

Welcome to the Season of Puaka Matariki!

During Matariki (2nd to 16th July) we celebrate our unique place in the world, we learn about those who came before us, our history, our family.



Matariki signals growth, it's a time of change, a time to prepare, a time to celebrate the future, a time of action and a time to acknowledge what we have and what we have to give. Matariki is our Aotearoa Pacific New Year.

Matariki - cluster of stars - begins to rise in the last few days of May, and this symbolises the coming of the Māori New Year. Here in the south we have our own unique star – Puaka. Puaka is the principal star of Kai Tahu which is also known as Rigel and is part of the Orion constellation. Around Aotearoa, different iwi have their own traditions. Matariki is also known in Europe as the Seven Sisters and Pleiades, and Subaru in Japan. They get a mention in the Paipera – the bible!

New Year is thought to be a purely European idea and, of course, is observed in summer, which is somewhat ironic as summer is in the middle of the southern hemisphere year. Interestingly, most of the world's peoples have a concept of New Year and, usually, it is in winter, since it is from the shortest day onwards that the rebirth of the year is seen to occur. We have this unique opportunity in New Zealand to celebrate two New Years!

We have just surpassed the shortest day of the year! Are you enjoying the early nights, the extra blanket to snuggle into, soup with buttery baked bread, the warmth of the log burner? As we hunker down over winter it forces us to stop, slow down, go gently on ourselves and look up to the clear crisp night sky and wonder again.

Long dark night! We await again for the light to break through. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Matariki is also about acknowledging the gift giver, the star creator, the game changer, the brightest star who lights our way and leads us through our darkest moments.

Let the bright light of Christ's love shine into our world to brighten up the horizon.

God, we need more light to brighten up our day.
We need more light to find our way in the world.
We need more heat to take the stiffness out of our bones,
So we can keep up with life and laugh on at the world.
God, too much darkness makes life dull,
even on the best of days.

Shortest Day, by Brian Hardie

Ngā mihi o te tau hou! (Happy New Year)

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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.

Kai for Octacan – the spirit of winter giving. Octacan our winter can appeal is coming up on Thursday July 1 in the lower Octagon. Cans collected during Octacan are provided to local families who are facing food hardship through the winter months. This year we are holding Octacan on the eve of the rising of Matariki – marking the Māori New year, which is traditionally when harvested crops would have been shared. We invite you to help us restock our Family Works Foodbank by donating 'Kai for Octacan'. This is a time when we gather and secure food for those in our community who are grappling with the impact of hardship, and find they need the support of our foodbank, which is Dunedin's busiest.

How you can help!

- Start collecting cans!
- For more information please visit OCTACAN.ORG.NZ.
- Drop your cans at church or bring your cans to the Lower Octagon 7am – 2:30pm, July 1.

This year at the Octagon, we will be arranging all the donated cans into the star shapes of the Matariki cluster. When Matariki rises in the Otago skies the following morning, the Māori New year begins.

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.

Matariki Mid-Winter Season
'Under the Southern Stars'

Puaka Matariki Dunedin @ Flagstaff Community Church
2nd to 11th July
Matariki: Celebrating Aotearoa New Year!

Native Planting & Mahi Day
'The Big Lounge Concert'**Matariki Celebration Service**
Matariki Remembrance Service



9 Centennial Avenue
DUNEDIN
Phone: 027 356 9200
www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz



Native Planting and Mahi Day
Saturday 3rd July, 9am to 3pm

Matariki signifies our connection to Papatūānuku. Come along with your gardening clothes, gummies and gloves. Planting native plants, removing cut willow and track building. Barbeque and refreshments.

followed by...

"The Big Lounge Concert"
Saturday 3rd July, 5.00-7.30pm

Winter evening of music and fun. Whānau time - all are welcome! Haere mai ki te rūma konohete nui! Variety of musical items - Alpha Delta, Natasha Manowitz, Big in Japan, Flagstaff Community Choir and more! Child-friendly zone. Activities including making lanterns! Welcome to bring along kai (fish + chips or other) and have a 'lounge meal'. Canteen including hot chocolate/coffee served throughout the evening.

Matariki Celebration Service
Sunday 4th July, 9.30am

Family Church Service. Come along for waiata (song), hīmene (hymn), children activities and stories. Tikanga Wākari - the Wākari School kapahaka will be performing. Followed by kai.



Matariki Remembrance Service
Sunday 11th July, 9.30am

The service will include waiata, hīmene, children's activities stories, and a time of remembrance for our loved ones, including prayers for a hurting world. The morning will conclude with kai (morning tea). Haere mai tatou!



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,
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