

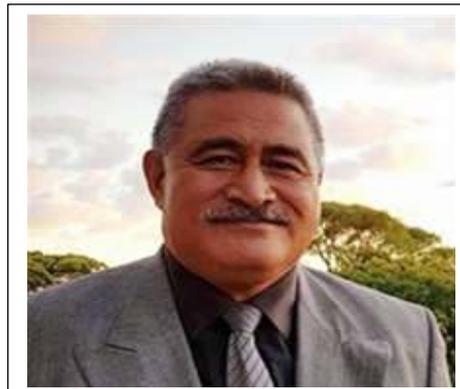


Message from the Moderator

Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE: ANZAC DAY

"He is not here, he has risen." Mark 16:6



This is surely the heart of Christianity: Jesus risen from the tomb.

The cross is not victorious. The crucifixion of Jesus on the cross is not a Roman victory. The Jewish religious authorities were bewildered and lost. Jesus died on the cross. This then, was all that mattered to both the political and the religious authorities of the time - Jesus is risen.

ANZAC Day is a remembrance and honouring of armed personnel who served in the wars involving New Zealand. Most especially, of our alliance with Australia in these global conflicts. For all our sporting rivalries, Australia remains our nearest and most dependable alliance across many levels of cooperation and defence.

Armed conflict has cost and lost many lives. It is sad and unfortunate when human nature desires to dominate and control. The hope is that we will not revisit these rivalries, conflicts, wars, and that no more lives will be needlessly lost.

Where does Christianity come into the ugly and brutal outcome of war? Faith sustains us and reminds us of our humanity. Diplomacy and statesmanship help us to keep peace and goodwill.

In past wars, German Christians fought Allied Christians. How sad, but it was the reality of their time.

Today, Christians are challenged to fight only for Jesus and for his Kingdom. This is our challenge now – stand up and fight for Jesus. He is risen.

Christianity has a saying that Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins. On ANZAC Day, we think about the sacrifices made by soldiers for their families to have freedom, justice and equal opportunities.

Jesus is viewed as God's sacrifice for the redemption of humanity. The feelings and atmosphere of Good Friday and ANZAC Day are similar. Battles, deaths, hopelessness and despair. However, there is also that sense of forgiveness, redemption and life. Christ is risen. Death is defeated.

Jesus is not in the tomb. He is risen. This is Good News. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. We honour and remember the men and women who gave their lives for God, King (Queen), country, family... and we find strength knowing that Jesus is risen.

Jesus said, "No greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

Blessings

Fakaofu

Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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He waka eke noa – We are all in this together: Worship Services at Flagstaff Community Church will meet normally during Level 1. Please stay at home if you are unwell or if you have a compromising health issue or concern. Your health and safety is our top priority. There are a number of Tracer App Posters located in Church building or a clip board in foyer for recording names.

Pastoral Visit: If you would like a pastoral visit from someone from within the pastoral team or the minister please ring elder Sarah Barton 021 385905.

Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Tocher Lounge. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.

Hospital Bed Pushing: We are looking for a few more volunteers (9th May) to help take patients from the wards to the chapel service at 10.30am. We meet at the chapel at 9.45am for instructions. If you could help please contact Nigel Hanson via 021 1639412 or email nigelottohanson@gmail.com;

Green Fingers: We are currently restoring our awa next to the church. This little creek is showing signs of life and is breathing again and some native birds are showing up. There are a few folks who meet for a couple of hours on a Monday and pot away at planting, trapping pests, removing, weeding, etc. Occasionally we have a project in which everyone is invited including our local school. If you want to join us ring Neil Brown 027 435 4672.

Life Groups: Life Groups @Flagstaff are a vital part of who we are as a community of faith as we seek to grow in Jesus. Not only do we explore the messages God has for us from the Bible but we also have the opportunity to connect with others and experience a place where no-one stands alone.

Discipleship Groups: which focus on study and prayer. Wednesday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021385905.

Community Facing Groups: Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming which may centre on an activity, a hobby, a talent, a life stage, a project or service. Groups include, Steady as you Go, Hire a Helper, Community Garden, Women's Coffee Group @ Coffee Culture (Held 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm), Green Fingers, Walking Groups and more! If you would like to join a group, start a group or find out more information then please contact Brendon on 0273569200.

Tithing/Giving: There are many ways we can support the activity of God in our church, community and world. Two ways of making your church offerings.

1. Use internet banking to make direct credits or automatic payments to the Flagstaff Community Church. Westpac bank # 03-0903-0192517-03. Please include your name for reference or if you use Envelopes use your Envelope reference/number.
2. Join the envelope system by contacting Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052 320. You will receive a set of personally numbered envelopes. This can be placed in the kete/basket at the foyer entrance anytime during Sunday Worship.

If you give to special appeals or missions, you can claim on these donations by identifying the appeal by naming it when you make the internet payment or by putting your number or name and address on an envelope.

Contacts:

Prayer Chain: Sue Yule 476 7655, or Sarah Barton 021 385905

Pastoral Care: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Envelope System: Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052320

Hall Bookings: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Technical Equipment: Gary Dent 027 4763155

Church Newsletter: Jenny Neill 467 5813 dandjneill@xtra.co.nz

Minister: Rev. Brendon McRae
Phone: 027 356 9200
brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Elder: Sarah Barton
Phone: 021 385 905
sarahbarton629@gmail.com

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9:30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

Parish contact details: PO Box 10074,
Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin

Website:

www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

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