



Athelstone Uniting Church Newsletter – 9 March 2025

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Do Young's day off is Friday

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

Lent: More than just 40 Days

I have a friend named David. He lives in Sydney, and with his permission, I'd like to share a story about him. When I was in Sydney, I served as a children's pastor, and David was a Sunday school teacher. At over 190 cm tall, he was a great basketball player, and since he worked in IT, he was skilled in media and technology—making him a fantastic ministry partner.

Every Sunday morning, after Sunday school, we would gather with the teachers for devotion and prayer. One year, as we approached Ash Wednesday, I suggested that we each share something we would give up for Lent and commit to it throughout the season. There were about ten of us, and everyone took it seriously, carefully choosing something meaningful to let go of or take on.

When it was David's turn, he looked thoughtful and then said with a serious expression, "For Lent, I will give up beer." The room burst into laughter, thinking he was joking. But he quickly clarified, "After work and a workout, there's nothing I love more than a cold beer—except for Jesus, of course! This won't be easy for me." We all encouraged him, and with that, our Lenten journey began.

A week passed, and on the first Sunday of Lent, we gathered again for devotion. We checked in on each other, and thankfully, most of us had kept our commitments. David, too, was proud to say he was doing well. We cheered for him, ended with prayer, and went our separate ways.

As we stepped out into the church lounge, David suddenly said, "I can't wait to go home and enjoy a nice cold beer!"

We all turned to him, shocked. "What?"

Surprised by our reaction, he asked, "What's wrong? Why can't I?"

Then, with confidence, he explained, "Lent is 40 days long, but Sundays don't count!"

According to church tradition, Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter, excluding Sundays. Based on this, David reasoned that he was allowed to enjoy his beer on Sundays. We were stunned. Technically, he was right, and we could do nothing but watch as he walked away with a triumphant smile.

Because of David's clever response, the other Sunday school teachers couldn't help but smile, and I could see a look of expectation spreading across their faces. This may be a simple, humorous memory, but it has remained clear in my memory over the years.

Every year, we enter Lent wanting to reflect deeply on Jesus' suffering and prepare our hearts for Easter. I encourage you to embrace this season as a time for spiritual renewal and healing, a chance to refocus on Jesus. But Lent is not about strict rules or obligations; it is not about rigidly following traditions or controlling our lives with guilt. That is not the true spirit of fasting and prayer that Scripture teaches.

We are not bound by the number 40 or by religious effort, what we do or don't do should not become the focus. Instead, Lent is an invitation to meet Jesus in the midst of our burdens and worries, to find true peace and hope in Him. So I encourage you. May this season be a journey of humility, of sharing in Christ's suffering, and of recognizing the pain of others as our own, as we patiently wait for the hope of the resurrection.

"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him." (Romans 6:8) Amen.

P.S. A question for you: Why is Lent counted as 40 days, excluding Sundays? If you're curious, stay tuned for this week's sermon!

WORSHIP

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

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 at the following link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/worship-at-home/>

Messy Church in 2025

Anyone is welcome! Please save the dates in your diaries and invite as many people as possible. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Messy Church program, so please talk to Do Young, Leanne Shirlock or Lee O'Connell to talk about how you might be able to help! See the end of this newsletter for a flier to share with family and friends.

Messy Church Dates 2025

Date	Time	Theme
Sunday, March 16	4:00 PM	Creation & Gratitude
Sunday, May 4	4:00 PM	The Love of Jesus
Sunday, July 20	4:00 PM	Faith & Courage
Sunday, September 14	4:00 PM	Walking with God
Sunday, November 30	4:00 PM	Christmas

Pastoral Care Team - New Initiative

The Pastoral Care team have decided on a new initiative.

If you have a family member, relative or friend who has recently died we wish to light a candle at the beginning of a service to honour that person and to share in your grief.

One of the Pastoral Care team or the Worship leader will say a few sentences in memory of your loved one and light the candle, which will remain lit for the duration of the service. For more information: Please contact a member of the Pastoral Care team

Photo Credit: Do Young Kim.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Athelstone Uniting Church will be holding our Annual General Meeting next **Sunday 16 March 2025 at 10.45am.**

The Agenda is attached at the end of this newsletter.

MISSIONS

Packing Day 2025: Be excited, Be involved!

Once again, AUC will be involved in Packing Day. Packing Day is a chance for our church community to co-ordinate the packing of clothing and household items to remote northern aboriginal communities.

What you need to do:

- Save the date – Sunday June 1st and Monday June 2nd
- Start collecting clothing and household goods – we pack for tropical communities so need clothing that is suitable for this climate.
- Ask friends and family to collect suitable clothing and household items – we have been particularly short of children and men’s clothing in the past.
- Collected items can be brought along to church and placed in the shed.

Please speak to Jayne Nicholas (0418836266) if you have any queries.

Missions

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

Sally Stamp	Bring stamps to the office or giving table to help with this ministry.
Uniting Communities	Please keep bringing in your donations and let us fill the giving table

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 9.30am, Indigo Espresso Cafe.	Office
Sunday Nights	6 pm. Venue varies each week.	Melissa O’Hara/Robyn Fry
Threads	2 nd & 4 th Tues of the month, 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 Tues of the month. 2 – 4pm. Venues vary.	Sheralyn Robertson

Wirra – Watch and Wonder



Harmony Week will be celebrated Australia wide this year from 17th – 23rd March and what better place to spend time celebrating than in the wirra. Come and enjoy the harmony of God’s creation, explore and reflect on our multicultural community through activities provided and maybe even find a special SA Rock. If you would like to know more about Harmony Day/Week, check out the display board at the back of the church.

(Photo Credit: J & B Stewart)

Joy and Bruce Stewart

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

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

WIDER CHURCH

Festival of Hymns

As part of the Fringe Festival, James Lloyd, one of the organists at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Wakefield Street, Adelaide is leading an hour of hymn singing on Sunday 16 March at 1 pm in the Cathedral. Admissions is Free! It's a fantastic opportunity to gather and sing some favourite hymns. Please see flier on the noticeboard.

**Volunteers
needed!**

Easter Sights & Sounds

2-4 April 2025 (daytime)
4 April 2025 (evening)

Spicer Uniting Church
44a Fourth Avenue, St Peters



Spicer Uniting Church is looking for volunteers to act and also for supporting roles. If you are interested, please contact the church office on 8362 3771.

"Being a part of ESS (Easter Sights and Sounds) is powerful and profound. Being able to be a part of something that touches people's lives in a way they remember for years (especially children) is something I am incredibly thankful for." - Anne

Easter Sights and Sounds

Members of our congregation have been invited to join Spicer in this wonderful ministry event. They are looking for people to serve God with them and for them to bring their family and friends to experience the Sights and Sounds of Easter. There is a \$5 entry fee. Please see the noticeboard for more information.

Image Credit: Spicer Uniting 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
Monday 10 March	4.45 – 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Tuesday 11 March	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Tuesday 11 March	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wednesday 12 March	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursday 13 March	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursday 13 March	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday 15 Mar	9.00 – 11.00 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Saturday 15 Mar	9.30 – 12.00 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mon, Wed, Fri	9.00 – 3.00 pm	Top Hall	Australian General Practice Network

Athelstone Uniting Church acknowledges the Kurna 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



Athelstone Uniting Church Postal Address: PO Box 307, Athelstone, SA 5076:

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs: 9.30am – 12.30pm **Office Phone:** (08) 8336 9905

Office Email: office@athelstonechurch.org.au : **Web:** athelstonechurch.org.au

Newsletter Items: Please submit to the office by Wednesdays at 5 pm for next newsletter.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ROSTER

2025		Sun 9 Mar	Sun 16 Mar
Preaching & Liturgy	Worship Leader	Jeff Dry	David Walker
	Preacher	Do Young Kim	Do Young Kim
	Pray with Preacher	Di Curtis	Glen Luestner
	Notices	Sylvia Maywald	Lee O'Connell
	Bible Reader	Shelley Walker	Ann Brown
Music Team	Piano / Keyboard	Di Curtis	Celine Leslie
	Singers	Jeanine Dry	Sylvia Maywald
		Janet Luestner	Shelley Walker
		Lynton Nicholas	Janet Luestner
	Guitar	Chris Pritchard	Chris Pritchard
	Bass / 2nd Guitar	Shelley Walker	Scott Tilley
Drums / Percussion	Glen Luestner	Glen Luestner	
Technical	Sound Desk	Noel Maywald	Don Brown
	Data Operator	David Walker	Samantha Walker
	Zoom Production	Paul Howland	Graham Jennings
Engagement	Flowers	Di Curtis	Carole Walter
	Door Greeters	Gus Robin	Carole Walter
		Jan Robin	Ray Walter
Administration	Building Steward	Paul Howland	Eric Hurrell
	Chair Stewards	Paul Howland	Glen Luestner
		Brenton Summers	Janet Luestner
	Tick and Flick	Trevor Curtis	Brenton Summers
Count Offering	Paul Howland	Glen Luestner	
	Bob Stevenson	Ray Walter	

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.