

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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PARISH BULLETIN

14 June 2020

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21 June 2020

9.30am	Mornington	Rod Mitchell
10.00am	Mosgiel	David Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	Rod Mitchell
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER





Are You Ready?

WHAT: Aflame is an Otago wide youth group gathering, over two nights and one day. Aflame is about helping youth groups to reconnect and strengthen their youth groups after covid. Aflame aims to help relight a new fire of confidence and love for Jesus. Moreover, it will level up participants ability to support each other.

WHO IS THIS FOR: Aflame is for youth leaders and their youth group. This youth event is aimed at young people in school year 9 and upwards. Aflame exists to strengthen what is already going on in each church's youth ministry. We hope to only be a tool for youth ministries to use to help ignite a fire of love for Jesus amongst the youth and to encourage participants to be a catalyst for Jesus.

KEY OUTCOMES:

1. To relight their spark for Jesus
2. To fuel their purpose and calling for life
3. To build a flame of confidence to be who they are called to be
4. To equip youth with skills to champion others on in their calling

WHAT TO EXPECT:

FRIDAY EVENING: Opening night we will lay the foundation for our time together. Participants will hear two amazing stories about young people who with their spark for God changed history.

SATURDAY: Through a variety of session styles (speakers, experiments, drama, and small groups, the day will focus on discovering Jesus the flame and what it means to be a catalyst with your spark and how to fuel the spark in others.

SATURDAY EVENING: Hear about the thrill of being a flame for Christ. Discover your calling and champion others on in their calling.

WHEN: Friday 3 July and all-day Saturday 4 July 2020

WHERE: Dunedin City New Life, 48 Stafford Street, Dunedin

REGISTER: \$40 per person. Youth Leaders can register their youth group at aflame.tickets.org.nz

COLLABORATORS:

BRAVE LOVE NZ: A woman's movement, empowering women to fully surrender to Jesus and bravely walk out the specific call God has for their lives.
www.bravelovewomen.org.nz/

It is so nice to see the children back at centre and being so settled on their return. There have been new enrolments and enquiries since we have been in level 2. A parent who has enrolled their second child and this time seems pretty relaxed about leaving the child. Their first child they enrolled some time ago and this child has gone onto school. At the time of enrolment for that child the parent was extremely anxious about

leaving their child. The parent knows us now and trusts us to care for their second child which makes a huge difference for the parent.

A young boy coming back on his first day to the centre told Jackie that he was back now because the COVID lady said there are no new cases.



VIRTUAL HUGS

It was good to return to church on Pentecost Sunday, another sign that New Zealand is winning the battle against Covid 19, but as we had been warned, we weren't returning to "Normal". It was very strange not to be singing together and even stranger to be maintaining some semblance of physical distancing, not to be shaking hands or embracing after such a long time apart. It was a reminder of how important physical contact is for most people.

Since we went into Lockdown I've been maintaining friendships through phone calls, emails and Zoom. Imagine how isolated we would have been without phones and computers. They have been a Godsend. Despite them we have all missed connecting in person with our friends and family, particularly those grandparents who have been kept in a separate bubble for the good of their health. They have so missed the ability to give their grandchildren a hug. One grandfather I know burst into tears when he was telling me of a visit by his granddaughters who were only allowed to wave to him at the window. It hurt.

Those of us who have lost a partner really value the embrace of a friend or relative. Gay men are valuable in this respect. We can hug a woman without there being any complications. I think it was something the old ladies at Glenaven looked forward to each Sunday morning. I know my mother made sure she always got a kiss from Malcolm and me whenever we visited. However, it was not always like that.

My brother recently revealed that our parents had never once told him that they loved him. Perhaps they didn't think they needed to since all three of us children knew that we were greatly loved, but clearly it mattered to him. In their defence I would suggest that they were the

children of Victorian parents and, in Dad's case, he was raised by his father and grandfather after his mother died in the 1918 influenza epidemic leaving four children aged under seven. Hugging was probably not usual in their household and it wasn't in ours.

In 1979, Malcolm and I were travelling in Italy where I was particularly impressed by the comfortable intimacy of family groups, particularly the way that fathers embraced their sons. That was something I hadn't personally experienced with my dad. In fact I could remember the last occasion when he had held me in his arms; when I was thirteen years old and delirious with a fever he was restraining me from climbing up the bedroom wall. It was so unusual that it made an impression on me despite my delirium. After Italy I decided I would like to initiate more physical intimacy with my family so, when a year later, we were flying in to Dunedin airport, I was preparing myself to greet Dad with a hug. There being no air bridges at that time we could see our families lined up outside the terminal building on the edge of the tarmac. As we disembarked I could see Dad striding past the barrier and, when he reached us, he embraced me in a warm welcome home. From that moment, whenever we met, we always gave each other a good hug.

It definitely seems that hugs are therapeutic. At a Gay Pride parade in Pittsburgh in the USA, a man wearing a T-shirt offering Free Dad Hugs was embraced by over 700 people in little more than two hours, with many people bursting into tears as they remembered their alienation from their own fathers. Would Jesus have worn that T-shirt if he had been there?

We are now in Covid 19 Level One, which means that we can again gather at church on Sunday mornings, but we are still being encouraged to maintain physical distancing, so does that mean we shouldn't hug or shake hands? I guess that's a judgement we will each make for ourselves. At least we'll be able to sing, Right now I feel like hugging everyone to celebrate the news that we have now no cases of Covid 19 in New Zealand. Halleluia!

Euan Thomson