same time resourcing them in areas of interest and passion.

This is a milestone event for our Synod. It is not just another conference or meeting. It is an opportunity not to be missed. The church was never supposed to be just for Sundays, it is a pursuit of a higher purpose that connects with our world, an opportunity to identify and partner in God's mission locally.

God's mission is exciting and will take us to places that we never imagined. More info and to register:

https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-synod-expo-adelaide-west-sept-18th?_ga=2.65329704.783926649.1627540635-315234110.1626333542

GIVING

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>.

Those who give in cash offerings are invited to place your offerings into an envelope ready to bring next time we meet face to face Contact Glen Luestner for more information.

CHURCH BOOKINGS

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

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Saturdays	9.30 – 11.30 pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Saturdays	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Sundays	Evenings – 6.30 pm usually unless told otherwise, then can come later. Occasionally clean early Monday mornings.	Main building	VIP Cleaning Service
Mondays	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mondays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesday	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesday 21st Sept	2.30 – 3.30 pm	Meeting Room	Pastoral Care Meeting
Wednesdays	9.30 - 10.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wed 1 st and 3 rd	1.30 – 3.30 pm	Meeting Room	Fellowship Group (Nola)
Thursdays	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Thursdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
At all times	Clinics operate at various times depending on demand. Top hall remains out of bounds at all other times	Top hall & Top car park	Medical HQ Vaccination and Covid Testing Clinics

Note to covid marshals: Current version of covid-safe plan is dated 9th September. Copies are now located at entrances to the church building. A new update is expected this week given the announcement of changes to weddings and funeral numbers but all else stays the same. The revised plan will be circulated via email when it arrives.

Reminder re activities in the church during Covid-19, when not in lockdown: 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 Marshal 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

	19 th Sept	26 th Sept
Prayer with Preacher	Lee O'Connell	Glen Luestner
Worship Leader	Linda Driver	Rev Brian Polkinghorne
Preacher	Rev Dr Denise Champion	Robyn Stevenson
Singer	Friederike Ashby-Weiss Lyndon Rowe Sylvia Maywald	Ann Brown, Frederike Ashby-Weiss Bob Stevenson
Sound Desk	Noel Maywald	Don Brown
Data Projector	Samantha Walker	Samantha Walker
Chair Steward	Brenton Summers Trevor Goldsmith	Paul Howland Don Brown
Zoom Production	Paul Driver	Paul Driver
Building Steward	Eric Hurrell	Noel Maywald
Covid Marshal	Lee O'Connell	Sheralyn Robertson
Flowers	Ruth Henderson	Di Curtis
Door Greeter	Jayne Nicholas Lynton Nicholas	Gus Robin Jan Robin
Tick and Flick	Brenton Summers	Trevor Curtis
Notices	Lee O'Connell	Lee O'Connell
Bible Reader	Eric Hurrell	Ann Tubb
Count Offering	Sylvia Maywald Paul Howland	Sylvia Maywald Gus Robin
Morning Tea	Jean Richardson	Marie Hickman
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, contact Linda Driver or the worship leader for that service. Thank you.

**Practice
Good
Hygiene**

