



Supply Minister: Rev Ken Wright (0.6 FTE)

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Sunday 16th July 2023

This Sunday we welcome Rev Ken Wright as our Supply Minister.

Ken will be with us at Athelstone whilst we work through the process of appointing a new minister.

Ken is an active retired ordained minister who otherwise worships with the Playford Uniting Church congregation. He is married to Sue who is the Secretary of the Playford UC Mission Council. They live in Craigmore. Ken has previously served as a Lay Pastor in Elizabeth, and as an Ordained minister at Campbelltown (1999), Port Pirie (2003) and Salisbury (2010) retiring in February 2016. Since then he has served in multiple ways at Playford UC, and in other Supply Ministry roles for the Gawler, Dernancourt and Para Vista congregations.

Scripture Focus

Focus Scripture: Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Jesus often taught in parables or could be more accurately be translated as 'metaphor.'"

The language in a parable invites readers to wonder about the meaning of the words for their own lives in God's realm.

Jesus frames the parable of the sower in the focus passage with "Listen!" (verses 3, 9), an invitation to such reflection. Then Jesus' parable is followed by an interpretation (verses 18–23), understood by some scholars as the work of the early church as they reflected on Jesus' message.

In this parable, the very act of sowing in what some might say is a reckless fashion, letting seeds fall where they may, hints at the generosity and abundance of God's grace that is available to all.

This parable invites us to consider how God provides for the proclamation of the gospel, and to ponder the meaning of the differing soils in the parable. Might they imply that we cannot guarantee or control the outcome of acts of ministry? Why? Positively, God will bring the growth. Negatively, some will not respond. Life with God always remains invitation, not an imposition.

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.

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.

EVENTS

Athelstone Community Market

We are looking at the possibility of running a community market in October as a both a fundraiser and an event to connect with the local community and local businesses.

We would love to have congregation members here on the day to connect with the local community, help run some stalls to fundraise (ie a cake stall), be eyes and ears for "security", and be available to clean up after the event ready for church on Sunday morning.

Is this something you would be interested in? We would like to get some indication of volunteers before we advertise this event, there would be options to volunteer for short time slots to lighten the load. Sign up sheets will be available Sunday mornings.

For any questions or queries please contact Meg Edwards 0431 030 079

CONNECT GROUPS

Triple Cs

Chaps Coffee and Chat time again this coming Wednesday at 1030hrs at Fine Food Cucina, 5, Meredith Street, Newton. For those who may need a lift contact Eric or Richard. So come along and catch up with who's been doing what where and why! Enjoy the fellowship.

Regards Ray

Wirra - Watch and Wonder

A huge thank you to Marc and Ingrid O'Conaill from Campbelltown Landcare for another 50 plants for the wirra. We are very grateful for their continued support over several years. See if you can spot the plants in the wirra as they appear. Don't forget to view the Kudlila/winter display in the lower hall and then check out the changes in the wirra since the photos were taken. The wirra continues to need 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 in people's homes	Office
Threads	2 nd & 4 th Tues 2-4 pm. Indigo Espresso Café	Office
Triple Cs - Men's Group	2 nd Wed of the month at 10.30 am. Venues vary	Ray Walter
TOFs Fellowship Group	1 st Tuesday of the month, 2 pm – 4 pm. Venues vary	Sheralyn Robertson

MISSIONAL

Missions	<i>How to support them</i>	Contact
Uniting Communities	<i>Please keep bringing in your donations and let's fill the giving table</i>	Brenton Summers
Aussie Breadtags for Wheelchairs	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/	Office
Sally Stamp	Bring stamps to the office to help with this ministry. The group also suggests that people consider asking local businesses to save their stamps, with doctor's surgeries being one of the best sources of stamps! Any donations of private collections no longer required are also gratefully received. Pick up can be arranged in metropolitan areas. Contact: Maxine Haines (Convenor), Phone: 0427 972 417.	Office

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

An invitation from Graham Richard's Daughter, Rachelle.

Just letting you know that my sisters and I (along with a couple of our kids) will be spreading Dad's ashes at the Geoff Heath Golf Course in Campbelltown on Saturday 29/07/23. We will be having some private family time at 3pm and then we will stay around for tea/coffee and cream puffs with other friends who would like to pay their respects at 4pm. We would be honoured for anyone from Athelstone Congregation to come along as you all meant so very much to Dad.

Rachelle xo

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Linda's Induction at Brougham Place Uniting Church

You are invited to Linda's induction at a service of worship at Brougham Place Uniting Church at 2pm on Sunday 6th August. The service will be followed by afternoon tea.

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/>

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 let Brenton Summers know. "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.

A banner with a dark background featuring a pattern of red and green dots, and a stylized yellow and orange arc at the bottom right.

Voice to Parliament Resources

During this year, Australians will be asked to consider supporting a Voice to Parliament for the First Nations of our country. Through a referendum we will be asked to support a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice.

Rev Mark Kickett, National Interim Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress notes: 'A constitutionally enshrined Voice will shape and guide the relationship between First and Second Peoples in this country by enabling our people to have a say in the decisions that impact our communities.'

Our Uniting Church members, along with other Australians, are engaging in the conversation about a First Nations Voice and The Uluru Statement from the Heart. We hope this page will be a helpful resource as you consider your response.

New Uniting Church Resource

A new resource on the Voice to Parliament is now available for congregations to use and share. In two pages, it explains how the referendum is an opportunity to consider a change in our constitution that will recognise First Australians and give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a say in matters that affect their lives. It explains why the Uniting Church supports the change, references what the Bible says and provides helpful starting points for a conversation. Download here <https://uniting.church/a-voice-to-parliament-in-2-pages/> or pick up a copy on Sunday.

Assembly FAQs

The Uniting Church has prepared some simple answers to common questions.

Check out the new page on the Assembly website: <https://uniting.church/faq-about-the-voice/>

You'll find responses to common myths and misconceptions around what a Voice is, how it will work, and what the Uniting Church has said.

Synod Resources

The Uniting Church Synod have gathered some resources here:

<https://sa.uca.org.au/voice-to-parliament-resources/>

Statement from the Heart

A study guide for congregations and other small groups on the Statement from the Heart, is available to the whole Church. Produced by Tim Molineux for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

<https://uniting.church/statement-from-the-heart-study-guide/>

Community Toolkit

The Australian Government has launched information to help Australians be informed about the referendum, including a [community toolkit](https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit) with translated and accessible resources. <https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit>

Stay tuned for congregational resources from Assembly!

Have you found any other voice resources that you've found helpful? Please share them with us!

CHURCH BUILDING – BOOKINGS

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

Note: Our pilates hirer, Nic Crocker, has arranged for a substitute instructor to run her classes from 24th-29th July whilst she takes leave and there will be an additional class time on Wednesday 26th July at 7 pm in lower hall. The guest instructor is Julia Potter. This is known to the office. Please just be aware that you may see a different face around during pilates class times that week, and on other occasions if need be.

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Monday 17 th July	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Tuesday 18th July	2.30 – 3.30 pm	Meeting Room	Pastoral Care Meeting
Tuesday 18 th July	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Thursday 19 th July	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturdays	9.30 – 11.30 am	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mon, Wed, Fri	9.00 – 3.00 pm	Top hall	AGPN (Medical HQ)

SUNDAY WORSHIP ROSTER

Role	16 th July	23 rd July	Role	16 th July	23 rd July
Prayer with Preacher	Meg E	Stella W	Tick & Flick	Brenton S	Brenton S
Worship Leader	Jeff D	David W	Door	Jan R Gus R	Jan R Gus R
Preacher	Ken Wright	Paul Goh	Notices	Don B	Lee O’C
Singers	Lyndon R Sylvia M Jeanine D	Friederike A-W Ann B Shelley W	Count Offering	Friederike A-W Don B	Gus R Sylvia M
Sound Desk	Noel M	Don B	Bible Reader	Frederike A-W	Sylvia M
Data Projector	Sam W	Sam W	Flowers	Jenny R	Raelene A
Chair Steward	Trevor G Jeff D	Janet L Glen L	Communion Prep	N/A	N/A
Building Steward	Richard R	Noel M	Communion Servers	N/A	N/A
Zoom Production	Tara S	Graham J			

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.