DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN
22 NOVEMBER 2026

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 29th NOVEMBER 2026		
10.00AM	Combined Service at Mosgiel Church	Adam Baker
Connections Article		**Heather Rhodes**
RADIO CHURCH		
8.30am	OAR 105.4FM	**Greg Hughson**
	1575AM	
	oar.org.nz	
Live stream	oar.org.nz	

Please note you can now listen to RADIO CHURCH every Sunday on OAR 105.4FM, 1575AM or Livestream via oar.org.nz

Services at Mornington can be watched on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@morningtonmethodist1598

Upcoming event dates

22 November 26, Mornington AGM, after service at Mornington
25 November 26, Mornington Methodist Fellowship Meeting, Mornington Church, 2PM
29 November 26, Dunedin Methodist Parish AGM, after combined service at Mosgiel
5 December, St Martha's Carol Service, 26 Chingford Park Stable, 11AM

Notices



Message from Methodist Mission Southern

It is time to start thinking about the Christmas Break. The Mission office will be closed from **23rd December 2026 to Monday 11th January 2027.**
For those taking services from **13th December 2026 through to 17th January 2027** (including special Christmas services or Carols), please send these to bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz **no later than midday Tuesday 1st December 2026.** There will be more news around this in the coming weeks.

Annual raising of the Morning Star flag in Dunedin

Members of our Mornington Church will be familiar with seeing the West Papua Flag on permanent display in our Church foyer.

As Methodists, we are invited to gather in Dunedin with our wider community once again to support our Pacific family in West Papua as they continue to undergo brutal military occupation by Indonesia. Since Indonesia invasion in 1963 they have continued to destroy the Papuan's rainforest, ethnically cleanse the indigenous people from their lands and imprison and murder activists who speak out for a restoration of their independent nation.

Around the world people have been supporting the Papuan people by raising the beautiful flag **"The Morning Star" on December 1st every year**, as our way of saying they are not forgotten and to try to bring some pressure to bear on our NZ government who appear to be content to allow this to continue happen.

Venue: The Octagon, Dunedin
Date: Tuesday December 1st starting at 12.15pm
Inquiries: Greg Hughson 027 212 1048

Mornington Church AGM

The AGM for Mornington Church will be held after the service on **Sunday 22 November.**



Dunedin Methodist Parish AGM

The Dunedin Methodist Parish will be holding an AGM after the combined service at Mosgiel on Sunday 29 November.



St Martha's Carol Service

St Martha's would like to invite the Glenaven Methodist congregation to join them for their Carol service.

It will be **11am Saturday December 5th, at the Chingford Park Stable.**

Please make a note of this now in your diaries.

Connections – Their Own Land

There is much talk these days of the long-term effects of colonization, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, but also in places I'm ashamed to say I didn't know about, like the Middle East. When the British Empire was at its height in the 1920s (after World War I), vast swathes of the world map were coloured red. All of India was in the possession of Britain, along with large parts of Africa; and the Canadian half of the North American continent might have been joined by the bottom half, now called the United States, were it not for Jefferson's 1776 Declaration of Independence:

> We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

There is of course nothing in this declaration to account for the pre-existent population of North America, in the form of regional tribes encompassing an estimated 5-9 'good People'. As it's said, history is written by the victors, so these people became invisible, not just colonized but written out, written off. Not apparently – if you think of the cowboys-and-Indians tales of your youth– deserving to be included among the 'good', nor among people that are assumed to have rights.

This way of thinking, unfortunately, owes a very great deal to the Bible. The Providence that is said to be protecting the newly formed US is the same Providence in the Hebrew Bible that guarded and guided the people of Israel under Moses and then Joshua in their quest to enter and possess the Promised Land. The story of their crossing the Jordan River parallels their liberation from Egypt, God making the waters part to assist their passage,

first at the Red Sea then when the Jordan presents an obstacle – to be removed miraculously by a Higher Power.

Firstly, God says in Joshua 3:7 “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.” Second, God aimed to strengthen the people’s faith that he is with them and will give them victory in the battles ahead: “Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.” (Joshua 3:10) And the third purpose for bringing his people through the Jordan on dry ground was to melt the hearts of the enemies. Joshua 5:1 “When all the kings of the Canaanites that were by the sea heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their heart melted, and there was no longer any spirit in them.”

The story of conquest by a divinely led invasion – met by no resistance – has been repeated in many contexts thereafter. No doubt my Protestant ancestors were assured they were doing right when they joined Cromwell’s army to invade Ireland. The Garretts were given Irish land for their service and my grandfather’s name was spread in Ireland and all around the world. In 1978 I was in a San Francisco laundromat and chatting as you do, when I discovered a distant relation by marriage. When she said her name was Garrett, we established that she has married into the same family I belong to. There were several Garrett brothers who left a village in Northern Ireland in the 19th century, heading for ‘the colonies’: Canada (and the US), Australia and Aotearoa. The Bill Garrett she knew living in Sydney was the same Bill Garrett who is my mother’s first cousin, and I have met him since, too.

Turning to the Middle East, you realize just how often the Biblical narrative keeps appearing, in different clothes. It makes chilling reading to learn how the British – masters of the greatest empire in the history of the world – took control of Palestine in 1917. But that was only the start. Supplanting the Ottoman Empire as the occupying power, they assisted the Zionists (secular Jews) to treat the country as a new Israel where Jewish exiles could find a home. How they must have wished that God would melt the hearts of their enemies, so that there was no resistance to their colonizing plan. The result has been more like the ‘Troubles’ in Ireland, where the fire of Irish resistance burned through the centuries, in something like a protracted civil war, only comparatively recently reaching any sort of end.

Since the decades-long military occupation of Palestine, now named Israel by the Israelis themselves, the victors have re-drawn the map countless times, and cynically rewritten the history. It is no wonder that the Irish Parliament has produced some of the most passionate objectors to the colonization of the Middle East by Western powers. With some 100,000 killed in Gaza and the West Bank, the US and Israel have spread their murderous policies beyond Israel/Palestine, setting their sights on 'Greater Israel' as it is described in the Book of Joshua. They make no distinction among the 'enemy' peoples, lumping them together as 'Arabs', imprisoning and torturing all those who get in their way. It is not only Arabs, and not only Muslims, but also increasing numbers of Christians and Jews, who publicly call them out for their hypocrisy. Next to formal condemnation of their breaches of International Law, the strongest criticism is that Zionist politicians and businessmen are spuriously invoking God's promises in order to steal people's rights to their own land.

- Helen Watson White