

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

16 October 2022

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23 October 2022

9.30am	Mornington	Combined Service at Mosgiel
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	Combined Service at Mosgiel

RETIREMENT

Rev Rod Mitchell is officially retiring from his preaching position within the Parish at the Mornington AGM on 30 October. He has worked in a ministerial role for 50 years he disclosed on Sunday 2 October. A real achievement. There is to be a planned presentation to him during the service. Please leave donations toward this presentation gift in a specially marked envelope at one of the coming services prior to the AGM date. Thanking you Cam Weston

**Week of Prayer for World Peace
16th-23rd October 2022**



You are warmly invited to our annual Dunedin Interfaith Council's

“Prayer and reflections on peace gathering”

at Mornington Methodist Church, corner of Whitby and Galloway Streets
Wednesday 19th October 2022, 7.30-8.30pm followed by supper

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Further information : Greg Hughson 027 212 1048 or
greghughson@hotmail.com

or Kristan Mouat kbm@lphs.school.nz

Please join our Dunedin Interfaith Council facebook group via
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1566890406855982>

MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.

Wednesday 26th October, 2022, at 2pm in the Mornington Methodist Church. All members of the Fellowship and friends of the Church are invited to attend this Meeting.

Our speaker will be Rachel Hanna. Rachel will talk of her work with Presbyterian Support Services. Please join us for this presentation and afternoon tea.



Ladies...A Hat Please!!!!

Ladies, remember when it was unthinkable to attend church without wearing a hat..? Not to mention gloves, handbag and bible! Even when attending church whilst on holiday? (yes... that was also obligatory. At least it was so in the Baptist world). As kids, we had to

wear a beret or straw breton sort of arrangement, depending on the season. I invariably lost mine, not intentionally .of course! On asking about the need for a hat, the reply was 'because the bible says that females should pray with their head/hair covered. It was disrespectful to God to have one's head uncovered.' But it was ok for men not to cover their head because they were made in God's image for the glory of God. Females on the other hand were created for the glory of the man. On researching this passage in 1 Cor.Chap 11, a VERY confused Paul is trying to have his cake and eat it too, but cutting to the chase, women were the problem. Not the men.

More about that later.

The other night while watching 'Portrait Artist of the Year', one of the 'sitters' had a gorgeous tumble of long curling auburn hair. The artists assigned to paint her commented with delight at the prospect of capturing this beauty. The sitter responded saying with a smile 'Ahh..my spirit is in my hair!' This comment grabbed my attention having just heard about the young Iranian woman who had died while in the custody of the 'Morality police' for not wearing her head scarf in an acceptable manner. Apparently, some of Mahsa Amini's hair was showing. (This could inflame male passions). The growing numbers of spirited young women protesting against such oppression, have served to demonstrate that their spirit will not be quashed. Several of these courageous young women have died in the process. The situation is similar for women in Afghanistan, India, and many other countries as well. Their oppression is profound with appalling consequences.

The notion of hair being a source of strength is spoken of in the Book of Judges in Samson and Delilah's story. Samson's hair, we are told, was the source of his manly strength. Even today, for some men their hair is a symbol of virility, for some not so much. A woman's hair is described in the bible as her 'crowning glory' and should never be cut. To be fair, having a 'bad hair day,' for women is often not a good day! Hair is a big part of our identity.

Most women in NZ enjoy the freedom to dress as we wish and, within the bounds of societal norms, have agency over our lives and our bodies. Having said that, misogyny is alive and well in subtle ways.-.let's not pretend otherwise. We need to be aware of that.

For women of Iran, Afghanistan and other countries, women remain the property of men and the state, oppressed in the cruellest of ways, deprived of education and the right of self-determination. Misogyny simply means 'hatred of women'. We see this expressed most openly in cultures where men are in control of every

aspect of life, religious and secular. It seems to have its origins in the Genesis creation story. It's been all downhill for women ever since. Women are to be feared as temptresses etc.

At the root of hate is fear.

What is it that these rulers fear so desperately about women? Hate frequently masquerades as religious belief, claiming to be about protecting women from themselves. Women are portrayed as the weaker vessel enticing men into bad situations.

Frighteningly, we are witnessing this expression of misogyny with the overturning of Roe v Wade by the Supreme Court in the USA, masquerading as 'Pro Life' movement. This has little to do with preserving life and everything to do with controlling women's destiny and their sexuality. It firmly places all responsibility for aberrant male behaviour on women, especially if availability of contraception is severely restricted which will possibly be the next step.

However, reduction in availability of guns is definitely off the table. The perversity of this ruling seems to escape them.

The young woman who claimed her spirit was in her hair made a powerful statement. Her hair could not be ignored. She would not be ignored. She was expressing her delight and strength in being woman...uncompromisingly, and she rejoiced in that.

The young women of Iran, Afghanistan and other such countries will not be ignored. They will not be forced to hide their femininity behind the burkah. Yes, they will suffer in their search for justice. The Ayatollah and the Taliban will see to that. For some it could cost them their lives and personal freedom but they will persevere until they can proclaim with Helen Reddy;

Oh yes I am wise
 But its wisdom born of pain
 Yes, I've paid the price
 But look how much I've gained...
 I am strong
 I am invincible
 I am woman

Allelujah sisters !!!!

Trish Patrick