

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

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PARISH BULLETIN

1st November 2020

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2020

9.30 am	Mornington	G Davis
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 3 November – Mornington Church Leaders Meeting 7.30pm
 Tuesday 3 November – Mosgiel MWF 1.30pm (All Welcome)
 6 – 12th November – David out of town (Contact Rod for urgent pastoral care)

PASTORAL NEEDS I will be away from the parish from Friday 6th to Thursday 12th November, first of all to attend Methodist Conference in Auckland then the AGM of ICHC in Wellington. I will be reachable by phone, if you have an urgent pastoral need while I am away please contact the Rev Dr Rod Mitchell. Thank you. David Poultney

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 3rd November 1:30pm in the church. Our speaker is Jordana Whyte from the WILD LIFE HOSPITAL. This is our meeting where we invite all other Mosgiel Women's Groups. Parish members welcome, please ring Fay Richardson with numbers on 489 5485.

MORNINGTON CHURCH LEADERS' MEETING: Tuesday November 3rd at 7.30pm.

MOSGIEL

Church on Sunday looked very different at Mosgiel last week. We sat around a table with a large map of Mosgiel and talked about the bible verse - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbour as yourself" Matthew 22:37-39 - and how it relates to what is happening in our community of Mosgiel and on the Taieri.

We talked about practical ways we can express our faith in the community - among residents, rest homes and retirement villages, new subdivisions, businesses, refugees and other churches and faiths. We used heart and house shapes to write some prayer requests to stick on the maps and have now put the map poster up on our back wall to remind us of how we can practically express our faith in loving our neighbours as ourselves.

CONNECTIONS I have taken over the responsibility of producing the Connections roster from Ken Russell, we owe Ken a huge debt of gratitude for his work over several years for Connections. I would also like to note that both Ken Russell and Marcia Hardy are stepping down from writing for Connections. We thank them for their words of wisdom. If you would like to write for us and have not done so thus far, please let me know. *David Poultney*

REPORT FROM THE MORNINGTON CONGREGATION MEETING held on Sunday 25th October. Officers for the Mornington church for 2020 are as follows:

- Chairperson: Marjorie Spittle
- Minute Secretary: Bruce Spittle
- Correspondence Secretary: Rebecca Neaves
- Treasurer: Mary Thompson
- Pastoral Care Convenor: Beryl Neutze
- Property Manager: David Patrick
- Health and Safety Manager: Murray Petrie
- Hall Manager: Barbara Weavers
- Social Activities Convenor: Cam Weston
- Choir: Avis Foote
- Methodist Women's Fellowship: Andrea Mosley
- Explorers' Group : Colin Gibson
- Open Education: Colin Gibson
- Stewardship Recorder: Rebecca Neaves
- Congregational Representatives: Trish Patrick, David Patrick, Richard Cannon, Bruce Spittle, Tekih Vaikoso
- Parish Steward: John Hardy
- Ordained Ministers [active and retired] and Lay Leaders:
- David Poultney, Rod Mitchell, Donald Phillips, Ken Russell, David Kitchingman, Gordon Abernethy, Lewis Major, Greg Hughson, Colin Gibson.

Two matters raised in General Business were the need to redo the outside notice board and the issue of the multi faith space planned for the new hospital. These will be discussed at the next Leaders' meeting.

There will be a public acknowledgement of the West Papua Liberation Movement on December 1st outside the Otago Museum. More on this in a later Bulletin.

There will be a dawn service to remember Parihaka at the Te Rongo stone, Portobello Road on 5th November.

Marjorie Spittle

The Waiting Time – Living With the Unresolved

We never live; we are always in the expectation of living.” *Voltaire*



New Zealand is a two weeks on from out from the General Election, perhaps this was a different year but the outcome had a sense of inevitability this year. It was a matter of just how much and whether or not Labour would need to have a coalition partner or confidence and supply arrangement. There is another election process happening now of course, the American election, one whose result I suspect will either not be known on the night or will be highly contested. Whatever the outcome ultimately is it will divide the nation between elation and dismay in ways which will be more intense than New Zealand's reaction to the outcome of our election.

In the meantime America waits anxiously, fractiously, the potential for violence hangs menacingly. Such a waiting is exhausting, it wears on the nerves.

Meanwhile much of the world seems to be washed by a second wave of Covid 19. Fragile returns to something resembling normality across Europe have come to a halt, and even gone into reverse, I almost feel guilty talking about the comparative ease of life here with family and friends in Europe and North America. The truth is of course is that we are not Covid free, even if it is confined at the border. We will not be Covid free until the whole world has moved on and there is an effective therapy and / or a credible vaccine. We had told ourselves when we went into lock down that there would be a few months disruption and then life would return to something resembling normal. We are fortunate in this country that our lives have a comparative normality, but for many people elsewhere a comparative normality is a receding hope; Christmas is “cancelled” and 2021 is looking uncertain. People are exhausted by it, and are holding on for better days.

And today you may hear the gears of the Church's year changing. In the last few weeks before Advent, a time the United Methodist Church calls Kingdomtide – we begin to hear texts which, like those in early Advent, point us to the far horizon of the human story. These texts confront us with the shadows and brokenness of the world and its need for healing and renewal. We are to be confronted by what it is to wait.

There is not the scope in this short article to write a theology of waiting, but I do want to say that despite the impatience that has come to mark our present age waiting is not empty time. Indeed if it were so much of life would be wasted, waiting for the perfect partner, the dream job, a decent government, an end to this pandemic. Whatever we are waiting for we are called to live well here and now, to cultivate hope here and now, to practice kindness here and now, to be open to joy here and now. May our every season of waiting be sanctified by our attentiveness to it.

David Poultney