



Minister:
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Sunday 27th November 2022

A Note from Linda

Greetings Athelstonians! I'm back! I had some time off for Professional Development Leave and then Annual Leave but spent a fair bit of it unwell with Covid (as did Paul!). Both Paul and I are now recovering. Thank you for your prayers and support!



This Sunday heralds the beginning of Advent: the time of waiting for Emmanuel – God-with-us – to enter the world. It is a time of sharing the stories of our faith. It is a time of connecting with family and friends and drawing close. The theme for Advent and Christmas this year is “From Generation to Generation”.

A line from Mary’s song of protest and praise influences this theme: “Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.” (Luke 1: 48b-50)

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of announcing. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. The promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

Please note that the AdventTEA Event is not happening after church this Sunday due to a lack of helpers. I hope you can join us on Sunday mornings for worship as we gather around this theme of deep connections.

*Blessings,
 Linda*

Worship Online or at Home

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


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

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

Worship resources are emailed out each Saturday. Services are recorded each week.

To request a copy please contact the church office.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

	11 December	Messy Christmas	4.00pm
	24 December	Christmas Eve Family Service	6.30pm
	24 December	Christmas Eve Carols and Candles service	9.30pm
	25 December	Christmas Day	9.30am

Please be aware that our worship services are live streamed on ZOOM so if you are not comfortable in having your image captured then we encourage you to sit in the back row of the church in front of the creative tables.

Advent Devotion

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, linked to the theme, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices:

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/261712895/>

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

If you would like a pdf of the document to print out for yourself, please contact Linda.

Church Council

Medical HQ Update

Church Council has been advised that Medical HQ will be moving to a new site next to the old petrol station on Gorge Road having signed a new lease agreement for a new purpose built centre which is not likely to be finished until another 12 months at least. You may have noticed the signboard advertising a new medical centre to be constructed on the site.

Medical HQ is still in discussions with the Federal Government about an extension of their contract as currently it runs until 31 December but they are hoping to seek a further 6 months until 30 June 2023 to stay at the church site. They believe this will be approved given the latest increase in Covid cases and the expectation that more people will be seeking medical assistance with what is being called 'long covid' which is causing issues with many people where they are still suffering side effects months after contracting Covid. Church Council is supportive of Medical HQ continuing to offer their clinic on our site as long as funding is being made available and until a decision is made to either close the clinic down or move the clinic.

MISSIONAL

Christmas Bowl



First Sunday of Advent

Hope for families forced to flee their country

Eugene and her family were forced to make the heartbreaking decision to flee their country Ukraine when the fighting escalated. They are just one of the millions of families who have been forced to flee their home in recent months. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help local partners, like HIA, respond immediately to emergencies, giving families like Eugene's safety in exile – and hope for the future – when they need it most. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

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

Tear Fund Useful Gift Catalogues

Looking for gifts that last?

That really mean something ?

A gift that will help people overcome poverty and injustice ?

Well they are there in Tear Fund's Useful Gifts Catalogue available this Sunday from Don or Brian.

It is knitted angels season!

Each year we 'yarn bomb' our local neighbourhood with knitted (or crocheted) Christmas angels bringing hope and joy.

Why do we knit angels? This is an important part of our mission: to build connections with our community.

In the stories of Jesus' birth, we are told how angels - God's messengers - came to bring people good news at times when they were often confused or anxious. Our prayer is that as people find their angels, they will know that God is with them, because of the message of good news which will be attached.

We would love anyone to get involved – whether you are a novice knitter, an accomplished crocheter, or willing to learn!

Help yourself to a pattern and some wool from the Giving Table.

In the next few weeks, knit or crochet an Angel or 2 or 3 and bring them in.

If you are not a knitter, you might be willing to donate some wool or cash to buy wool or needles). Or share a pattern and wool with someone you know who loves to knit or crochet

We will commission the angels on December 18th, so that they can be distributed in the week leading up to Christmas. We hope that they will bring a smile to the faces of those who find them, just as they bring joy to those who make them!

Uniting Communities – Food Donations

Please keep bringing in your donations and let's fill the giving table! *Brenton Summers*

What do you do with plastic bread tags?

Bring them to church to support the charity Aussie Bread tags for Wheelchairs.

You'll find a container in the Church Entry. More details here: <https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/>.

Egg cartons

Would you be willing to save your egg cartons? The Emergency Relief Centre at Brougham Place Uniting Church needs egg cartons weekly to offer fresh eggs to people. Egg cartons can be added to the Giving Table and Linda will pass them on.

CONNECT GROUPS

Triple C's

Our next big event is on Dec 7 at the Marche Club for a Christmas themed luncheon \$18.00, please let Ray Walter know if you wish to cancel or go, 13 Chaps so far are going.

Stay & Play @ Home comes to an end

Stay and Play @ Home families received their last program this week. There no longer seems to be a need for these @ Home programs so they will be discontinued in 2023. If you want to access them, they are still currently available on the AUC website. Our final activity for Stay and Play @ Home enrolled families will be Wirra Play Day on 6th December.

The wirra still needs maintenance and promotion, so if you are interested in assisting, please make contact.



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.

Connect Group	When/Where	Contact
Book Club	1 st and 3 rd Tues at 9.30 am at the church	Linda Driver
Threads	2 nd & 4 th Tues 2-4 pm. Indigo Espresso Café	Linda Driver
Triple Cs - Men's Group	2 nd Wed of the month at 10.30 am.	Ray Walter
TOFs Fellowship Group	1 st Tuesday of the month, 2 pm – 4 pm. Venues vary	Sheralyn Robertson
Wirra Play Day	For pre-schoolers and their parents/carers. Tuesday 6 th Dec. 10am – 11.30am. In the wirra!	Joy & Bruce Stewart

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

Victor Harbour Vacancy

A group of families from our church have holidayed at Adare together in January over many years and everyone is welcome. There may be a cabin vacancy (double room) for 5 nights from Monday 9th January if anyone is interested in coming along. Please see Di & Trev Curtis for more information.

Have you heard?

A member of our Congregation, Andrew Cope, has been awarded the Silver Koala for distinguished service to Scouts Australia as an Adult Member in an active Leadership role. Well done Andrew for your long term community service!

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 Driver for individual prayer or one the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Lee O'Connell, Brenton Summers, Ann Brown, Bob Stevenson). 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)

Offering

Why do we give? We give to support the ministry and mission of the Church. We give in response to all that God has done for us. Giving is an act of worship.

How much do we give? We give as we are able. Pray for wisdom on how generously you are called to give. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

How do we give? Regular electronic giving and 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>.

Cash Offerings are received on Sunday mornings in the Offering Box on the Giving Table. Contact Glen Luestner for more information.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Wider Church News

Uniting Church in Australia: <https://uniting.church/>

Uniting Church in South Australia: <https://sa.uca.org.au/>

To receive SA UC E-News personally, subscribe at <https://sa.uca.org.au/uc-e-news/>

The New Times is available online at: <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/new-times-print-edition/>

Wimala Presbytery website: <https://wimala.ucasa.org.au/>

Frontier News: <https://frontierservices.org/news-media/our-resources/frontier-news/>

Agape Music Collective – Joy to the World Concert

When: Sunday 4th December 2022 from 2.30 – 4.00 pm

Venue: Adelaide West Uniting Church, 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park, SA, 5032

Agape Music Collective is a group of professional and semi-professional Christian classical musicians based in Adelaide whose mission is to freely use their gifts and talents to bring praise and glory to Jesus Christ, while supporting the spread of the Gospel. For this concert Agape Music Collective will be joined by the Cantamus Choir conducted by Stephen van der Hoek for a delightful selection of works which are mostly centred around Christmas including the Christmas Concerto by Corelli as well as works by Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Handel and Schütz for choir and orchestra. Bring your singing voice along for a few community carols. Proceeds of this concert will be donated to the Barnabas Fund. Please enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with us at the conclusion of this performance. Tickets: Adults \$30 Students with ID \$20 Children under 12 free. Enquiries: agapemusiccollective@gmail.com

Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CEDHM>

WIDER COMMUNITY NEWS

Save The Date: Campbelltown Community Carols

Look out for news about the Campbelltown Community Carols, Thorndon Park: Saturday December 10

CHURCH BUILDING - BOOKINGS

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

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Saturdays	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	Pilates
Saturdays	9.30 – 11.30 am	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mondays	Mornings	Main building	VIP Cleaning Service
Mondays	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mondays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Tuesdays	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	Pilates
Tuesdays (1 st & 3 rd of month)	9.30 – 10.30 am	Minister's Office	Book Club
Tuesdays	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wednesdays	9.30 - 10.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesday 30th November	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Thursdays	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Thursdays	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
At all times	At all times	Top hall & Top car park	Medical HQ – Covid & Vaccine Clinics

SUNDAY WORSHIP ROSTER

Role	27 th Nov	4 th Dec	Role	27 th Nov	4 th Dec
Prayer with Preacher	Di C	Tara S	Tick & Flick	Brenton S	Lee O'C
Worship Leader	Jeff D	David W	Door	Jan R Gus R	Stella W Robyn F
Preacher	Linda D	Linda D	Notices	Sylvia M	Brenton S
Singers	Lyndon R Jeanine D Sylvia M	Ann B Jean R Eric H	Count Offering	Ray W Paul H	Gus R Sam G
Sound Desk	Noel M	Don B	Bible Reader	Eric H	Jean R
Data Projector	David W	Sam W	Flowers	Raelene A	Jenny R
Chair Steward	Glen L Bob S	Brenton S Don B	Communion Prep	N/A	Leanne S
Building Steward	Paul H	Noel M	Communion Servers	N/A	Graham J Louise J
Zoom Production	Paul H	Tara S			

If you cannot take your turn, please swap with someone, or if late notice contact the worship leader or Rev Linda Driver for that service as appropriate. Thank you.

Covid Practices

When attending in person, please continue to care for the safety of others and don't attend worship or large group activities at church in person if you are unwell or if you have been notified that you are a close contact for covid-19. We encourage you to continue hand-sanitizing practices and follow social distancing guidelines. Mask wearing is recommended.

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