

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

9 May 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 16 May 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D James
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 12th May; 7.30pm – Parish Council Meeting St Kilda Methodist Church
 Fri 14th May, 11.00 am, Lay Preachers Day, Balclutha
 Sun 23rd May 7pm Mosgiel Combined Pentecost Service at East Taieri Church

MOSGIEL COMBINED PENTECOST SERVICE: Sunday 23rd May 7pm at East Taieri Church All very welcome.

WHAT'S UP, LAURA?—OPEN EDUCATION FOR MAY

In our next Open Education presentation on Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm at Mornington Church, Galloway Street, we feature Laura Black telling us about the next exciting instalment of Mission activities. There are some remarkable new initiatives to be announced. Don't miss the opportunity to be informed about and support our own Methodist social work at a time of sweeping change signalled by Andrew Little, Minister for Health. The usual koha of \$5, please, or more if you can afford it. All profits will go to funding the Mission's work

REPORT FROM MORNINGTON LEADERS' MEETING:

- * The notice for the outside notice board has been completed . Thanks to Euan Thomson and Hilda Hughson.
- * The book on the icons and artwork in the church is in its final stages, thanks to the work of Margaret Connor and Leah Taylor. Come along to the next Women's fellowship meeting on May 26th to hear a presentation of their work.
- * A reminder to everyone that all church and hall bookings must be made through Barbara Weavers..
- * A sub committee is being set up to formulate a vision for the Mornington congregation as we move forward. We are looking for members of the congregation to join this committee. If you have a vision for our church and would like to share this please contact Marjorie Spittle.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held in the St Kilda Methodist Church on Wednesday 12 May at 7:30pm. If you have any items of business you wish to be added to the agenda please send them to the secretary Fay Richardson at malk_com@hotmail.com

CORRECTIONS TO NEW PARISH MAILING LIST:

Please note the following :

Abernethy, Robyn e-mail should be: Robyn.Abernethy@dcc.govt.nz

Douglas, Shirley e-mail should be: ronandshirl105@gmail.com

Weston, Kristen & Campbell e-mail should be:

Weston.dunedin@xtra.co.nz

LAY PREACHERS DAY

A chance for lay preachers and interested people to get together and share resources, share concerns and learn some new skills. Rev John Daniel (Presbyterian Minister in Dunedin) will be facilitating a session on prayer.

- Friday 14 May 2021
- 11am to 3pm
- Balclutha Presbyterian Church,
- 72 Clyde Street, Balclutha

Who is invited?

All lay preachers and interested people are invited. This is being run by the Methodist Synod of Otago and Southland and is open to Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican churches in Otago and Southland.

For information or to advise that you are coming please contact Rachael on rmasterton@actrix.co.nz

STORY FROM THE MISSION



Tokomairiro Community Hub *Taituarā a Hāpori*

Jane has been a regular client and has a few issues throughout her 3 weeks stay in Milton, she has recently had a car accident and has been living in Taylor Park in Milton paying \$180.00 a week for a tent site. We have worked with Ruth from Job Opportunities and trying to work through employment, but with everything we think Jane might need to put this on hold so she can find suitable accommodation. Jane came in this week and she needed petrol voucher for a possible farm house near Kaka point, we contacted the MCHT to get some petrol vouchers for them to travel to view and are hoping to rent a farm house for \$220 per week. Jane's husband is unable to work as he has a condition around his muscles collapsing, we setting another meeting in two weeks to support her on sustainable tenancies and also help her back to work.

Waihopai Youth Transition House

One of the rangitahi who is ready to move into permanent accommodation has struggled with finding a property as they have no identification. So, they have worked hard in preparing all the paperwork herself to apply for a passport as accepted legal identification. With a few hiccups along the way including the witness not filling out the paper work correctly, the new passport arrived yesterday! They are now back full-steam on the look out for their own place

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



THE VALUE AND DIGNITY OF WORK.

Defining the word 'work' seemed a reasonable starting point for this article, but on looking up my trusty Oxford Dictionary I discovered several columns of very fine print covering every possible aspect of 'work'. Perhaps the most general meaning of the word for my purposes is... 'Expenditure of energy, striving, application of effort to some purpose.' It is something we all do be it paid or unpaid. From prehistory to the present day, in large part, the survival of humanity has relied on people expending energy and applying effort to find food, shelter, warmth and safety, the basic requirements of life. Down through the ages, as humanity organised into communities, work has incrementally become organised and ultimately (mostly in the western world) industrialised, and more recently globalized. There is no way in an article of this size can I begin to describe the complexities, significance, consequences good bad and neutral of elements mentioned in the previous sentence.

Suffice it to say the global economy is driven by the work of humanity in the form of paid employment or unpaid and slave labour. Sitting behind that sentence is an amalgam of blood sweat and tears, success, fulfilment, and abject poverty.

Whether we like it or not work, both paid and unpaid, defines us to a greater or a lesser degree. Often one of the first questions we have for someone is 'what do you do?' then probably subconsciously make a value judgement about that person. As a society we have a hierarchy of value around types of work and the types of talent we prize. This is reflected in the remuneration package, and consequently the social class assigned. People in lower value work and possessing lesser value talents often find themselves at a huge fiscal and social disadvantage. (Therein lies another equally important topic for a later article).

Obviously I'm speaking in generalities, but that doesn't invalidate the facts. As an Industrial Chaplain, for twenty five years I was privileged to work alongside people in the trades, food industry, finance, heavy industry, engineering, sheltered workshops, intellectually disabled, health, clergy, justice, city/town councils, education, and research. My work also included being alongside people who had been made redundant, often because of workplace closures. This aspect of my experience brought into sharp focus the sometimes catastrophic results of people losing a major source of their identity and life support, the dignity of work afforded them. The loss of work for any reason has huge and ongoing consequences for the individual, the family, and society regardless of the type of work lost. However, the lowest paid are usually the most vulnerable to bad outcomes.

What does the 'dignity of work' really mean. For some of us it's hard to imagine there being a lot of dignity in some types of work like collecting garbage, doing dishes, working in a laundry, prepping food, people carers, that labour intensive work that most of us would find really challenging. Or for a parent at home with children cleaning up after them (and their partners no doubt), unpaid of course.

I believe the dignity lies in the contribution made to the greater good of society. Over the previous five or six decades there has been a huge emphasis placed on the 'I' rather than the 'we', brought about in part by the rise of youth culture, the contraceptive pill, the growth of individualism and liberal economic theory and loss of a collective morality. Now, the markets are the dictators of how society is to be constructed.

We live in a consumer society where the amount of money earned is the measure of personal success and GDP considered the most important indicator of a successful economy. That's fine, but it doesn't take into account the importance to the community of the less glamorous work

carried out....the essential services! The contribution and participation toward the common good of the lowest paid worker is the foundation of any healthy society. Do the low wages of essential workers reflect how we value their contribution? They are possibly one pay packet away from financial disaster...not a good place to be.

Its hard to feel dignified when one's back is against the fiscal wall.

Lockdown brought the 'Essential workers' into sharp focus. They were the ones, mostly the lowest paid, who took risks to keep our communities functioning. Again, theirs was ESSENTIAL work.

The reluctance of employers to pay a living wage is extremely short sighted. Of course it could mean that profit margins might not be as impressive, but the downstream effects would be life enhancing for society in general. The 'common good' cannot not be a concept consigned to history.

Whether we like it or not WE are in this together. Democracy and freedom can only survive in an environment where the 'we' takes precedence over the 'I'. On the face of it this might seem a simplistic concept, but we ignore it at our peril.

Right wing political movements are born out of despairing low paid, low employment populations who are feeling left behind and unheard. Fuelling the right wing in the USA are the despairing and fear-filled low paid communities grasping at the empty promises and rhetoric of Donald Trump and his minions. Feeling unseen and unheard is demoralizing and they feel they have nothing to lose.

The Third Reich had its origins in these conditions.

Have we learned nothing?

“One day our society will come to respect the sanitation workers if it is to survive, for the person who picks up our garbage is, in the final analysis as significant as the physician, for if he doesn't do his job disease is rampant.

All labour has dignity.”

Rev Martin Luther King, Jr.

Trish Patrick