



Bulletin – December 2017

***Advent is the waiting season, hoping to be rediscovered.
She is seasoned waiting, wishing wisdom and pregnant with promised life.
She is a season conceived every day.***

– Joseph J. Juknialis

Advent Greetings

from the Urban Mission Network Reference Group

Advent is a season of waiting:
waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of
God to break into our lives anew through the
story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of
hope, peace, joy and love...

We wait
not because we do not know the story of Jesus,
and not because Jesus is not already and
always here.

We wait
because to wait is to expect that the story might
enter our hearts and our world in new ways,
to bring the change for which we long...

We trust that God is with us,
as we wait for **hope** to be born, anew in us...
as we wait for **peace** to be born, anew, in us...
and that **joy** will be born anew in us.
As love bursts forth from all God's people,
love is born again and again in all creation...

This, then, is how Love is born:
like a seed planted in the deepest of soils
that rises to meet the sun's warming rays,
so love emerges from the deepest places.
Despite our willing it,
and without the force of hand,
may love rise graciously to life.

This then, is how Love is born:
As the morning slowly dawns –
first a sliver, then a burning horizon –
causing the night to fade away,
so love transforms our sorrow and fear.
In our need,
moving against resistance,
may love change things in our lives and in the
world.

This, then is how Love is born:
As winter's gentle hibernation
gives way to the bursting of spring
and the delights of summer,
so love is woven through every season.
Amidst our doubts and disappointments,
when the sands seem to shift under our feet,
may love be steadfast and present at all times.

*(Sarah Agnew in
Seasons of the Spirit™ – adapted)*

- **What are you waiting for this Advent – individually and as a church?**
- **What things do you hope might grow in you if you give them the darkness and the light they require?**



Encouraging each other in ministry and mission,
sharing resources, providing mutual support

UMN churches Advent and Christmas events

Morialta Music Time



**Sessions on
Thursday at
9.30 am**

Commencing 14 December

Morialta Uniting Church

26 Chapel Street, Magill

for 0 to 5-year-olds

A fun, interactive music sessions and play time for an hour each week during the school holidays.

Cost \$3.00 per child

BYO fruit for children to enjoy morning tea.

Tea and coffee will be provided for parents/care givers.

Contact the church office at 8331 9344 to register your interest in this exciting holiday experience. Places are limited



Northern Suburbs Dinka Speaking Faith Community

***“Church and community
working together for the
future”***

On the last day of the Presbytery and Synod meeting – 25 November 2017, Rev. Amel Manyon offered a short message on the importance of discipleship and generosity, challenging us with the question, “Why do you find it so hard to share what you have, even with other members of the church?” Here is an opportunity to support the ministry of this community.

Fund Raising Event

The Northern Suburbs Dinka Speaking Faith Community invite all to an event that aims to raise funds toward the renovation of the church building for use of the community in Northern Suburbs

December 30 at 12.00 pm
St. Stephen’s Uniting Church
Womma & Woodford Rd, Elizabeth North

with performances from different churches and individuals

For more information contact: Kwai Deng Lueth 0470215504, James Maluak, 0411230754, Rev. Amel Manyon 0431202744

Northern Suburbs Dinka Speaking Faith Community also welcome any support of money \$20, \$50 or \$100



Blue Christmas Service

Pilgrim Uniting Church

12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

**Wednesday
20 December at 6.00 pm**

A service designed for those finding it hard to relate to the hype of Christmas, whether because of a difficult loss, transition, or life change. All will find a welcome in this special time of music and reflection.



Resources

Several papers were distributed at the November UMN Gathering. These included:

- **The Urban Mission Report** to the annual Presbytery and Synod meeting
- **From Seattle to Montreal** – transforming neighbourhoods for the common good. An overview of some contacts made by Susan Burt during her leave in USA and Canada
- **Functions, values and characteristic of the Urban Mission Network.** Brief points on what are the important and vital functions of the UMN, which we want to see maintained into the future
- **Local Public Theology summary leaflet**
- **Connected and connecting church**
- **Future planning for congregations,** outlining the assistance available through the Pastoral Relations and Planning Team as congregations engage in future planning*

These resources are available at www.urbannetwork.org.au, click on Resources

*UMN Network representatives resource consultations and Joint Nominating Committees within the network. Training for consultations is available to any who would like to act as consultants. Please let UMN Reference Group know if you would like to be listed as a representative (susan@urbannetwork.org.au)

Collaboration for Local Public Theology

In 2017 the **Urban Mission Network** and **Pilgrim Uniting Church** joined with others to provide insight and inspiration about the church's call to mission, *called to give witness to the love of God in Christ as word and deed* (UMN Vision). The program included quarterly workshops with guest resource leaders from the UK and interstate. Reports and records of these events can be found on the UMN and Pilgrim Church web sites.

In 2018, we will be extending our collaboration with others and this will include the SA Synod Subcommittee for Public Theology and Mission with Rev Sandy Boyce as convenor. The Local Public Theology programme will build on what has been achieved and draw on the experience of others, including insights and ideas about the way congregations connect with their neighbourhood and respond to changing social attitudes and cultural trends. A draft resource paper is available with recommended web site links to a range of networks and groups in Australia, Europe and North America that share this vision.

The annual programme of the UMN will assist congregations learn from practice through shared gatherings and conversations. Other threads in working together will draw on the Assembly commitment to Social justice and Advocacy, the annual Pilgrim Symposium and Effective Living Centre workshops and events. Support for existing groups will include the Covenanting Committee, Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry and Circle of Friends.

Check out our web sites as we plan to have dates and events listed in January 2018.

For further information and your suggestions and insights contact...

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First Network Gathering for 2018

**Thursday 22 February 2018
6.00 for 6.30 pm**

Save the date and watch for poster in the new year.