



Flagstaff Community Church *Whānau Newsletter*

September 2026

Combined Dunedin Churches presents

CELEBRATION SERVICE

20TH SEPTEMBER, 26

DUNEDIN TOWN HALL



4.30-6pm
(doors 4pm)



Guest speaker:
Sam Harvey

24/7 Prayer NZ National Coordinator,
Pastor Bay Vineyard Church, Napier





Season of Creation 2026

1 September - 4 October

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

The 2026 theme for the Season of Creation, "Immersion in Living Water", refers to the living waters that flow from the temple in Ezekiel's vision of the new Jerusalem (Ezekiel 47:1-12).

As the river goes out from the city, it gathers strength until it becomes a mighty river, teeming with fish, lined with abundant plantlife, and home to people and animals alike. The prophet describes a thriving and biodiverse ecosystem.

Ezekiel's vision of a renewed creation is picked up in the New Testament too. It's so significant that the River of Life is the final image in the whole Bible (Rev 22:1-5).

It is easy to imagine these prophetic visions as metaphor of God's life flowing into the world. But what if they are not just metaphor, but quite a literal description of God's salvation? What if Ezekiel and John of Patmos thought there was no better image for God's future than a thriving ecosystem sustained by living waters? The human and the more-than-human worlds living in harmony.

What if God has in mind the restoration of real rivers and ecosystems? The people of Israel entered the Promised Land by crossing the Jordan. Naaman found healing in its living waters. When Jesus was baptised in the same river he was immersing himself in this history. It was a sign of his identification, not just with God, but with a particular people and a particular place, where the drama of God's salvation would play out.

If Jesus was baptised in the Jordan, what does it mean for us to be baptised here in Aotearoa New Zealand? For many of us, baptism takes place in a church with a font, removed from the living waters that give us life.

Meanwhile those living waters are dying. This year, the [Ministry for the Environment released a report on the state of our water](#). The results are not good. Many of our waterways are contaminated by intensive farming and polluted by urban runoff. Human health, economic productivity, and whole ecosystems suffer when our water is not well.

This Season of Creation, I encourage you to consider what it means to be immersed in the living waters where you live: the streams, rivers, lakes, and seas. Baptism is an immersion into the living waters of a place: to learn its history, invest in its flourishing, and imagine God's future there.

With our election coming up, the Interchurch Bioethics Council has [just released information sheets](#) on several bioethical and environmental issues, including fresh water. I warmly commend it to you as we immerse ourselves together in the living waters of Aotearoa.

On behalf of Moderator Rt Rev Peter Dunn

Rev Dr Jordan Redding

Convener of the Emissions Reductions Workgroup

SEASON OF CREATION RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4) is a time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation. You can find resources for churches and groups [on the PCANZ website here](#). Included are the Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide; Presbyterian Research Centre newly added ecotheology and care of creation books and ebooks; and Eco Church resources.





'Season of Creation' – Capturing the Holy in everyday life through the lens.
A faith inspired Photo competition.

Theme: Living Water

During Season of Creation, we will be guided by the vision of the prophet Ezekiel (47:1–12): a river flowing from the temple of God, which grows without stopping and brings life where everything seems barren.

Send **ONE** of your favourite photos (month of September) with a title and your name from your camera roll to brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz; or text 0273569200 or WhatsApp.

Based on the theme, capture a moment which affirmed to you the life of God – present! These photos will also contribute to a visual Psalm reading. We are invited to watch, listen and observe the presence of God who makes Godself known through all of creation.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



This Summer we have four awesome expeditions around Aotearoa!
 3x expeditions in December for rangatahi (teenagers in school years 12 & 13)
 1x young adult expedition in February (for people aged 18-25)
 Each expedition brings together a small group of 10–12 participants, led by 2–3 highly experienced outdoor instructors/facilitators. [Learn More About E3](#)
[Download E3 Brochure](#)



ANCHORED

Retreat 2026

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION COURSE



**YOUNG PEOPLE
YR 7 - 10
11-13 SEP 2026
CAMP COLUMBA**

SUPAKidZ

scripture union camps for kids

LandLubbers

CAMP



28 SEPT - 1 OCT 2026
EARLYBIRD - \$185
 IF PAID BEFORE 14 SEPTEMBER
 CAMP COLUMBA - PUKERAU SOUTHLAND.
 AGE: PRIMARY SCHOOL YEARS 4-6 (IN 2026)
 COST: \$200

JOIN SOME REFORMED PIRATES USING PUZZLING CLUES TO UNEARTH TIMELESS TREASURES ABOUT GOD FROM THE LIFE AND JOURNEYS OF THE FEARLESS TRAVELLER & MISSIONARY - PAUL. ENJOY AN ASSORTMENT OF GAMES, CHALLENGES, CRAFTS AND BIBLE STORIES. THERE WILL BE HEARTY RATIONS FOR ALL FROM THE GALLEY

REGISTER NOW
 SCAN ME

CONTACT: NIGEL WINDER
 NIGEL.W@SUNZ.ORG.NZ OR 027 346 2099

WWW.SUNZ.ORG.NZ

Leith - Batch - Flagstaff

Fun Friday Term 3

Years 7 - 10 Fortnightly Friday Nights
 Dates: 31/7, 14/8, 28/8, 11/9, 25/9
 6 - 8 PM for dinner and games
 Cost \$5
 267 Malvern Street, Leith Valley

Message Lucy (022 074 5491)
 To join the parent whatsapp group

RSVP will be taken (for dinner orders)
 by thursday lunchtime before each date





JOIN OUR ONLINE WOF TRAINING SESSIONS IN SEPTEMBER 2026

TUESDAY THE 8TH OF SEPTEMBER 7-9PM - SESSION 1: INTRO & ETHICAL PRACTICE

TUESDAY THE 15TH OF SEPTEMBER 7:30PM - SESSION 2: HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY THE 22ND OF SEPTEMBER 7-9PM - SESSION 3: SAFE RECRUITMENT AND RESPONDING TO ABUSE



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

InterChurch Bioethics Council

Help your congregation think ethically this election...

The InterChurch Bioethics Council has updated its website with information on seven key issues facing our nation this election. What ethical questions might we consider, and how might our Christian faith influence your perspective in who to vote for come November?

Energy security | Food security | Healthcare | End of life care
Climate adaptation | Fresh water | AI

Visit www.interchurchbioethics.org.nz for a Comms Pack for your church

InterChurch Bioethics Council

Election'26



JOIN US FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL OTAGO PEACE LECTURE

"LOVE, COURAGE AND HOPE IN AN AGE OF GLOBAL TURBULENCE: RESPONDING TO POWER POLITICS AND FORCE FROM THE BOTTOM UP"

WITH PROF KEVIN CLEMENTS,
FOUNDER PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
OTAGO UNIVERSITY



GIVE peace a chance

**ST DAVIDS LECTURE THEATRE
MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
6:45 - 8:45PM
(REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW)
EVERYBODY WELCOME**

FOR MORE INFO,
SCAN THE CODE FOR THE FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE
OR EMAIL DUNEDINABRAHAMIC@GMAIL.COM



BROUGHT TO YOU BY CAMPUS CHAPLAINS AND THE DUNEDIN ABRAHAMIC INTERFAITH GROUP, PEOPLE OF JEWISH, MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN FAITHS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP US ALL GET ALONG




SACRAMENTAL REALITY

4 Talks on Art by Judith Brown



(Don Driver Yellow Tentacle Pram 1980)

August 25th, September 1st, 8th and 15th
Tuesdays, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Stevley Room, Church Office Block, First Church of Otago, Moray Place

Sacramental Reality is a series of four talks that explores what it means to partake of sacramental reality in the forms of culture. The unifying idea is that art is a primary vehicle for moving beyond the mindset that reduces truth to the factual. For the sake of manageability the content is limited to the visual arts. In exploring this the talks will consider the self-portrait, what a work of art is formed of, and the experience of belonging and connection. The art works will include both representational and abstract examples and there is substantial NZ content.

People may attend individual talks, or all four.
Free Admission




SOUTHERN MARRIAGE RETREAT

SOUTHERN MARRIAGE Retreat WĀNAKA

**FRIDAY OCT 16 7PM-
SUNDAY 18 12:30PM
2026**

Workshop topics:
Conflict and Communication
A Faith Filled Marriage
Restoring your Marriage
Intimate Allies
From Cashflow to Connection
Preparing for the Empty Nest

COST:
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
BEFORE AUGUST 31.
\$239 PER COUPLE
FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST
\$265 PER COUPLE



Keynote speakers
MATT AND BELINDA STOTT



FOR MORE INFO, AND TO REGISTER, USE THE CODE HERE
OR GO TO THE
SOUTHERN MARRIAGE RETREAT
FACEBOOK PAGE

Fifth Annual Hoani Parata Lecture

**The Unfinished Waka:
Power, Partnership, and Hope for a
Bicultural Church in a Secularising Age**



Rev Tara Tautari (Ngāti Hine and Ngāpuhi)
General Secretary of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago | Mātai Whakapono Karaitiana, Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka, and Selwyn College | Te Maru Pūmanawa are pleased to present the fifth annual Hoani Parata Lecture in honour of Reverend Canon Hoani Parata (1881-1928), the first Māori resident at Te Maru Pūmanawa.




All welcome!
Thursday 10 September 2026
5:30pm
All Saints' Church
786 Cumberland Street
Refreshments will be provided at Selwyn College after the lecture



University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA



Monday 31 August and 7 September, 1.00-2.30pm

Join counsellor and Presbyterian minister Silvia Purdie for a 2-part online training to grow your confidence in pastoral care.

- A Biblical understanding of mental health
- How to hold a mental health first aid conversation
- Avoiding common pitfalls
- The top 4 needs of people in mental distress
- Safe and helpful questions to ask
- Ways to bring the peace of Christ

\$40

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/solid-ground-aug26>

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



BIBLE SOCIETY
NGĀ RINGA HĀPAI I TE PAIPERA TAPU KI AOTEAROA



Dear Flagstaff Community Church, Dunedin,

What if, in just a few minutes, you lost everything?

Your home.

Your sense of safety.

Someone you love.

For families in Colombia, this is not something they have to imagine. It is the reality they are facing after the devastating earthquake on 10 August.

More than **200 people have lost their lives, 2,600 have been injured, and thousands of families have been displaced.**

Behind these numbers are children who have lost parents, parents grieving their children, and families facing the heartbreak of rebuilding without the people they love.

Yet, in the middle of this pain, the Church is responding.

The Bible Society of Colombia is working alongside local churches to bring practical care and the hope of God's Word to those who need it most.

Together, they are providing:

- **Food and essential supplies** to families.
- **Emergency kits** to children.
- **Trauma Healing** for people carrying deep emotional wounds.
- **God's Word** for those searching for hope and comfort.

BRING HOPE TODAY

For a child who has lost their home and everything familiar, an emergency kit can offer comfort.

For someone grieving a loved one, Trauma Healing can provide a safe space to begin processing their pain.

For someone wondering where God is in the middle of their suffering, **the Bible can bring a message of hope when everything else feels uncertain.**



The response aims to reach **more than 35,000 people** through humanitarian assistance, Trauma Healing and access to God's Word.

How your gift today will help:

\$25

provides **essential emergency supplies** for a family.

\$35

provides a **Kids Emergency Kit** to help a child heal.

\$80

provides **emergency aid and Bibles** to bring a family comfort and hope.

Do you prefer giving by internet banking?

Here are the details you require:

- Particulars: **COL26**
- Reference: Supporter ID **039922**
- Our bank account details:

Bible Society New Zealand Charitable Trust
03 0558 0245656 02

The people of Colombia have already lost so much.

Your generosity today could place essential supplies into the hands of a family, bring comfort to a grieving child, or help someone discover the hope of Jesus in the midst of unimaginable loss.

Thank you for standing with the people of Colombia through your prayers, compassion and generosity.

With sincere gratitude,

Neels Janse van Rensburg

Chief Executive

Foodbank

Our foodbank is currently in need of the following items to support local individuals and families in our community:

- Milo
- Baking supplies (especially sugar)
- Canned ready-to-eat meals
- Simmer sauces
- Lunchbox snacks
- Breakfast spreads (jam & honey)
- Cooking oil (500ml bottles)

Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference for someone doing it tough right now.

If you're able to help, donations can be dropped off at **407 Moray Place, Dunedin 9016**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support ❤️



Together Otago: our commitment to community wellbeing

Together Otago brings people together in gentle, welcoming spaces for listening, sharing, and learning alongside our parish and community partners. These gatherings are an opportunity to connect, share insights, hear updates from Presbyterian Support Otago, and explore how we can continue to work together to support our communities. Whether you bring your heart, your experience, your care for community – or all three – you are warmly invited to join us.

Upcoming dates:

- 3 June – Milton
- 5 August – Oamaru
- 7 October – Dunedin

All gatherings take place on Wednesdays from 3.00–4.30pm.



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 this link <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 2.30 pm at Coffee Culture in Roslyn), 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

Beth Scarlet raybethscarlet@yahoo.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: Joe Carpenter josephcarpenter3000@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