

He waka eke noa – We are all in this together: We are gathering for Sunday Worship. You are welcome to come and go at any time. We will continue meeting safely and follow advice from Ministry of Health (see (<https://covid19.govt.nz/activities/faith-based-gatherings>;) and our National Church (PCANZ). Your health and safety is our top priority.

These include:

- Stay home if you feel unwell
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Wash hands often, hand sanitizer, face coverings will be available and surfaces will be cleaned.
- We will do our best to keep 1 metre apart
- Bring toys/games for your children
- Bring your own Bible
- Enter through the main entrance, which is closest to the creek and scan or sign in when you come into the foyer
- Adults are encouraged to wear a face mask (please note, people leading at the front are able to remove their masks)
- Seats are spaced out in the church, but you can sit with family/whānau
- If you have any concerns or queries, please phone Brendon 027 356 9200.
- We look forward to seeing you on Sunday at the Whare Karakia.

Church Buildings: All gatherings, meetings, hui in both Halfway Bush and Wakari buildings are not permitted unless approved by Parish Council. This includes providing a Health and Safety Plan. Please ring Sarah Barton if you wish to discuss this and require more information.

In times like these we are reminded that “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...” Psalm 46:1-2

Christmas and New Year Worship Services. Joy to the world! Kia pupū, pupū āke!

- Christmas Celebration Service. Sunday 12th December.
- Whānau Family Christmas Eve Service. Friday 24th December. Early Evening.
- Christmas Day Service 9.30am
- Hill Suburbs Combined Churches Sunday 26th December Highgate Presbyterian Church

Elders Celebration Service: Induction and Ordination of Kaumatua Elders at Flagstaff Community Church. On Sunday 5th December we will be having a special service of worship and inducting and ordaining a number of elders. Please join us for this memorable occasion. This will be followed by a morning tea.

Christmas food and gifts: Paper bags will be given out at church over next few weeks for you to fill with items of food, toys and gifts for the food banks and for some families we know within our community. Food suggestion list attached to bags. Please return to church by Sunday 12th December.

Our Family Works Foodbank is almost empty! Our foodbank has experienced record demand recently and we would love your help to fill our foodbank, so we can help local people in need this summer. Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising costs of living and the cancellation of Dunedin's Emergency Services food drive, our foodbank shelves are almost bare! Over the last three weeks we have given out 199 food parcels, compared to 125 food parcels for the same period last year - that is a 59% increase in demand. Any help is greatly appreciated and will make an immediate difference for local families in need!

You can help by:

- Bringing some items in to the foodbank on Level 1, 407 Moray Place, Dunedin. You can do this anytime from Monday to Friday 8.30am until 5pm.
- Contribute with a donation online, this will aid us in purchasing items to restock the foodbank.

Ngā mihi nui, The Team at Presbyterian Support and the Family Works Foodbank

White Ribbon Day is Thursday 25th November: Presbyterian Support Otago and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand are strong supporters of the White Ribbon campaign, which opposes violence against women and family violence. This year the theme for White Ribbon Day is 'Shining a Light on Violence Prevention' and aims to create awareness of what constitutes family violence, how to prevent violence, and how to safely intervene to assist those experiencing violence. We invite you to stand with us on Thursday 25th November by displaying, wearing or sharing a white ribbon, as a symbol of support and hope for those facing family violence. If you would like some white ribbons, please give Carolyn at PSO a call on 477 7115. People in or near the Dunedin area are warmly invited to come and join with PSO and First Church to tie white ribbons on the First Church fence on Thursday 25th November at 11am. For more information about the National White Ribbon campaign, you can also visit www.whiteribbon.org.nz;



We extend our love and sympathy to Phyl Beagley's family who died last Saturday at Oxford Court aged 90 years.

Student Soul update: Kia ora friends at Leith, Flagstaff, Emmanuel, and to all the various churches around Dunedin and the south who are receiving this, especially you Southern Presbyterians who we belong to in a special way.

The year that has been 2021. The old days before lockdown

This year has been a strange mix of fast and slow, as seems to be a regular experience. In some ways, it doesn't seem long ago that we were just kicking into things. But at a staff micro-retreat a couple of weeks ago, it was crazy to reflect on how much water has gone under the bridge.

We started off the year with a mini-series in Song of Songs called "Benefits of Kissing." Next, after Easter + mid-semester combo, we did a mini-series in Mark called "So Long, Hipster Jesus." To round off Semester One, we had a single release party for our song Shout Your Praises.

Energy was pretty low by that point with winter setting in and exams, and I had the sense the we needed to recharge some batteries and lean into prayer. So at the beginning of semester 2, we had three weeks of minimalist church. One favourite activity emerging out of that was "blackout poetry".

Prayer focus points

- Thanks for the year that has been, the blessing of life, and the joy of ministry with and among students

- For Linda, the owner of Oaken - blessing upon her as she seeks to move into the next stage. Appreciatively for her friendship and kindness that has enabled ministry to flourish over the past 18 months. And the possibility of Oaken. Should we buy it?
- In my preparation for Vision Night, that I would compellingly communicate the WHY and WHAT. That people would come who have been invited. And that God would build a stronger team to enable student ministry to flourish more strongly, for Christ's sake.

God bless you all. Greetings from Student Soul to each one of you and the various churches and Christian networks you represent. Please send your updates and anything that we can be praying for on your behalf. Grace & peace in the Lord. Tom Mephram, tom@studentsoul.org.nz, 027 337 1703.

Interested in studying Theology? The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington, while a few involve week-long intensives. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology or phone 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.

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;

Office 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari
Dunedin, 9010

