

Whānau Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church - October 2025



What's in this issue:



Spring is Sprung!



Camps, gifts, games and more!



Opportunities to Learn

CHURCH WHĀNAU CAMP '26

LIKE CHRIST, TOGETHER

Arrowtown Presbyterian Church
Flagstaff Community Church
@ Camp Columba
SAVE THE DATE!

FEB 6 - 8

Christmas comes faster than we think – so why not get a jump on it this year?
At Manna, we've got gifts that make little eyes light up and fill young hearts with faith.
From stocking fillers that bring joy and laughter, to Bibles and storybooks that tell the greatest story ever told – you'll find something for every child on your list.
Make this Christmas both joyful and meaningful with gifts that kids will truly treasure.





Bible Stacks

One game, so many ways to play! Get ready for lots of fun—Bible Stacks can be played in countless ways, making it perfect for everyone to get 'stacking.' Stack the blocks, race to find verses, challenge your friends, use it for family devotions, or test your memory—every move brings laughter and learning as Scripture comes alive.

[Shop Now](#)

WADDELL CHAPEL AT SALMOND COLLEGE

Night Chapel

**CONTEMPLATIVE
PRACTICES**

**NEW MUSIC
BASED ON
SCRIPTURE**

**ALL AGE
FRIENDLY**

**HOSTED BY
MALCOLM GORDON
AN INITIATIVE OF
FIRST CHURCH**

**FRIDAY 8PM
SEPT 26TH
OCT 24TH
NOV 21ST**

Rental available Wakari from January 2026

Rent negotiable around \$500 p.w.

Sunny small 3-bedroom home with basement garage and off street parking. Log burner heating. Prefer to rent as furnished if possible. Rent can include lawn and garden maintenance.

Close to three short local bus routes to central city, walking distance to schools.

Cat friendly, no dogs as not fenced. Enquiries to cartwright012@gmail.com.





Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

General Assembly

The Assembly will commence with an opening service at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church at 1pm on Monday 20 October. Assembly will meet at St Paul's until its conclusion at 1pm on Thursday 23 October. If you are not going to be at Assembly, then [sign up here to receive updates](#) from GA25 during Assembly.

Please pray for Assembly. For our incoming Moderator the Rev Peter Dunn; for the Assembly Business Work Group; the Assembly Co-Ordinator Hayley Payne; Deputy Clerk Heather McKenzie; the many volunteers from St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church who are hosting us and our out-going Moderator Rt Rev Rose Luxford. Also please remember the Finance team processing registrations; the Comms team preparing material; our other Assembly staff also in preparations; and our Assembly Commissioners and observers. Any Assembly requires many people working behind the scenes, working to ensure the smooth running of each day.

Assembly is an opportunity for us to gather and provides the opportunity for thanksgiving and mutual encouragement. It is also a time of discernment for how God may be calling us to mission at this time and in this place. In all that, may we be found as people who say, "Speak Lord, your servants are listening".



Scripture Union run activity-based faith camps each school holidays. We have ten fantastic camps lined up for you this summer holidays. Registrations are now open and spaces are limited. Please [click](#) to download a flyer. A full schedule of camps for 2026 is also available, [click here](#) to download.



Just Stories is a new platform sharing stories of justice in action from the Presbyterian whānau in Aotearoa and beyond. Just Stories is a collection of stories of 'justice in action' from the Presbyterian whānau; the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Presbyterian Support, and Presbyterian Church Schools. It also includes stories from beyond the Presbyterian whānau, reflecting the diversity and creativity of responses from individuals, groups and community organisations as together we stand alongside, work for transformation and foster hope in our communities. Read [more](#), and see [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

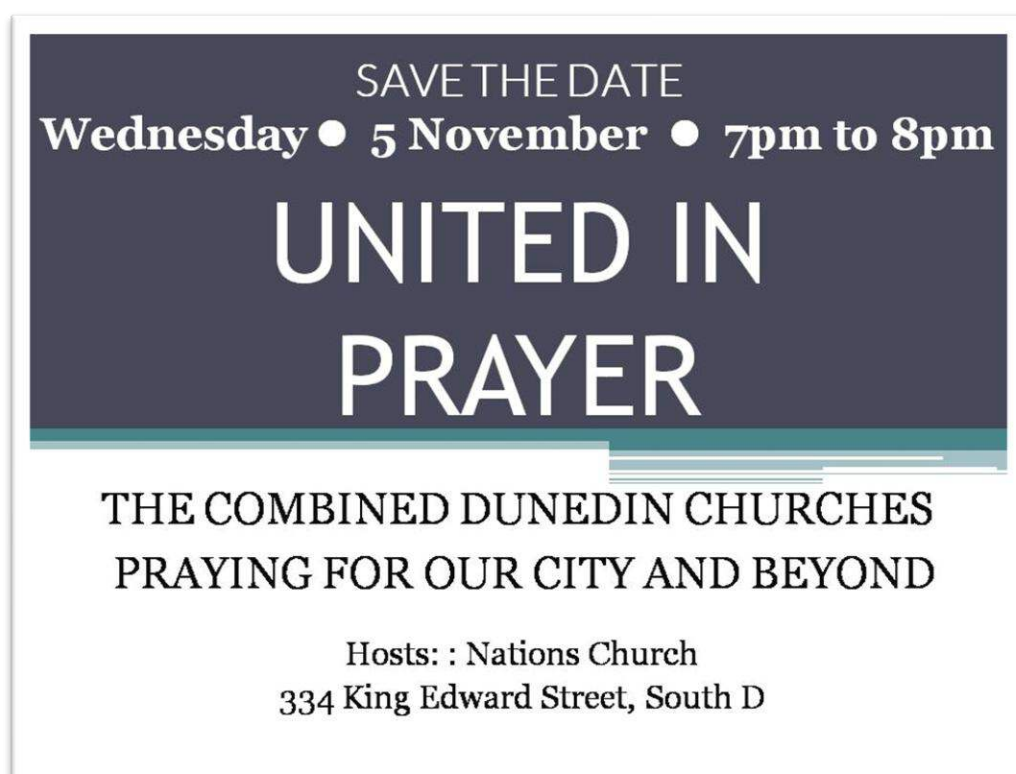
Tirohanga Camp has been a place of connection, growth, and adventure for nearly 100 years. As we look ahead to our centenary in 2032, we're exploring an exciting new chapter: the possibility of opening a second venue!

Whether you've visited Tirohanga before or are hearing about us for the first time, we'd love to hear from you. We're currently gathering input from individuals, families, and communities and schools to help shape the vision for this future space.

The Tirohanga team have put together a short survey to hear your thoughts and ideas. It won't take more than a few minutes, and your feedback will directly influence how we grow in a way that's welcoming, meaningful, and reflective of what people truly value.

<https://forms.gle/vTXuK5jhySnBYsiC9>

Thank you for your time and interest—if you have any questions or would like to know more, feel free to reach out or visit our website: [Tirohangacamp.co.nz](https://tirohangacamp.co.nz)



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Theology Programme Otago University and KCML Summer School 2026

From **26-30 January 2026**, [Professor Lynn Cohick](#) will teach an intensive course in Dunedin entitled ***Women in the New Testament and Early Church***. Lynn is Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Director of the Houston Theological Seminary at Houston Christian University. This course will explore women's participation in and contributions to the Christian story in the first five centuries and discuss women's participation in the church today. Fees and travel subsidies are available to PCANZ ministers in good standing. The course can be taken for credit or audit. To enrol for

credit see [here](#) and click on 'Apply to Enrol'. To register your interest for audit please [email the KCML registrar](#). Ministers studying for credit can apply for a subsidy for fees/travel. Those ministers auditing the course can access a subsidy for audit fees and travel, [email the KCML registrar](#).

INTERGENERATE
AUSTRALIA
and NEW ZEALAND

LIVING THE STORY

Being Intergenerational



We are all connected
by Anja Rozen
Slovenia
Age 13

www.intergenerate.com.au/events



What happens when all ages truly connect in community?

Join us for a
transformative day
exploring the power of
hearing and living the
story of God's people
together.

Thursday 9th October 2025
9.00am-4.30pm
Riccarton Baptist,
Christchurch

Cost: \$80 (incl food)

**Your story matters.
Join us.**

PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT OTAGO

Annual General Meeting

**You are warmly invited to our 2025
Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 30 October, 5:30pm start

Burns Hall, First Church,
415 Moray Place, Dunedin

All are welcome.
For catering, RSVP by 24 October to
team@psotago.org.nz

Guest speaker



**Steven Moe, talking
about the Green shoots
of Innovation and the
rise of Impact Investing**



**Presbyterian
Support**
Otago

*Introducing our refreshed branding,
generously gifted by Presbyterian
Support Northern. We are gradually
and mindfully implementing this over
the coming years, with a focus on
cost-neutrality and ensuring every
detail reflects our values. Learn more
in our Annual Report.*

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



PSO Support Centre Moray Place (next to First Church)

Thanks to you all for your generous support of our Food Bank, we are truly grateful especially in these tough times.

We have been super busy, and our stocks of personal hygiene products (deodorant, soap, shaving supplies, shampoo etc) have all but run out. Supplies of general cleaning products are nearly gone as well. This week we need breakfast cereals, tea bags and eggs.

We know (and are very thankful!) that many of you donate each Sunday, or pop into the Support Centre with a donation, when you know of a particular need. If you were able to supply any of the above goods this time, it would mean the world to our clients.

As always, we will gratefully receive anything you can spare.

PSO Mission Advocates

We are seeking individuals to serve as PSO Mission Advocates - a vital role that helps share updates, promote community engagement, and foster deeper relationships between PSO and your congregation. This is a meaningful opportunity to support the Presbyterian mission of care and compassion across Otago.

As part of this pilot, you'll also have access to:

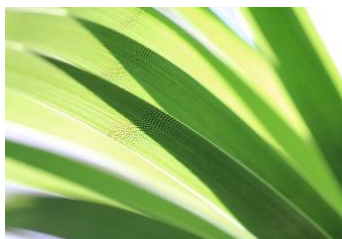
- Resources, support and encouragement from PSO's Development & Engagement team.*
- The opportunity to request specific support for your church eg: grant writing, policies, and other shared learnings*
- The opportunities to upskill through free places to seminars typically reserved for PSO staff eg: cultural competency, trauma informed training and so on.*
- Considered for one of five complimentary tickets to ticketed PSO events*

As a PSO Mission Advocate, you will:

- Share PSO news, resources, and events with your church in ways that best suit your community - such as distributing People magazine, sharing available tickets to seminars or promoting events like the Shop on Carroll Runway Revival Show.*
- Help identify and communicate local needs to PSO.*
- Promote PSO appeals and initiatives that resonate with your congregation, using them as fun and engaging ways to connect with shared PSO and church vision.*
- Be a key contact for responding to current requests for specific gifts-in-kind, such as plastic containers for our foodbank or wood for Stepping Stones woodwork programme*
- Attend Together Otago events in your region (as you can) to connect with others and share insights (Together Otago Invitation email will be sent to you).*

This pilot programme is not time-intensive, and full support will be provided by PSO's Development & Engagement team. We hope to build a network of passionate, community-minded individuals who can help us extend our reach and impact. Contact: joy.davis@psotago.org.nz

REGULAR MONTHLY NOTICES AND CONTACTS



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 potter 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.

Recycling @ Flagstaff: Bring your plastic milk and cream bottle tops, Tetrapaks (rinsed, flattened, slit open on three sides) and clean glass or plastic jars (any size, must have lids and no need to remove labels) to church. There are collection containers at the back of the church under the resources table. If in doubt, bring them along! For a comprehensive and (relatively) up-to-date list of recyclable items and where to drop them off, refer to page 11 of the June Valley Voice, found here at <https://www.northeastvalley.org/your-community/valley-voice/july-2024>;

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.

Sunday Sermon: If you would like a copy of the speaker's message from Sunday, then please email Brendon on brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz and a copy will be sent to you.

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 9 – 10 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.



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.

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.

Discipleship Groups: which focus on study and prayer. Wednesday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021 385905.



Community Facing Groups: Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming and 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 027 356 9200.

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 ensure your donation goes to that particular mission by writing the

name of the appeal or special purpose when you make the internet payment or when you put your number or name and address on an envelope.

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9.30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

Contacts:

Prayer Chain: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Pastoral Care: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Envelope System: Alison Jenkin 021 1052320

Technical Equipment: Andrew Sims andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com;

Church Newsletter: Lisa Wells office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;



Kaumātua - Elders

Parish Clerk: Sarah Barton parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Presbytery Elder: Don Lind donovan.lind@gmail.com

Vanessa Gordon: ness.gordon@gmail.com

Tim Mephram: rautakiadvice@gmail.com

Gary Dent: gary.dent7@gmail.com

Andrew Sims: andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com

Child Protection Officer: Jane Davis edlumi@icloud.com

Health and Safety Officer: Hamish Cartwright cartwright012@gmail.com

Minister: Rev Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Parish Contact details:

Administrator: Lisa Wells

office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

P O Box 10074

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Wakari, Dunedin

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff