

Dear friends,

This Sunday we start our winter sermon series '*Her Story, Her Voice: Women in the Bible*'. I am both excited and a little bit nervous about it.



Excited because the hope of this series is “to open our ears to hear what the spirit is saying to us through the lives and faith of the women in the biblical narrative.” There is a great tradition of doing character studies in sermons and this series is going to follow that tradition and focus on the voice and story and wisdom of the women we meet in the Old and New Testament. To facilitate this, along with our regular preaching team, I have invited many of our women lay preachers to preach on various

women in the scripture and what they say to us today about walking with the Lord.

I’m a bit nervous because my contribution to this series will be looking at *Women in Leadership in the New Testament: The Silent Witnesses and the Silencing Passages*. Maybe for many of us women in leadership within the Church is a non-issue. Yet on the wall of my office in St Peter’s Ellerslie-Mt Wellington was a photo of the first Women Ministers in the PCANZ taken in the 1970’s. Women elders, preachers, ministers and in leadership is still something that is debated worldwide in Churches. Sadly in some places scripture is used to deny women a voice and a role. So what we are going to do is look at how we read and understand some of the difficult passages in the Pauline epistles as well as passages which speak of women actively involved in leadership in the early Church. I know that sounds a bit dry and academic, but I believe it will be liberating and helpful. It will, I hope, also help us to know how to wrestle with difficult passages and allow the scriptures to speak afresh into our lives and into our society today.

Here are the notices.

COVID Level 1

With the current community outbreak in Melbourne and the resulting lockdown and impact on our travel bubble it is a good time to remind ourselves about the ever present threat of COVID-19 . At present we are in COVID Alert Level 1 and we need to follow basic health and safety guidelines. Regularly wash hands, avoid touching your face, and sign in using the QR code and COVID tracer app or on paper. We still have a few COVID tracer diaries in the church foyer if you don’t have a smart phone. Please stay home if you are unwell. Get in touch with health professionals and get tested if you have any of the COVID symptom. Respect people’s desire to socially distance and avoid contact. Bumping elbows is as much a greeting as shaking hands. Some of our folk work in positions where they have to take extra care to avoid COVID. We would also encourage people to get the COVID vaccine when you are able.

Sunday Worship:

We are back to our regular routine for worship at each of our sites.

10:00am HopeTikipunga: Preacher: Billy Portch (2 kings 5: the Servant Girl who shared her faith)

9:30am HopeCentral: Gospel and Healing service - Preacher: Howard Carter (Mark 16:1-8, Romans 16:1-15 (the silent witnesses to women in leadership in the New Testament)).

9:30am HopeOnerahi: Preacher: Lorne Campbell (Luke 8:1-3, John 20:1-18 Mary Magdalene)

Zoom service

We will be having a Zoom component to our service on Sunday. If you are unable to come to church in person this is a great way to worship with us and stay connected.

The **9.30am** service at HOPECENTRAL will be streamed on zoom.

The link to the service is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>

If you are using the zoom app on your mobile device then the meeting ID is: 89285364673

If you are going to dial in using a landline the phone number is 09 884 6780

And when prompted put in the **meeting ID: 89285364673**

Alpha dinner Friday July 9th

We've been asking people to pray for five non-Christians to come to know Christ and to pray for one person to invite along with you to our Alpha dinner...So

"Everyone bring one" ... is our encouragement to everyone across our three sites at Hope.

... the biggest reason why people don't come to church or to Christ is because ... they are not invited!

... so ... bring one to what You are saying?

To: **The Alpha Dinner - to be held on Friday July 9th (5 weeks' time).**

Dinner date and time: Friday July 9th at 6:00pm

Location: Hatea Room at the Whangarei Theatre Company, Reyburn House Lane, down near the town basin.

The dinner is free for our guests ... we are praying that 100 people will be there!



The Alpha Dinner is the introduction for the 10 week Alpha Course where people can put their foot in the water and see if it is for them – Alpha is a course where people can come and explore the Christian faith in a non-judgemental atmosphere of friendship, laughter and discovery.

At the Alpha Dinner people will have a great meal prepared by our team ... they will hear a very funny joke (or two!) ... they will hear peoples stories about faith ... and see a short film called "[Is there more to life than this?](#)". There will be an opportunity for people to sign up to do the Alpha course starting July 27th at Hope Central.

Please book your seat and your friends seat by emailing or ringing the church office:
karen@hopewhangarei.nz and / or 094381667

Shaping Tomorrow Leaders Conference Saturday June 12th Auckland

This conference was postponed from February by the COVID alerts in Auckland. It is a full Northern Presbytery Gathering and we will be taking the van down for the day. If you were coming in February and would still like to come or if you would like to come along and help be equipped to assist our church as a leader. Please let Howard Carter (0277508602) know ASAP. Here is a link the timetable for the day. <http://www.northpres.org.nz/event/shaping-tomorrow-leaders-conference-full-presbytery/> you will need to register online. To register follow the link on that webpage... Please note HopeWhangarei will cover the \$15 registration fee.

Hope Tikipunga Challenge 2021

Over the past two years we have had a challenge to support Family Works (Presbyterian Support)

2019 –pajamas, 2020 - beanies, scarves and booties. Well in 2021 it is knee rugs, throws, and cuddlies. We will have a morning tea on 6th July at Hope Tikipunga and invite a representative from Family Works to come along a receive the projects. There are several ways you can contribute; crochet a small rug, knit peggy squares and sew together, polar fleece is a good option, and patchwork throws are popular. Or, you might like to donate some wool for someone to use. For more details, please contact Kaye, Rae or Helen McGregor 0274373016.

Save the date - Morning Tea @ HopeOnerahi – Thursday 17th June

The Onerahi Barnabas group support Glenys Curries daughter and family as missionaries in Japan, (in the form of a Christmas gift each year). The Barnabas group are hosting a morning tea, at Hope Onerahi, Thursday 17th June at 10am.

Glenys Curries daughter, Alison is back from Japan and will share her story about their work in Japan with OMF over the last 14 years over morning tea at HopeOnerahi.

Alison attended the St Andrews Youth Group and also Girls Brigade under Gwynneth Squires leadership, and on one of their furloughs, Gwynneth actually filled in for Alison in Japan, in Mainly Music etc.

All welcome to come along.

Grief Seminar – Whangarei Anglican Care

Whangarei Anglican Care are holding a Grief Seminar, Walking through the Shadows, from Tuesday 8th June – Tuesday 29th June 2021. Time: 1 – 2.30pm @ the Anglican Care Centre, 1 Mill Road, Regent. No charge.

This is a four week small group course where you can process and understand the grief and loss of bereavement.

The group will be facilitated by trained counsellors:

Suzanne Mackay and Maureen Tearle

In the group you will have:

- An opportunity to explore the grief process and what that experience may look like for the individual, in a safe and supportive environment.

- Help to form strategies to assist in managing life with the inevitable changes that grief and loss bring.

Please note: this group will not be appropriate for those early in the grief process (if the loss has been within the last 6 months)

Registrations are essential – Ph.: 437 6397 or email: enquiry@whgcare.org.nz

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts are now available at each Church. Please contact Karen on karen@hopewhangarei.nz if you wish for your receipt to be emailed to you.

Offerings by Cheques

You may be aware that banks will no longer be issuing or receiving cheques as payment. We have been advised by the BNZ that we will no longer be able to bank any cheques received so will therefore no longer be able to take cheques for offerings from the 1st June. If you need advice on the different ways to make your offerings please contact Karen at the church office.

Blessing

I want to leave us this week with an encouragement to keep on praying for our non-Christian friends and family members as Paul says in 1 Timothy 2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

Nā, ko tāku whakahau tēnei i te tuatahi o nga mea katoa, kia puta nga inoi, nga karakia, nga inoi wawao, ngā whakawhetai, mō ngā tāngata katoa; Mō ngā kingi, mō te hunga whai mana katoa hoki: kia ata noho mārie ai tatou i runga i ngā whakaaro karakia, i ngā tikanga mahara katoa. He mea pai tēnei, he mea e manakohia ana i te aroaro o te Atua, o te tātou Kaiwhakaora; Ko tana nei e pai ai ko nga tāngata katoa kia ora, kia haere mai hoki ki te mātauranga ki te pono. Kotahi tonu te Atua, kotahi te takawaenga o te Atua, o ngā tāngata, ko ia āno he tāngata, ara ko Karaiti Īhu; I hoatu nei i a ia hei utu mō te katoa; he mea kia whakaaturia i ōna wa ake;

Howard Carter
SENIOR MINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

1st June 2021