



Minister:

Rev Linda Driver

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Sunday 11th December 2022

A Note from Linda

As we move into the third week of Advent, we remember the story of Joseph's encounter with an angel. As far as he knows, Mary has been unfaithful to him and broken their marriage contract. And yet, instead of punishment, he chooses not to publicly disgrace or humiliate her. This interruption in his life becomes a holy invitation when the angel comes to him in a dream and says, "Do not be afraid." When he awakes, Joseph once again has the courage to choose a better way. Like Mary, he chooses to say "yes."

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Rom 15:13).

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

Messy Christmas

We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus and the Christmas story together in a very messy way this Sunday from 4-6pm. Messy Church is church for all generations, done different! You are welcome to join us and to bring along a friend, neighbour or grandchild! If you have not RSVP'd yet, please contact Meg ASAP.

Advent Devotion

Have you checked out the advent devotion yet? It's there for you for your own personal devotions or to use in conversation with others. 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.

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.

Congregation Meeting

Church Council wishes to advise all members of Athelstone Uniting Church that we will be holding our **AGM on Sunday 5 March 2023 at 10.45am**. There will be 4 vacancies for Council to be filled, so we ask you to prayerfully consider whether this is for you and if you would like to nominate or nominate another member from the Congregation. If you are a Convenor, run a small group or a leader in any capacity please can you provide a written report to Carol by **Thursday 15th December** at: office@athelstonechurch.org.au
Please cc your report to Allan Amber (Chair of Congregation) at allan.amber@mga.com
More details about nominations and voting will be advised early in 2023 but if you have any questions please contact Jeff Dry 0408 254 489.

Ann Brown

Secretary Church Congregation

MISSIONAL

Christmas Bowl

Please use this link to access our unique donation page: mycb.link/46015

Third Sunday of Advent



Sharing God's love this Christmas

Zimbabwe is suffering from critically low food reserves, as climate change brings harsher and more frequent drought. Families already living in poverty and hunger are now being plunged further into crisis.

Through your gift this Christmas Bowl, you can support Act for Peace's local partner, Christian Care, to provide training in the latest climate-resilient farming techniques so families can be more food secure. **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? Tear Fund Catalogues and Cards have arrived. Please see Don or Brian from this Sunday for Tear Fund catalogues and cards. The range of possible gifts is wide- ranging.

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

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 passes them on.

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!

CONNECT GROUPS

Triple C's

15 Chaps went for lunch on Wednesday last at Marche Club, and had a good chat, good atmosphere and adequate food, this meeting was an extra to our normal large gathering. This coming Wednesday 14 will be the normal meeting at Fine Foods 5 Meredith Street Newton- we met there last month you may recall.

Regards Ray

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

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

Uniting Church SA 2023 Calendars

The 2023 Uniting Church SA Calendars have arrived and are available in the foyer.

Office Closure

The church office will be closed from Thursday 15th December 2022 and re-open on January 31st 2023. Newsletter items for the final newsletter of 2022 must be submitted no later than Wednesday 14th December at 5 pm. For urgent pastoral concerns please contact Linda Driver. For all other matters please contact the chairperson Jeff Dry.

Christmas Lunch

A decision has been made to not have a Christmas lunch this year. Unfortunately we did not have enough volunteers for the day. Hopefully we will be able to provide a Christmas lunch for the community next year.

Additional 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. **Update:** There may also be a powered site for 7 nights from Saturday 7th January available if anyone is interested in joining the group. All are welcome! Please see Di & Trev Curtis for more information.

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/>

CHURCH BUILDING - BOOKINGS

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

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Sunday 11th Dec	2.00 – 6.00 pm	Whole Building	Messy Church Setup (2-4 pm) Messy Church (4-6 pm)
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
Thursdays	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Thursdays	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Sunday 17th Dec	4.00 pm – 12.00 am	Lower Hall, Kitchen	Private Hirer
At all times	At all times	Top hall & Top car park	Medical HQ – Covid & Vaccine Clinics

SUNDAY WORSHIP ROSTER

Role	11 th Dec	18 th Dec	Role	11 th Dec	18 th Dec
Prayer with Preacher	Robyn F	Glen L	Tick & Flick	Trevor C	Trevor C
Worship Leader	Robyn S	Lynton N	Door	Carole W Ray W	Gus R Jan R
Preacher	Linda D	Doug Hosking	Notices	Sylvia M	Don B
Singers	Sylvia M Bob S Janet L	Friederike A-W Jean R Allan A	Count Offering	Trevor G Sylvia M	Lynton N Glen L
Sound Desk	Paul D	Noel M	Bible Reader	David W	Ann T
Data Projector	David W	Sam W	Flowers	Marie H	Raelene A
Chair Steward	Bob S Glen L	N/A	Communion Prep	N/A	N/A
Building Steward	Richard R	Paul H	Communion Servers	N/A	N/A
Zoom Production	Graham J	Paul H			

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.