

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 12 November 2023

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 19 November 2023

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10:00 am	Mosgiel	G Hughson
11:00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney

Invite to all: Come to the Animal Arc petting Zoo 18 Dukes Road Mosgiel at 2pm on Sunday 12 Nov. Social event to enjoy the company of fellow church members and of course the animals present. Cost is \$10 each and \$1 for a bag of nuts for food for the animals. If you can bring someone else, younger or older to share the experience with. Contact Cam Weston 021 995 130 for information or assistance.

"On the Move" Practical Theology International Conference at Otago University

The Association of Practical Theology in Oceania (APTO) is holding its international conference at the University of Otago in Dunedin from 28th of November to 1st of December. The theme is "On the Move! – Migration and Practical Theology – emerging challenges, experiences, and responses across Oceania." **A special invitation is extended to all, including those who have lived and/or supported migration.**

Registrations can be made here:

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1127094

You can register for the whole conference or for selected days.

Also, even if you cannot come to any other part of the conference, you are welcome to come to the cultural excursion at Araiteuru Marae from 5pm to 9pm on Wednesday 29 November. This includes pōwhiri and cultural experience, dinner by Abdal's Gourmet Catering, and a panel discussion with representatives of agencies in Dunedin working with migrants and former refugees, including migrants and former refugees themselves about the issues that matter most to them. This cultural excursion is complimentary and you can register just for it at the same link:

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1127094

Spaces are limited, so we ask that you book quickly and let us know if your situation changes and you cannot make it, so someone else can fill your spot.

(The panel discussion begins at 7:30pm for those who only wish to attend this part of the event: please arrive by 7.15pm in order to be welcomed onto the marae. No booking required.)

You'll find Araiteuru Marae at 24 Shetland Street, Maori Hill, Dunedin 9010.

For more information please contact Greg Hughson:

greghughson@hotmail.com



Let's be a little weird!

It's already November, and before we know it, we'll be rolling into December —Advent— followed swiftly by summer. However, this passage of time occurs amidst a backdrop of increasingly distressing and unfathomable global events. This state of affairs is unsettling, not just for those of us who have lived through more peaceful times, but also for the younger generation, our tamariki and rangatahi, who have only known a world through a lens of disquietude and anxiety.

Over the past 15 years, global peacefulness has seen a decline of more than 3%. The primary culprits behind this decline are both old and new conflicts, the ongoing pandemic, and the growing political and cultural polarization that plagues our world. In June 2023, New Zealand dropped from its #2 position on the Global Peace Index, which it held since 2017, to #4 in the world, marking a significant shift.

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) experts have issued warnings about the growing inflexibility and political polarization, which are accompanied by a reduced tolerance for dissenting views.

While it's true that these times are not entirely unprecedented—consider the first advent, which also occurred during a period of political unrest— we recently had an election! We too have had a recent census. The first census, Census of Quirinius 6CE, is correlated to Jesus's birth in The Gospel of Luke, although, unlike Mary and Joseph, in our census, we weren't required to return to our ancestral homes.

Here at the Mission, we work on what is in front of us, and our days are devoted to supporting others and embodying the spirit of unity and care. As Maya Angelou encouraged, "If I could give you one thought, it would be to lift someone up." In a world that often feels divided and fractured, let us be the ones who reach out to a stranger, a friend, or a family member and uplift them. It's in these acts that we find a sense of purpose and connection.

In the midst of the pervasive uncertainty that envelops our lives, it becomes increasingly crucial to acknowledge that our faith acts as a steadfast anchor. As the theologian Karl Barth once eloquently put it, "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." This humble gesture of prayer represents our resolute stance against the prevailing chaos, reaffirming our unwavering belief in a higher purpose.

Our faith is in Jesus Christ irrespective of the different nuances between us. With good works and social justice, our commitment extends to extending a helping hand to uplift others and nurturing a profound sense of unity and compassion within our community.

A new artwork at the Mission, crafted by the talented artist Heramaahina Eketone, symbolizes "Tautiaki - Care."

Koiri - The nurturing nature of the koiri is to manaaki and protect the inner koru, encompassing the outer koru. Takirua - Weaving together the various people and kaupapa to strengthen and uphold the vision and values of Methodist Mission Southern.

Our faith is not a passive response to the chaos of the world; it is an uprising, a call to action. Let us embrace our unique faith, the kind that may make us seem a little "weird" to the world. Let us clasp our hands in prayer, uplift, and care for each other as we weave the threads of our community into a stronger, more resilient whole.

Julie Roberts

