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*Do Young's day off is Friday*

## Summer 2024/5 Newsletter

We welcome you to worship at Athelstone! Our preacher is Rev Do Young Kim.

### Worship

#### Christmas Service Times

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 pm	Family & Carol's Service
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am	Christmas Day

### Gratitude Sunday – 29 December

Our final worship service of the year, on the last Sunday in December (29<sup>th</sup>), will focus on *gratitude*. It will be a time to come together as a community, offer our thanks, and praise God for His faithfulness throughout the year.

What moments of gratitude have stood out for you this year?

### 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>

Alternatively, enter this Meeting ID: 881 9165 2947 and pass code: 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, including Christmas Day, at the following link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/worship-at-home/>

### Office

#### January Office Hours

Our office is not officially closing this year because Rev Do Young Kim will be around throughout January.

However, our office administrator will be taking a break from official office hours between Mon 23 Dec & Fri 17 Jan.

If you do need to drop by the office, you may wish to give Do Young a call first - just to make sure he is not out on a pastoral visit or meeting elsewhere. If you have an article for the newsletters over this time, please see 'Notices for Members' for Summer Newsletter publication times.

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*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.*

## MISSIONS

### PROK partnership with Iksan 2024

*"I was genuinely surprised at the joy of making and strengthening connections with the lovely people of Iksan and Seoul. God's love was most definitely present throughout this trip." - Megan 2024*

As an Australian with a Korean background, returning to Korea with a team of 16 serving as the translator for the group was a privilege, a learning curve, and a newfound appreciation for my cultural ties to the country. For 4 days in Seoul, we immersed ourselves in Korea's vibrant sights, the bustling streets of Gangnam, and the flavours unique to Korean cuisine. These 4 days allowed for a glimpse into Seoul – a dynamic city, allowing us to experience the cultural differences from Australia.



Experiences included a traditional Korean meal *Han Jung Sik*: a Korean tabletop filled with endless side dishes, *Gyeongbokgung palace*: the main palace of the Joseon dynasty, countless shopping trips, nightlife experiences and street foods. We were privileged to be able to visit the DMZ: the border between South and North Korea. We were incredibly lucky where we experienced the first snowfall in Korea, a first for many of us.

But it was with our partners in Iksan where we fully experienced the cultural roots and ties of Korea. Throughout the trip, I found myself thinking about the word “정” (Jung). When I asked Google to define it, the answer was predictable and didn't quite capture the essence of the word. Google defines Jung as love, affection, sympathy, or attachment. However, I'd like to critique Google with this translation, as Jung is so much more than that. It isn't a word that can be captured with a single word or a neat definition. It is a difficult concept to express, however, throughout this trip, I feel as I finally understand the true meaning of Jung; or at least how it presented itself to me throughout the trip.

For me, Jung came alive in Iksan. It was how I saw strangers become friends in an instant, conversations feeling like reunions between long lost friends rather than introductions – even with the presence of language and cultural barriers. It was in the care and warmth of our home stay hosts, who went above and beyond, treating us not as guests, but as family. They ensured we felt like home, even when “home” was 9,000 kilometres away. It was felt in the food prepared with love. Every meal was more than nourishment – it was a labour of love. You could see it in the careful presentations, the efforts that went to suit our various dietary concerns and the joy as they watched us enjoy their cuisine. It was seen when bidding farewells to our Iksan partners who had driven with us all the way to Seoul from Iksan. That was when I truly understood the meaning of Jung.

What struck me the most about Jung is that it isn't bound by time or certain circumstances. It lingers in the smallest gestures – a laugh shared between slightly awkward situations when Google translate didn't quite do its job perfectly. It isn't something that can be forced, but something that exists naturally weaving itself into memories and experiences.

Although we didn't have a common language, we shared the love of God. Throughout this trip, I learnt that God is full of Jung. His love is one that lingers, a presence that fills moments in Korea with meaning. He has a bond that allows us to connect with others. I believe God's Jung is a gift, grateful to be able to experience this throughout the trip.

Yes, Korea was better than words can express. However, I found myself thinking, “Would it be the same if I wasn't with the people I were with?” Every single member of the PROK team brought a unique and charismatic charm to the trip. Our leaders, Reverend Naomi Duke, Reverend Lawrie Linggood, Moderator Peter Morel and Adrian Duke, were more than leaders. Their dedication for this partnership was inspiring and the efforts they put towards the trip made it so memorable. I cannot thank them enough.

Lastly, I don't think this trip would have been the same without the young adults who I had the absolute privilege of sharing my culture with. Watching you experience Korea for the first time was so heart warming. From trying unfamiliar foods with to watching you attempt to communicate with our partners, you most definitely embody courage, strength and have heart.

I will treasure the memories I have made throughout the 12 days and the valuable lessons, and the personal growth I have gained for a long time to come. I aspire those who have the opportunity to participate in the PROK trip in the future to do so. It was nothing short of incredible.

*Hayeon Kim*

## Our Christmas Giving

For a number of years now we have been supporting 2 major projects at Athelstone at Christmas: The Christmas Bowl Appeal and Tear Fund's Useful Gifts program that bring hope and dignity and the possibility of a new beginning to people and communities in great need of a fresh start in life.

Whether in supporting families who are internally displaced in Gaza or providing safe water in impoverished communities in the Pacific or Asia we are making a statement that we believe that compassion matters.

So let us give generously in the spirit of Jesus -God's greatest gift for all of us! See Don and Brian on Sunday for the Useful Gifts Catalogues and gift cards. You will also find Christmas Bowl material and envelopes on the Giving Table.

## Christmas Bowl

With your generosity Act for Peace's local partner are helping Sri Lankan refugees to safely return home after decades in exile.



 <p>Refugees in India are assisted in obtaining documentation to help them on their return to Sri Lanka.</p>	 <p>Health workers conduct home visits in camps in India to provide medicine to refugees who need long-term care.</p>	 <p>Vital medicine and care for high-risk mothers and babies living as refugees in India.</p>
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All images: Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Act for Peace this Christmas. For 75 years, church communities have been giving hope to families who are displaced through the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Funds raised are invested in life changing support and programs around the globe that empower people to find safety in exile and rebuild their lives. Giving envelopes for this year's appeal are available in the foyer or from the giving table. These can be placed in the offering at any time during the Advent season. You can also give online using our Athelstone UC donation page by clicking on the following link:

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/46015>

*Image Credit: Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace*

## Tearfund

Across the globe, Tearfund work in partnership with locally based agencies who understand the needs of their communities, and are in the best position to develop responses that are relevant and sustainable. Every gift makes a real difference: for the giver, the receiver, and most of all, for the people represented in the story behind each item.

These gifts bring life: with Useful Gifts, you can give towards a better world for all.

Through Tear Fund Useful Gifts, you can further the work of our Christian partners in 19 countries around the world. Gifts shared in love become gifts that grow hope, harvest change and transform the world.



*Image Credit: Tearfund-Useful-Gifts\_UG-Shop\_Presentation.pdf.*

## Other Missions

Here are just some of our other ongoing mission projects at Athelstone UC:

Uniting Communities	Please keep bringing in your donations and let us fill the giving table
Aussie Bread tags for Wheelchairs	Bring any plastic bread tags you may still have left to church to support this charity. You will find a container on the giving table. <b>Please be sure to check your bread tags are plastic.</b> You can do this by folding the bread tag. Cardboard bread tags bend, whilst plastics tags snap when folded. Cardboard tags can go in your green bin. <u>The charity can only use plastic tags.</u> SA is fading out plastic bread tags, but there are still plenty of plastic ones out there that need to be recycled, so let's do it, clean out your kitchens and prevent more going to landfill while we can still support this charity.
Sally Stamp	Bring stamps to the office or giving table to help with this ministry.

## NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

### 2025 UCA Calendars

2025 Uniting Church SA Calendars are available in the foyer (on the cupboard). Please take one if you would like one.

### Annual General Meeting – Call for Reports

As usual, the annual general meeting of our congregation will be held early in the new year (date to be advised).

It is now time for all groups to start preparing their 2024 annual reports. Where possible all reports for the AGM need to be submitted to Carol in the office by 31st December, or as soon as possible in the New Year.

### Newsletter Publication Times

Please note the following changes to our newsletter publication dates over the Christmas and Summer Holiday period. Thank you.

Newsletter published for:	Articles due to office by 5 pm on
Sunday 22 Dec 2025	Wed 18 Dec 2024
Sunday 26 Jan 2025	Wed 22 Jan 2025
Sunday 2 Feb 2025	Wed 29 Jan 2025
Sunday 16 Feb 2025 (and returns weekly thereafter)	Wed 12 Feb 2025 (and weekly thereafter)

Articles and Notices for the Newsletter can be emailed to the office at [office@athelstonechurch.org.au](mailto:office@athelstonechurch.org.au).

### Prayer Requests

Can we support you in prayer? Here is 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 Rev Do Young Kim for individual prayer or one the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Lee O'Connell, Brenton Summers, Ann Brown and 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

## CONNECT GROUPS

### Wirra – Watch and Wonder



Warltati, Summer has certainly arrived!

Bursaria spinosa is commonly known as Christmas Bush because that's when it flowers. The clusters of creamish flowers at the tips of the branches look like miniature Christmas trees. Sometimes known as Sweet Bursaria because it attracts a wide range of butterflies and other insects. As Christmas nears, the bushes will burst forth with flowers and spread a message of hope, joy, peace and love to all who visit the wirra. *Joy and Bruce Stewart*

*Photo Credit: Joy & 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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of the month at 9.00am, Indigo Espresso Cafe	Office
Sunday Nights	6 pm. Venue varies each week.	Melissa O'Hara/Robyn Fry
Threads	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues of the month, 2-4 pm, Indigo Espresso Café Next gathering will be 14 Jan 2025.	Office
Triple Cs – Men's Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month at 10.30 am. Venues vary. Next gathering will be Feb 2025.	Ray Walter
TOFs Fellowship Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues of the month. 2 – 4pm. Venues vary.	Sheralyn Robertson

## WIDER CHURCH

### Wider Church News - Links

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/additions to regular bookings or location are highlighted in **bold**.

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
<b>Tuesday 24 Dec</b>	<b>6.30 – 8.30 pm</b>	<b>Whole Building</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 25 Dec</b>	<b>9.30 – 11.00 am</b>	<b>Whole Building</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
Mondays	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Tuesdays	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Wednesdays	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursdays	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursdays	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturdays	9.00 – 11.00 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Mon, Wed, Fri	9.00 – 3.00 pm	Top Hall	Australian General Practice Network

\*Waratah Calisthenics Classes resumes on 28 January 2025.

*Athelstone Uniting Church acknowledges the Kaurna people whom God placed as the traditional custodians of the country on which our church stands. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land*

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ROSTER

2024		Sun 22 Dec	Tue 24 Dec	Wed 25 Dec	Sun 29 Dec
<b>Preaching &amp; Liturgy</b>	Worship Leader	Jeff Dry	Di Curtis	Do Young Kim	Lynton Nicholas
	Preacher	Do Young Kim	Do Young Kim	Do Young Kim	Gratitude Sunday
	Pray with Preacher	Di Curtis	Lee O'Connell	-	Lee O'Connell
	Notices	Don Brown	Lee O'Connell	Do Young Kim	Sylvia Maywald
	Bible Reader	Sylvia Maywald	Hayeon Kim	Friederike Ashby-Weiss	Lee O'Connell
<b>Music Team</b>	Piano / Keyboard	Celine Leslie	Shelley Walker	Celine Leslie	Di Curtis
	Singers	Sylvia Maywald	Ann Brown	Friederike Ashby-Weiss	Sylvia Maywald
		Janet Luestner	Allan Amber	Jean Richardson	Eric Hurrell
		Jeanine Dry	Sylvia Maywald Bob Stevenson	Shelley Walker	Di Curtis
	Guitar	Chris Pritchard	David Walker	Chris Pritchard	
	Bass / 2nd Guitar		Scott Tilley		Shelley Walker
Drums / Percussion	Glen Luestner	Glen Luestner			
<b>Technical</b>	Sound Desk	Noel Maywald	Don Brown	David Walker	Noel Maywald
	Data Operator	Hayeon Kim	Samantha Walker	Samantha Walker	David Walker
	Zoom Production		David Walker	David Walker	
<b>Engagement</b>	Flowers	Advent	Advent	Advent	Di Curtis
	Door Greeters	Coralie Summers	Dana Lim	Lee O'Connell	David Riggall
Brenton Summers		Hayeon Kim	Dana Lim	Jenny Riggall	
<b>Administration</b>	Building Steward	Noel Maywald	Eric Hurrell	Do Young Kim	Noel Maywald
	Tick and Flick	Trevor Curtis	Brenton Summers (count only)	Lee O'Connell (count only)	Brenton Summers
	Count Offering	Don Brown	Bob Stevenson	Friederike Ashby-Weiss	David Walker
		Sylvia Maywald	Don Brown	David Walker	Friederike Ashby-Weiss

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

***Worship Leaders for January are below. Worship Volunteers, please refer to your copy of the current roster for your turns in January:***

Worship Service	Worship Leader	Worship Service	Worship Leader
5 Jan 2025	David Walker	19 Jan 2025	Robyn Stevenson
12 Jan 2025	Jeff Dry	26 Jan 2025	Di Curtis