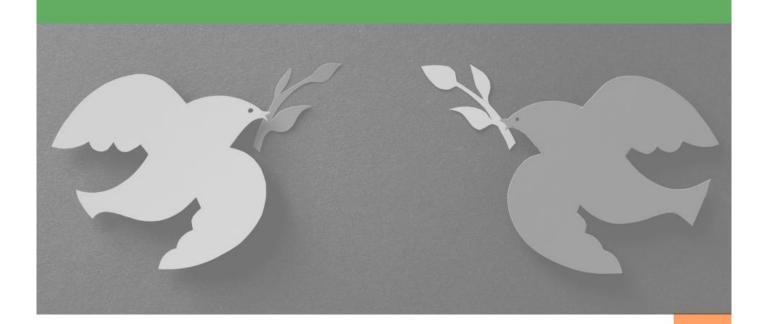
# MODERATOR'S MESSAGE HAMAS-ISRAEL WAR



## Blessed are the peacemakers

unfold in the news with horror and prayed that there would be a ceasefire, prayed that these appalling crimes against God and humanity would end. Instead, the suffering and terrible loss of life continues, with unconscionable civilian casualties, and humanitarian aid not able to reach those who need it most. As is so often the case in war, children, women and the vulnerable pay a terrible price. It is a humanitarian catastrophe.

I know that some of you have strong views on this war, and on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Today, both Israelis and Palestinians are living in fear, are injured, are mourning the loss of families and friends. I invite you to join me in prayer for:

- ·A ceasefire.
- ·Those killed, injured, and all who care for them.
- ·The release of hostages taken by Hamas.
- ·Safe humanitarian access into Gaza so that much needed aid can be provided.
- ·Those trapped and those who have had to leave their
- ·Those risking their safety to help.
- ·For peace-keepers and peace-makers.

Today it is 18 days since the Hamas and Israel war began Christian World Service has launched a Gaza Palestine with a terror attack by Hamas on Israel. I have watched this Emergency Appeal to assist people who have been affected by the current conflict, particularly in Gaza. They write that "thousands of people have been killed, injured and displaced. Nearly two hundred people are being held as hostages. Hospitals, schools and homes have been damaged or destroyed. The need for a ceasefire and humanitarian relief is overwhelming."

> If you would like to support the CWS appeal see information here, and there are links to more appeals below.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9)

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

More appeals for those affected by this war:

Unicef

Oxfam

Red Cross



## Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church October, 2023



## Peace Sunday Community Service

### 'Remembering Parihaka' Seeking Peace in a Troubled World

### **Flagstaff Community Church**

Sunday 12th November on Centennial Ave, 9.30 am

You are invited to a community service including stories, waiata, Kapa Haka: Tikanga Whakāri, tamariki activities and kai.

He hōnore, he korōria, Maungārongo ki te whenua

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace

and good will toward people. (Te Paipera Tapu)

A koha will be taken which will go towards Dunedin Night Shelter

Season of Peace: 'Seeking Peace in a Troubled World'

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Dawn Service at Rongo Stone 7 am.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. 'Remembering Parihaka' with Wakari Tikanga Kapa Haka

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Praying for our Troubled World.

**School Creek Restoration Project:** 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.



The Church in the South is seeking an executive officer to help it nourish vibrant communities of faith.

The appointee will work with the Council, the governing body, to communicate and advance the Church's strategic direction. They will lead a small team of employees and interact with diverse communities, congregations and groups across the region.

We encourage inquiries from people with the energy and skills to help transition us into the next stage of our life together, beginning in 2024.



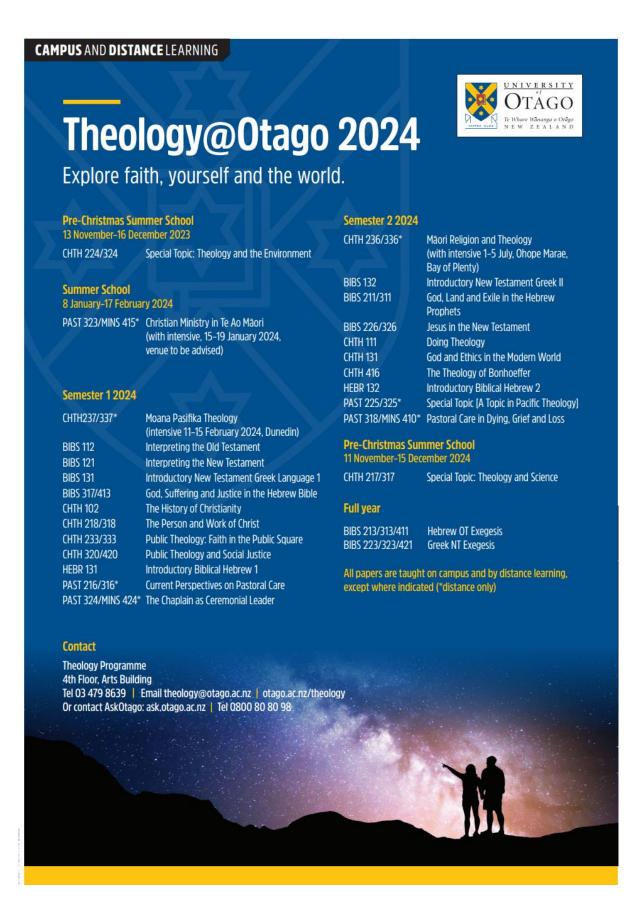
A position description and background information are available from Kerry Enright at kerryenright@xtra.co.nz

Applications close on Monday 20 November 2023.

**Flagstaff Prayer Time:** Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Church foyer. 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.

**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.

**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. Others 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.

**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. If you would like to join one of our weekly groups please contact Sarah Barton 021 385905.

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.

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

**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 021 1052320

**Technical Equipment:** Andrew Sims <u>andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com</u>;

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



#### Kaumātua - Elders

Presbytery Elder: Sarah Barton

parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

Vanessa Gordon: <a href="mailto:ness.gordon@gmail.com">ness.gordon@gmail.com</a>;

Alastair & Sue Yule: <a href="mailto:yules@xtra.co.nz">yules@xtra.co.nz</a>;

Tim Mepham: <a href="mailto:tmepham@rautakiadvice.co.nz">tmepham@rautakiadvice.co.nz</a>;

Gary Dent: <a href="mailto:gary.dent7@gmail.com">gary.dent7@gmail.com</a>;

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 office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

**Office** 9 Centennial Avenue, Wakari Dunedin, 9010

