

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

18 July 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25 July 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Hughson
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 21st July

Open Education Programme (Mornington Methodist Church) – 7.30pm

TAIERI CHRISTIAN CARE TRUST BOARD

Can you support us with a regular donation? If you consider this to be a good idea, please email mosgielfoodback@gmail.com with your contact details and the amount you are depositing so you can be sent a tax receipt. The bank account is 03-1725-0011932-000. Many thanks!



OPEN EDUCATION

On Wednesday 21 July at 7.30pm in the Mornington Methodist Church we will have the honour to meet Wayne Te Kaawa. Recently appointed Lecturer in Maori Theology at the University of Otago, Wayne is an immensely friendly and personable man who has previously served as a University chaplain and as a minister in Auckland, Rotorua and Opotiki. As a parish—and especially in the month of Matiriki—we should welcome and affirm him in his new role. A former leader for 6 years of the Presbyterian Maori Synod, he is delighted to be back in his 'second home', Dunedin. 'I love the architecture and the coffee shops, the lifestyle and the "small town" feel here.' He has plenty to share (he has gained three degrees in theology at the University of Otago) and is an accomplished speaker. Your Koha of \$5 will go towards the education of one or more of his theological students.



TOKOMAIRO COMMUNITY HUB TAITUARĀ A HĀPORI

Two New Māori clients, looking to whakapapa their roots, Ngai Tahu decedent, client 1 is going to find her birth certificates so they can register with their Iwi. They also want to move to Invercargill, as they are living in a motel in Milton. We have collaborated with Taituarā a Hāpori in Invercargill to see if we can connect with MSD and get move them up the list there.

Client 2 has been receiving support around their mental health. They have a plan which includes seeing their doctor to be eligible to receive professional help. They are still attending confidence course through job opportunities, and is on the waiting list to go onto adventure development, Thrive Te Pae Ora.

CORRECTIONS FOUNDATION SKILLS

Recently while working with a Māori learner, they were interested in developing our own whakatauki (proverb). The first challenge, of course, is to think of something worthy of whakatauki status. We contributed one each after some discussion based on our own philosophies. This was an interesting process that started in English and was then translated into Te reo. This learner is confident in both English and Māori. It was a complex process involving sentence structure in both languages. He is seeking guidance from the Māori Liaison Officer to finalise these. We look forward to the production of our very own 'words of wisdom from the inside'.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission

Faith Thinking - June-September 2021

Short Courses jointly offered by the Theology Programme, University of Otago and some Dunedin Churches in conjunction with Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE

AT www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation

Email: continuing.education@otago.ac.nz

Phone: +64 3 479 9181



FAITH THINKING ON ZOOM Wednesday August 18, 7.00-8.15pm

“It’s all Greek to me! The New Testament in Text & Translation”

Dr Katie Marcar, Theology Programme, University of Otago

COST: Free but please register to receive the Zoom link

FAITH THINKING ON ZOOM Tuesday September 14, 7.00-8.15pm

“Contours of an Ecological Theology for the 21stCentury”

Dr Andrew Shepherd, Theology Programme, University of Otago

COST: Free but please register to receive the Zoom link

FAITH THINKING IN PERSON

Friday September 17 (7-9pm) and Saturday September 18 (9am-12.30pm)

“Finding Faith in ‘Secular’ Times: What can we learn about Christian witness from the experiences of recent converts to Christianity?”

Dr Lynne Taylor, Theology Programme, University of Otago

Simpson Room, Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin

COST: \$20. Please register for this



KNOWING WHO WE ARE

- *keep it real, keep it authentic*

There is a tale of a man who on coming across a monk holding out his bowl, looked down his nose and said, “When I look at you, I see a pig!” The monk replied, “When I look at you, I see the Buddha.” The surprised man said, “How is that?” The monk replied, “Well, what a person sees is what you are on the inside. If they see the Buddha, then that’s what they are on the inside. If they see a pig . . .”

An old saying is, “We do not see things as they are. We see things as *we* are.”

And this is why the question, “who are we?” is so important to each and every one of us.

Authenticity is important, pretenders don’t last, they are not liked, not welcome, not trusted. This is especially true for the Christian and the Church, *keep it real, keep it authentic, be true!* It is also true for the politician, the teacher, the leader.

The commercial world, the advertiser, the product producer, have a long way to go to clean up their act, for that’s what it is mostly – an act! Especially when it’s aimed at young people. There’s one word to describe a large proportion of today’s advertising, *glitzy – showing something in a gaudy, pretentious way*. Many advertisers see the young people as a commodity, a source of profit, we can see that in the television advertisements, even school books can have advertisements for the likes of electronic gadgets and fast food

So, how would we like the church to be seen by those outside the church, especially by the younger people, the ones who have glitz and glamour thrown at them from all sides. For sure, we would not be like a church in the U.S.A. that call themselves the church of the 'Scum of the Earth'. Is that how they see themselves?

Authentic – the quality of being real or true, trustworthy, genuine, not corrupted.

The 'Observer' newspaper in Britain carried out a survey recently that showed 34% ticked the Christianity box in the survey because they believed in the teaching of Christianity, yet a majority ticked the religious box because of their background or upbringing. Remember there is a large number of immigrants in Britain from countries where Christianity is in the minority. Many reject the Christian Church as immoral or irrelevant.

It is up to church goers to show the authenticity of the church, for us to live out our faith in all aspects of our lives, outside the church and inside the church. Being authentic is being true to yourself, to your purpose in life, to your values.

A church marketing survey (not in this country) seeking the reasons people returned to the church showed the number one reason was that they deemed the church they had chosen to be authentic to its teaching and its commitment to each other – biblically and culturally, next came the pastor's/ minister's preaching.

True faith - true religion, walks the talk. Authentic Christianity finds a way to meet the need, of its followers and of others in need.

Authentic – the quality of being real or true, trustworthy, genuine, not corrupted.

We are the chosen people, loyal, royal, holy, acting righteously towards others and towards ourselves. *1 Peter 2:4-5*

Gordon Abernethy