

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

25 July 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 1 August 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 28 July @ 2pm – Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship Monthly Meeting at the Mornington Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEETING of the MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.

Wednesday 28th July, 2021 at 2pm at the Mornington Methodist Church. All are invited to the July meeting of the Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship.

After our short meeting, Greg Hughson will address the group on INTERFAITH in Dunedin. A social gathering and afternoon tea will follow Greg's presentation and discussion.

METHODISM, MATARIKI AND THE MAORI CHRIST



Rev Dr Wayne Te Kaawa, Lecturer in Maori Theology at Otago University shared an inspiring talk with those attending our July Education event at Mornington last Wednesday night. We were joined by students and leaders from the Otago Student Christian Movement, Elim Church and Knox Church.

Wayne shared with us about the history of Methodism in Otago and how Rev James Watkin selected and sent 26 talented young Maori men to Three Kings Methodist Theological Training College in Auckland. These men returned to work faithfully as Methodist leaders (Kai Whakaaho) in our area. We were challenged to learn more about these men and their families. Wayne shared with us that there are currently around 14,000 people who identify as Maori in Dunedin. Of these, only 360 or so affirmed a Christian denominational identity in the latest NZ census. Our session with Wayne was stimulating and interactive. Many questions were explored, and responses shared. Wayne shared with us how Matariki has been celebrated by local communities and encouraged us to plan something special for next year. One thing we considered was a 2020 Matariki service at Otakou Marae Church. If you were unable to attend last Wednesday night, please watch and reflect on Wayne's presentation via our Mornington Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV1JgDCaa8A>

Many thanks to Cam Weston for this precious historic recording, which many people in and far beyond our Parish will value immensely. And sincere thanks to Colin Gibson for once again organising and hosting such a wonderful speaker. Colin expressed our ongoing support for Wayne as he continues to engage in the vital task of theological education, helping us all to learn and value more about the richness of Maori spirituality, culture and faith.

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](mailto:moscielfoodback@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!



Waihopai YTH

One of the rangitahi has gained in confidence while in the YTH house - they are standing up for what they believe in with their family. They are discovering themselves and as part of that process, have completed feathers on the YTH korowai. Their increase in confidence has given them confidence to look for a job and successfully win the position. This young rangitahi has had several issues that impacted on their self-esteem and well-being – with the support of the house, external counselling, and time to find themselves, they are looking at the world with a positive view, looking now for independent accommodation, and knowing they are developing skills to manage themselves.

Another rangitahi, who has been on a similar journey, is exploring rentals to move out into own property, and has an interview for employment on a Dairy Farm this month as a Farm Assistant 20mins outside of Invercargill.

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 21st Century”

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



UNITY

Recently I've been thinking about unity. You know, the 'united we stand and divided we fall' kind of unity. I was set off by watching a marvelous episode in David Attenborough's *A Perfect Planet* TV series. In the middle of the howling wilderness of an Arctic winter, there stood a small herd of huge musk oxen huddled together against an attack by wolves. So long as they stood side by side they were too strong for the wolves. But if any one of them charged outside the group, it was left vulnerable to the pack, which on this occasion, I'm happy to say, failed to panic the oxen into scattering as individuals. Here is the defensive unity of collective action, or 'All for one and one for all'.

But Saint Paul—that apostle who was so distracted by the local quarrelling among his congregations (see Paul's First letter to the Corinthians, chapter one)—had another kind of unity in mind, when he used the human body as his example (in chapter 12 of the same letter). Christ, he tells his readers, is like a single body, which though it has many parts is still one body. Each part is to be respected because it has a unique function in the body and is necessary for the proper working of the whole organism. Here is the unity of complementary but different parts. It is an idea that can be applied to the working of whole communities (like churches) or whole societies (like the New Zealand population).

Following the attack on the Christchurch mosques, our Prime Minister came up with the instantly memorable phrase, 'They are Us.' New Zealanders understood instinctively what she was doing: rejecting the gunman's hatred of 'otherness' (in this case, the different ethnicity and religious faith of a non-European settler community) and drawing 'them' (the Muslim community) under the protection offered in the name of our common humanity. The implications of that generous phrase are still

being worked out in our daily lives, but the idea is clear. Deeper than all the surface variations of faith practices, ethnic origins, cultural behaviours (and one might add wealth, status and sexual orientation) lies one great and unifying truth, the truth of our common humanity. This is primal unity.

I tried to capture something of that inclusiveness in my hymn 'We are many, we are one', written in 1998 to call to its senses a church deeply divided by attitudes to differences in sexual orientation. 'We are many, we are one, and the work of Christ is done when we learn to live in true community. As the stars that fill the night, as a flock of birds in flight, as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.'

But these days we are to focus on yet a grander unity, made aware of a still larger horizon. I mean the beyond-imagining unity of the universe which manifests the Oneness of God. To our cost we have learned the disastrous outcome of our private and individual rapacity. Our determination to take whatever we want from each other and the planet itself—with the Moon and Mars the next targets of our extraordinary greed. Our destructive sense of ourselves not being them.

If we persist in denying this greatest of all unities we set out on a path to ultimate self-destruction for all humanity and for all life forms on the planet. 'Turn back, O Man, forswear thy foolish ways'—before it is too late. Or as a great English novelist put it, 'Only connect.'

Colin Gibson