

Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church

March, 2022



Moderator's Neighbours Day message, 18th-27th March

Bringing our Kai to a Shared Table

Last week we opened our fridge to find some cupcakes with a note from our 4-year-old neighbour Liam, "We love you Hamish and Anne!". We were out, our doors were unlocked, and Liam claimed 'neighbourly fridge rights' (there have been other times when he has come in looking for chocolate!). And so, last night I harvested blackberries, apples, pears, peaches, and grapes from our garden and handed them over the fence to Liam's mum.

In the same spirit, earlier in the year, they did a big pick of our raspberries, made jam, and sent a jar back across the fence.

And then there are a group of elderly Chinese folk in our neighbourhood who wander past each night. I have taken to giving them fruit from the abundance of our harvest. It seems to me they are humbled and thankful for the connection even more than the food. Now, they always look in and wave as they pass by.

What warmth that comes with this sort of neighbourhood.

In Otautahi Christchurch, we learnt about this in the wake of the earthquakes when we saw a massive rise in neighbourly connection. And after the Mosque attacks, our Muslim friends reported neighbours who had previously been strangers reaching out hands of support and friendship.

It seems to me that this is deeply inline with core Christian values. The Christian church has a rich tradition of gathering around food. There is obviously the magnificent gracious love and acceptance of the Lord's Supper. But I am also thinking of the meals shared by the early Christians in various places around the Roman Empire. They were revolutionary and winsome in the way Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female were welcomed and included!

These are examples from then and now of the core Christian value of being a good neighbour. I absolutely endorse Neighbours Day 2022!

Right Rev Hamish Galloway

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

Hamish Galloway

Come and hear Hamish Galloway, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand at **Cromwell Presbyterian Church 9am to 12.30pm on Saturday April 2.**

Hamish will be sharing about 'Forging a future for the church' and 'Intergenerational Connection'

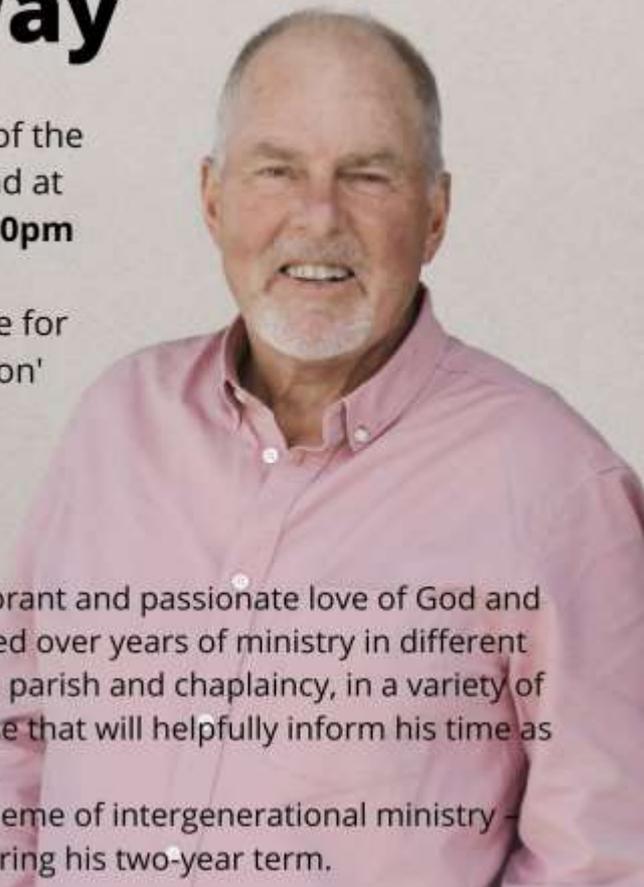
Morning tea provided.

Koha gift for costs.

Vaccine passport required.

Hamish brings to the role of Moderator a vibrant and passionate love of God and leadership and strategic thinking skills honed over years of ministry in different contexts. His range of ministry experience in parish and chaplaincy, in a variety of countries and denominations, provides a base that will helpfully inform his time as leader.

Hamish plans to focus on his Moderator theme of intergenerational ministry – Empowering Generations - during his two-year term.



COVID-19 Protection Framework & Worship @ Flagstaff Community Church

In these challenging days, Flagstaff Community Church will continue to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ, provide support to each other, worship, pray and reach out in aroha.

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.

In relation to our face to face worship at Flagstaff Community Church

- Please stay home if you are unwell.
- A Vaccine Pass will be required for entry.
- Please scan in or sign in, and sanitize your hands.
- Wearing a stipulated mask is required.
- Physical distancing with those you don't know well is encouraged.
- We are practising good air ventilation so dress accordingly and if cold bring a rug or extra warm top.
- We will refrain from serving morning tea until we're back at Green Light.
- Please put any koha/offering in the kete/basket when you arrive.

Care Packs: We are putting some Care Pack's together to share with church and community whānau who are isolating because of Covid. Friends of Flagstaff are invited to drop off items (including frozen meals) to church during the week or bring on Sunday's. Sue Yule can collect items: 027 3515712. Drops off to church during week ring Brendon to check church office is open: 027 3569200. Another option is making a monetary donation. Pay directly to Flagstaff Community Church Westpac Account: 03-0903-0192517-00 and ref 'Care Packs'. Ngā mihi mahana – thanks for your generosity.

Donation ideas

- Small hand sanitizer
- Frozen meals
- Fruit and vegies
- Barkers lemon & honey or blackcurrant
- Barley sugars or similar sweets
- Homemade baking
- Tin/packet soups
- Body wash
- Puzzle books
- Lip balm, Hand cream
- Children's colouring books & pencils
- Paracetamol
- Hand soap
- Devotional from Manna Christian book shop
- Fun Adult colouring activity book

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*

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. To arrange an appointment to explore fully the implications of becoming a committed member of our congregation please contact Brendon McRae 027 356 9200.



Holy Week

Good Friday Reflective Service
Friday 15th April, 9.30 am

Easter Celebration Worship Service
Including children's activities, singing and stories
Sunday 17th April, 9.30 am



Ā, upane! ka upane! whiti te ra!
A new sunrise, a new day!

South Island Ministry Conference: We are very excited to be able to open the registrations for Ministry Conference 2022. We are really looking forward to being able to meet together to be refreshed, encouraged, inspired and challenged. To register online go to <http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference/registrations>; or just send me an email with your details – manager@etchurch.co.nz

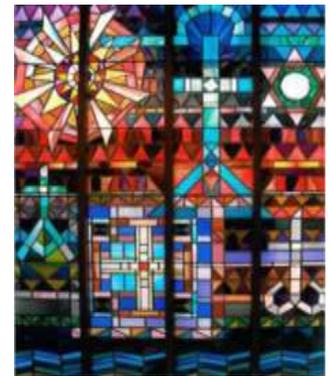
2022 Autumn Lunch-Hour Concerts: At First Church of Otago. The Friends of First Church is hosting a series of weekly lunch-hour concerts that will begin on Tuesday, 8th March, starting at 12.15pm. The concerts will be held in the Church. Each concert will begin at 12.15pm and will be approximately 45 minutes in length. There is no charge for admission. The concerts are open to members of the public. All welcome.

- **Tuesday, 29th March:** Abhinath Berry, piano. University Honours year pianist features works of Chopin and Ravel
- **Tuesday, 5th April:** Rhiannon Cooper, soprano and Scott Bezett, baritone. University Masters singers perform solo works by German Romantic composers and popular duets. With Terence Dennis, piano.

Due to Covid-19 Red restrictions, each concert will be limited to 100 people. Mask-wearing will be required. Vaccine passes will be checked prior to entry, and people must sign in with the Covid tracer app, or by paper contact tracing.

Dunedin and Wakari Hospitals Chaplaincy Update: March 2022

Dear Hostesses, Bed-pushers, Local Chaplaincy Council members, Musicians, Church Leaders and Friends of Chaplaincy. In these COVID times when we are not holding Sunday services in the Hospital Chapel we miss the joy of the regular contact we have with you. Although many patients and whanau are anxious and staff are working very, very hard in these changing times Chaplains are in good heart.



We meet most Wednesdays (now by ZOOM) to reflect, pray, plan and support each other.

Chaplains still visiting most wards: It is the decision of each Charge Nurse Manager whether Chaplains are able to visit patients on the ward for which they are responsible. We are delighted that at present Chaplains are able to visit most wards in person. At the moment visiting by family and friends is restricted. (one per day from 2 nominated people) and this is causing patients and whanau concern. Each patient in the ward designated for COVID patients is supplied with a cell phone by the DHB (if they need one) so telephone communication is possible and ministry may be offered. Special arrangements are made for family visits and for spiritual care when patients are seriously ill or dying.

Chaplaincy COVID response: A Chaplain is always available either on-site or on-call 24/7.

We are ensuring that Chaplains do not meet on-site at the present time. We have posters within the hospitals advertising. Our telephone availability ('Dial a Chaplain'). Worship and reflective opportunities by Radio, TV and Internet (we are happy to share a copy with you). We welcome Referrals from Parish Clergy and Pastoral Teams.

Prayer:

- that patients and whānau will know God`s presence, love and peace.
- for health, protection, insight and energy for all hospital staff.
- that we will be able to continue our ministry despite current conditions and that God will give us the health, wisdom and compassion to do so.

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 ph 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



Kaumātua - Elders

Presbytery Elder: Sarah Barton

Phone: 021 385 905

sarahbarton629@gmail.com

Vanessa Gordon: ness.gordon@gmail.com;

Alastair & Sue Yule: yules@xtra.co.nz;

Tim Mephram: tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz;

Gary Dent: gary.dent7@gmail.com;

Andrew Sims: andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com;

Minister: Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

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

