



Supply Minister: Rev Ken Wright (0.6 FTE)

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SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Scripture Focus

Amos 5: 18-24 and John 7:37-40.

This week is River Sunday in the Season of Creation.

We welcome Rev Brian Polkinghorne, who will share with us some reflections on water.

We begin our life walking in the water of our mother's womb. Seventy per cent of our bodies is water. In baptism we are again born of water and the Spirit. All the water on Earth is recycled. Ultimately we have shared the same raindrops as Moses or Jesus. We wade in the waters of life from conception to cremation.

How do we become aware of the spiritual dimension of water? We survive because of the waters of life, every day. Yet we are often oblivious to this life force within us and around us, God present in the waters of life.

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

Services are recorded each week. To request a copy please contact the church office.

If you are away or not able to connect with us on Zoom you might find the Worship at Home resource a helpful alternative to use. This self-guided resource has been prepared by Rev Cheryl Wilson of Ascot Park Uniting and can be accessed each week at the following link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/worship-at-home/>

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held today following the morning service.

The agenda and previous minutes have been circulated via email. Some hard copies will be available on Sunday.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Working Bees

Over the coming weeks two working bees are being organised to occur on our church grounds and at the manse. Please mark these dates in your diary.

- Church grounds - Tuesday 3 October from 10am to 12 noon
- Manse – Tuesday 10 October from 10am to 12 noon

Those who have the time, the energy and the willingness to help would be very much appreciated by volunteering to do some tasks such as clearing up, gardening, painting, etc.

The Voice Referendum Polling Centre

Our church has been selected to offer a pre-poll voting centre for the two weeks leading up to the 14 October referendum. We will also be used as a polling booth on the Saturday.

This should not cause any major issues as we have advised the Electoral Commission of our willingness to co-operate so that both parties are able to function effectively during this period. Our involvement in both activities will have implications for our use of the building during these weeks and this may cause some disruptions to normal activities.

Please be aware of the following:

- The church office will be closed between 1st and 14th October and re-open on Tuesday 17th October.
- We will not be able to access the volunteer office during this time at all. Locks will be changed.
- Access to the church building will be impacted between 1st and 14th October. We need to limit access where we can so please try to arrange any drop-in visits, jobs or activities in the church building outside of this period if you can.
- Sunday morning Worship, Thursday evening worship practice and mid-week pilates classes in the lower hall will be able to run as normal during the pre-polling period. However, on the actual voting day, Saturday 14th October, only voters and AEC staff will have access.
- Note that our calisthenics hirer has not been impacted as she is not holding classes over this period due to it being school holidays.
- Polling places may not display any material about the referendum not provided by the Australian Electoral Commission. This means that no political signage will be going up on our premises.
- Cleaning times have been adjusted over this period. VIP Cleaners have been booked to clean at the following times:
 - Monday 25th September, between 6 am and 10 am (as per usual schedule).
 - Sunday 1st October, anytime after 3 pm until late.
 - Sunday 8th October, anytime after 3 pm until late.
 - Monday 15th October, between 6 am and 10 am (cleaning times return to normal).

Referendum Cake Stall

We are going to run a cake stall on the Referendum voting day.

Are you available to help out with this cake stall by either making something or helping man the stall on the day?

Please let Meg Edwards know in person or on 0431 030 079.

This is a great opportunity for our church community to serve the local Athelstone community.

October Newsletter Deadlines

Please take note of the revised deadlines for publication in the October church newsletters as outlined in the table below. Newsletter items for events or activities between Sunday 1st and 19th October need to be submitted to the church office (email: office@athelstonechurch.org.au) **no later than Wednesday 27th September at 5 pm.** There will only be one newsletter produced to cover all 3 of these Spring Sundays. Thank you.

Newsletter Date	Deadline for articles
Sunday 24 th October	Wednesday 20 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 1 st October	Wednesday 27 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 8 th October	Wednesday 27 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 15 th October	Wednesday 27 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 22 nd October	Wednesday 18 th October, 5 pm

MISSIONAL

September is Shoeboxes!

Remember that September is when we collect and fill our shoeboxes.

The October TOFS meeting will be for the ladies to pack as many boxes as we can.

Remember now is the time to go shopping if you haven't already done so.

I will have the boxes and pamphlets for you to take home each Sunday in September.

If you feel that you are unable to pack a box, there are other ways that you can help:

1. 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.
2. 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.samaritanspurse.org.au/product/pack-a-shoebox-online/>

Bless you all. Friederike

School Ministry Support Group

The Campbelltown School Ministry Group have have invited us to send some representatives to join them for lunch at Rostrevor Baptist Church **on Thursday 28 September from 12.00 – 1.30 pm.** The purpose of this lunch is to hear about what being involved in a support group means. Please let Jeff Dry, or the office know, if you would be prepared to go along to the lunch to find out more and/or to act as our church representative/contact for Schools Ministry. They do such amazing work in our local schools!

Missions

Here are just some of the mission projects, and how you can support them at Athelstone UC:

Uniting Communities	Please keep bringing in your donations and let's fill the giving table. Contact: Brenton Summers.
Aussie Breadtags for Wheelchairs	Bring them to church to support the charity Aussie Breadtags for Wheelchairs. You'll find a container on the giving table.
Sally Stamp	Bring stamps to the office to help with this ministry.
Samaritan's Purse	See note above re donations required for Operation Christmas Child in September.

CONNECT GROUPS

Wirra – Watch & Wonder



Enjoying the sunny days? Spring, wirltuti is on its way and is a perfect time to connect with nature. Take time to view the new information on the display board in the lower hall and enjoy the colours emerging in the wirra.

The wirra continues to need maintenance and promotion, so if you are interested in assisting, please make contact.

Joy and Bruce Stewart

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 & 3 rd Tues of the month at 9.30 am in people's homes	Office
Threads	2 nd & 4 th Tues of the month at 2-4 pm in Indigo Espresso Cafe	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 Tues of the month. 2 – 4pm. Venues vary.	Sheralyn Robertson

NOTICES FOR 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 Ken Wright 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.

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
Monday 25 th September	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Monday 25 th September	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Tuesday 26 th September	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Tuesday 26 th September	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wednesday 27 th September	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Thursday 28 st September	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Thursday 28 st September	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday 30 th September	9.00 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Saturday 30 th September	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	24 th Sept	1 st Oct	Role	24 th Sept	1 st Oct
Prayer with Preacher	Jeff D	Stella W	Tick & Flick	Brenton S	Lee O'C
Worship Leader	Meg E	Lynton N	Door	Jenny R David R	Gus R Jan R
Preacher	Rev Brian Polkinghorne	Ken W	Notices	Brenton S	Lee O'C
Singers	Robyn S Allan A Bob S	Di C Janet L Allan A	Count Offering	David W Gus R	Lynton N Glen L
Sound Desk	Noel M	David W	Bible Reader	Friederike A-W	Jayne N
Data Projector	David W	Sam W	Flowers	Jenny R	Marie H
Chair Steward	Janet L Glen L	Scott T Sharon T	Communion Prep/Coordinator	N/A	Leanne S
Building Steward	Eric H	Noel M	Communion Helpers/Servers	N/A	Lee O'C Eric H
Zoom Production	David W	Paul H			

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

Postal Address: PO Box 307, Athelstone, SA 5076

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Newsletter: newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au

Office Coordinator: Carol Lang

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Office Phone: (08) 8336 9905

Web: athelstonechurch.org.au

Please email newsletter items to newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wednesday (unless notified otherwise as above)