



Athelstone Uniting Church Newsletter – 27 April 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



Image Credit: Sunny K.

Sunrays on the Endless Trails

Greetings from Frontier Services Bush Chaplain Sunny Kadaparambil and the Parkin-Sturt Remote Area!

This is a window to life beyond the city—a glimpse into the remote outback, the incredible people we meet there daily and the moments that inspire us to move forward along the way.

Through these stories, reflections, and shared experiences, we hope to bring you closer to the heart of the work happening in these distant places.

Whether you're a volunteer, a friend, a city folk or someone who is simply curious about life in the remote outback, this space is for you. Let's follow the echoes of the outback, written in the light.

Reading the Land

In the outback, roads don't always stay where they're supposed to. Tracks disappear under shifting dust, floodwaters swallow crossings, and sometimes, this happens where there's simply nothing—no GPS, no phone signal, no signs. Just you and the land.

I've lost my way more times than I can count while driving toward remote stations. No internet, no map, nothing to guide me except the sky above and the ground beneath. In those moments, I've learned something valuable—sometimes, the only way forward is to trust nature itself.

The sun tells you the time, the winds whisper which way the weather is turning, and sometimes a tire mark, faint but present, hint at where others have gone before. A line of trees might signal water nearby, while a break in the scrub could be the path you're looking for.

It's a different kind of navigation, one that doesn't rely on technology but on instinct, patience, and respect for the land. Out here, you don't conquer nature—but you listen to it. And if you listen closely enough, it will always show you the right way.

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

On the other end of the line:

A drought-stricken voice, finding relief in the words.

Last evening, I received a call that stretched on longer than expected. The lady on the other end was a friend from a remote station. She started speaking about this year's brutal drought. As she talked, I could hear the weight of her stress in her voice, almost as if by talking, she was letting go of some of the pain she's been holding onto for so long.

I've known her for a while. She has lived on this property all her life, never once considering leaving. People have often asked her, "Why don't you sell the land? Why not leave and move to a city where life is easier, where the facilities are accessible?" But she always felt connected to her land, her sheep, and her life here. It was home. Yet, this year, everything felt different again.

The land that had sustained her and her family for decades is now cracked again and dry. Her husband, too sick to help, lies at home, leaving her alone to manage it all. She's in her old age, struggling physically, and the burden of caring for the property is wearing her down. No workers to help, and no relief in sight. The sheep are dwindling, and the water she desperately needs is running out.

As she spoke, I could hear how exhausted she was, not just from the work, but from the overwhelming sense of helplessness. She couldn't keep the land alive anymore, but she also didn't know how to let it go. The land is her lifeblood. After a long talk, we agreed on a visit early next week to try and plan something—anything that could ease her burden. By the time we ended the call, her voice had softened, a sense of relief seeping in. Just knowing someone was listening seemed to take a small weight off her shoulders.

She may never leave her home, but I could tell she was beginning to realize that she doesn't have to carry it all alone. Sometimes, just knowing someone else is willing to help—sometimes just being heard—is enough to spark a little hope in the hardest of times of life.....

"In this outback, much like in life, sometimes you have to trust that the light will come, even when all you see is darkness".

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,
'This is the way; walk in it.'"* - Isaiah 30:21

Article written by Rev Sunil (Sunny) Kadaparambil, Frontier Services Bush Chaplain

UPCOMING EVENTS

Polling Day Barbecue and Cake stall - Saturday 3rd May, 2025, 8 am – 1pm

Only a week to Polling Day and our opportunity to connect with our community by holding a Barbecue and Cake Stall at the church.

We are hoping you will all be involved and are asking for volunteers to help set up, provide donations and help on the day. Even a short time would be appreciated.

We require donations of cakes, biscuits, jams, and other produce. All goods require a list of ingredients attached.

Donations will be received at the bottom hall (via Wirra Garden) on Friday 2nd May, 6pm – 7pm or by 7.30am on Saturday 3rd May, Thank you. Please negotiate other times with me personally (0419-862-606).

Thank you all, Di Curtis on behalf of Church Council

Messy Church – May 4 - Cancelled

There will be **NO Messy Church in May** due to the hire of the premises by the Australian Electoral Commission and a lack of available volunteers later in May. The next Messy Church will be on July 20.

Baptism – Sunday May 4 & Communion Change

It is with great joy that we will celebrate a baptism during our Worship Service on Sunday May 4.

Communion this month will be held on Sunday May 11 instead.

Casual Social Night – Potluck Dinner

When: Friday 16th May **Where:** Athelstone Uniting Church, Fox Avenue, Athelstone

Time: 6.30pm

Cost: No charge.

Transport: If required please advise Julie Goldsmith

This event is suitable for all ages, families welcome. Please bring a savoury dish OR a dessert to share. If bringing a meal that needs to be eaten hot, please bring it already heated. BYO cool drinks, coffee and tea will be provided.

We may have more desserts than savoury dishes but so be it as this is the idea of a Potluck Dinner!

An opportunity to get to know your Church Family. Any questions, please see Julie Goldsmith. Phone: 0418 811 556

WORSHIP

Worship Online

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.

Worship Rosters – June, July & August

It's time to prepare the next lot of worship rosters for June, July & August!

Worship Volunteers, please log in to Elvanto and **update your unavailable dates** for the June, July and August 2025 rosters, or email them to the office **by Monday 5th May** so the office can start the rostering process for this period.

If you would like to consider additional roles, or have changes to your preferences re role, timing and frequency, then please contact the office.

We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you aren't yet on our roster, and would like to contribute to our worship services then please consider volunteering in any role. However, the roles that we particularly need some more volunteers for are zoom, data and sound operators and communion helpers.

CONNECT GROUPS

Wirra – Watch and Wonder

The season parnati/autumn is bringing changes with much needed rain for creatures large and small. This little Australian Marbled Gecko was enjoying the cool, damp darkness under the sand tray near the bridge. Mainly nocturnal, sometimes hunting for insects near outdoor lights, they are well adapted to urban areas and can live 5-10 years.



Check out the display board at the back of the church and learn about Kurna families and how they prepared for the cold, damp weather to come.

Image Credit: J & B Stewart

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 9.30am, Indigo Espresso Cafe.	Office
Sunday Nights	6 pm. Venues vary each week.	Melissa O'Hara
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

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 some of our other 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

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

Office Phones

Unfortunately, our existing modem which controls the phone lines has decided it has served us long enough and stopped working. We currently have a temporary modem working for the office internet but **no office phones** until the new modem from the phone company arrives and is installed. If you need to contact the church office then please email us instead, or call Do Young's mobile for urgent matters.

Please also take care if you enter the office from the deck doors as we temporarily have a cable running along the floor under the door mat due to upgrading our broadband fibre connection recently. We will finish installing the cable above the door once things settle down after the election. It's proven to be a very busy pre-polling venue!

Good Time Jazz Concert - 08 May at Athelstone UC

Note your diaries for this not to be missed concert at 10:30am on Thursday 08 May, at Athelstone Uniting!

Come and enjoy this relaxing light-hearted concert featuring the great skill of professional musicians Brenton and Paul. A delicious morning tea will be served. Buy your \$5 raffle ticket for a chance to win one of several attractive prizes. Tickets at the low cost of \$20 must be pre-purchased to assist with catering planning.

Please see/contact Jayne Nicholas (0418 836 266) or Sylvia Maywald (0408 810 507) to purchase your tickets.

All funds raised will support the charity fundraising efforts of the **Inner Wheel Club of Tea Tree Gully** and will be donated to the HAS Foundation and other Inner Wheel Charities.

2025 National Festival of Male Choirs

Lynton, Dave & Shelley are performing in the National Festival of Male Choirs Gala Concert and invite you to share in this music experience which promises to be fantastic!

Sunday 25 May 2:00pm	2025 National Festival of Male Choirs Gala Concert Over 350 Singers from Across Australia Performing Choral Favourites — Showtunes, Popular, Folk, Classical and Sacred pieces, with a 50-piece Orchestra. A truly spectacular celebration of music!	Adelaide Entertainment Centre Theatre Hindmarsh SA
Tickets \$45/\$55 Ticketek.com.au On Sale Now!		

Tickets via: <https://premier.ticketek.com.au/Shows/Show.aspx?sh=MCHOIR25>

NOTE: some of our congregation would really appreciate travel assistance to attend.

Memory Candle



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.

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

Wider Church News & Useful 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/>

Worship at Home self-guided resource: <https://sa.uca.org.au/worship-at-home/>

CHURCH BUILDING BOOKINGS

Australian Electoral Commission

The Australian Electoral Commission is using the Auditorium, Kitchen and Amenities between the 14th April and the 9th May. We will not have full access to these areas during this time. We do still have access to office and lower hall as they have separate entrances, but please minimise any drop-ins to the church especially during pre-polling hours if you can. They will also be using all our large trestle tables, some chairs and other items.

Church Building Booking Calendar

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

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Monday 14 April – Friday 6 May	All day	Auditorium, Kitchen & Amenities	Australian Electoral Commission
Monday 28 April	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Tuesday 29 April	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Wednesday 30 April	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursday 1st May	9.45 – 10.45 am	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursday 1 st May	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	Gain Momentum Pilates
Thursday 1 st May	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday 3rd May	8.00 – 6.00 pm	Auditorium	Australian Electoral Commission
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.

WORSHIP ROSTER

2025		Sun 27 Apr	Sun 4 May
Preaching & Liturgy	Worship Leader	Di Curtis	David Walker
	Preacher	Do Young Kim	Do Young Kim
	Pray with Preacher	Glen Luestner	Di Curtis
	Notices	Sylvia Maywald	Lee O'Connell
	Bible Reader	David Walker	Ray Walter
Music Team	Piano / Keyboard	Shelley Walker	Di Curtis
	Singers	Janet Luestner	Eric Hurrell
		Lynton Nicholas	Janet Luestner
		Allan Amber	Shelley Walker
	Guitar	Chris Pritchard	Chris Pritchard
	Bass / 2nd Guitar	Scott Tilley	
	Drums / Percussion	Glen Luestner	Glen Luestner
Technical	Sound Desk	Noel Maywald	Don Brown
	Data Operator	David Walker	Samantha Walker
	Zoom Production		
Engagement	Flowers	Di Curtis	Mignon Martin
	Door Greeters	Jayne Nicholas	Stella Waugh
		Lynton Nicholas	Lee O'Connell
Administration	Building Steward	Noel Maywald	Richard Read
	Chair Stewards	Glen Luestner	Bernie O'Hara
		Janet Luestner	John Armstrong
	Tick and Flick	Trevor Curtis	Brenton Summers
	Count Offering	Glen Luestner Friederike Ashby-Weiss	Sylvia Maywald Glen Luestner

***There will be no communion on Sunday 4 May due to baptism. Communion will be held on Sunday 11th May**

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.



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.