



Message from the Moderator

 Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE: Pentecost

Jesus taught: "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth". John 14: 15-16



Pentecost in Acts 2 is recognised and recalled as the coming of the Holy Spirit. The believers gathered in anticipation and in prayer. The Spirit came amongst them;

"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them". Acts 2:3

There are many who see this day as the beginning of the Church. It was an extraordinary day.

The day of Pentecost, a Jewish festival celebrating the wheat harvest, is known as the "Ingathering" or the "Harvest Festival". It has been traditionally also called "The Feast of Weeks". Today, it is celebrated as the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit? For the majority of Christians, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Spirit was there at the beginning of Creation. "And the Spirit of God hovered over the waters." Genesis 1:2.

The Spirit is recorded through Scripture as ever present. Jesus spoke clearly of the Holy Spirit, "Counsellor, teacher, comforter, provider, helper, spirit of truth...". The Spirit will fulfil what Jesus taught.

The Holy Spirit is present in the world, and is present in you and me. In the resurrection narrative, as Jesus came amongst the disciples, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit". John 20:22. In baptism, we are baptised in, "The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Matthew 28:19.

The Spirit of God is present to complete the work the Lord Jesus started, in each and every one of us. Jesus said, "The Counsellor will be with you forever". John 14:16.

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, Pentecost is about the Holy Spirit. It is about Jesus' teachings. We are Christians because we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. We are baptised into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But what is crucial, every day, is to be in love with Jesus. And you and I will hence obey his commandments, and the Spirit of truth will be in you and I, all the days of our lives.

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you". John 15:4

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.

Sunday Bible Project Series – Going Deeper!: Beginning Sunday 30th May we begin a 5 week Bible Project series looking at themes in the Bible we might have wondered about like...What does God want from us? What God does about Suffering? What does Good News look like? We will dig deep and ask good questions. Each Sunday there will be reflections, video, stories and some discussion. You are invited to join us.

Membership Mission Membership: There are a number of people who have moved from the original place where they were baptised and made a confession of faith, and who now make Flagstaff Community Church the place they live out their faith. We will soon be celebrating with a number of people who would like to become members during a service of worship.

We invite such people to make a public declaration in front of the congregation expressing their faith and commitment to exercise good stewardship of time, talents and treasure, including financially supporting God's work. To arrange an appointment to explore fully the implications of becoming a committed member of our congregation please contact Brendon McRae 4763063, 027 356 9200.

Pentecost Quiet Day: A day set aside to reflect on the Presence and the Present of the Holy Spirit. Saturday 22nd May. Reflections based on Acts 1 & 2. The day will include multisensory and creative activities with plenty of space to listen and come aside with God, to rest and be refreshed. Facilitator: Cheryl Harray. 10am to 4pm. Venue: St Margaret's Anglican Church, 4 Seaview Terrace Brighton. Bring Bible, journal and pen if desired, bring your own lunch. Hot drinks provided. Participants are invited to make an offering of a Koha to defray expenses. To register and for further information please phone Maureen Harley 03 456 0573; 021 10 71 401.

Life Group: Every 2nd Monday (next 17 May), 7:30-9:30 at Lachlan & Anna Gordon, 2 Brown St, Mosgiel. For those who like to dig a bit deeper and think a bit harder. We will use a digital platform (<https://faithlife.com/>) to keep in contact. Contact Lachlan, lachlan78@hotmail.com, 021612393.

Prayers For Christian Unity: Sunday 3pm, 23rd May 2021. Knox Church, Dunedin. You Are Warmly Welcome.

Presbyterian Support Update: The Winter edition of our free quarterly magazine, People, will start arriving in the letterboxes of our friends and supporters in early June. A new feature of the magazine will be a Community News page, where we'll share stories, photos, upcoming events and about our churches and communities.

As we head into winter, did you know that our Family Works staff can help local people access financial assistance to help meet the cost of high electricity bills? Criteria do apply, but it's worth having a conversation with our staff if you or someone in your community needs help with this. Please phone 0508 396 678, which is the Family Works free phone for the Otago region.

We also have a wee wish list for the foodbank should you wish to publish this also:

- Breakfast spreads
- Spaghetti – yes we have run out of spaghetti
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned beetroot

SUCAMPS: Youth Camps for every season, Register Now! sucamps.org.nz;

Invitation to all “Young at Heart” this Wednesday 26th May 2 pm at Wakari church. Sue and Alastair Yule will take us on a cruise down the Danube River. All welcome.

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.

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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