

Hi Friends,

Hopefully the internet and email issues we've been having over the past few months at the HopeWhangarei office have been sorted. We were experiencing what is known as a Denial of service attack from peoples unknown. They were bombarding our IP address with so much data that it was overwhelming our internet connection, causing it to drop in and out again. We had a bit of trouble with our emails after that as the solution was to change our IP address (not our email address) but things seem to be back to normal now. Our computer security means that no information was accessed from outside. We know some people who accessed the zoom service found it difficult as did our staff. Praise God for the technician who came and looked at our fibre connection and was thorough enough to notice an anomaly and follow it through.

Psalm 46:10 is God's invitation in the midst of difficult times and the swirl and churn of life to take time to "Be still and Know that I am God". In the midst of all that is going on in life, its ups and downs, good times and difficulties, to know God's presence, his peace and be aware of his sovereignty, which God is ultimately in control. This Monday I found time as I went about my normal



routine of bird photography to stop and be still. I am usually concerned about getting the right photo but as I spent about an hour just watching a Kawau Paka (Little pied shag) dry himself in the morning sun and later a Kotuku Moana doing the same thing. The Kotuku Moana perched on top of the street light by the Onerahi boat ramp, and a Kāruhiruhi (pied shag) doing the same thing after a successful time fishing. I would watch it catch and digest a fish that was almost as big as it was. I really felt

that sense of God's presence and peace, which I really needed in the midst of all the stuff that is going on at the moment. So let me encourage you to take some time just to be still, be it in nature, or listening to music, or in the company of a friend or loved one and become aware again of God's presence, love and power.

Maybe it seems a bit jarring after inviting us to be still to jump right into the notices... but here they are...

Services this week

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga – Cath Bremner (the daughters of Zelophehad – Numbers: 27)

9:30am @ HopeCentral – Dianne McKinstry (Anna and the Women in Luke's gospel) **Communion**

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi – Lorne Campbell (Miriam)

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**

Local rugby supporters!!

Northland sure need some support!

Join some guys from church this Sunday supporting our local Taniwha team as Otago v Northland. Kick off 2:05pm at the Semenoff Stadium. \$20.00 pp main stand. Ring Ray Evans by Saturday if you'd like to be part of a group: 021 2599393

Healing services at HopeTikipunga and Hope Onerahi. August 29th 2021

In 2 Sunday's time there will be opportunities for the people of Onerahi and Tikipunga to experience God's healing touch.

John Fergusson (JFM ministries: <https://www.jfm.org.nz/>) will be ministering at Hope Tikipunga at 10am, and **Dennis Thorne** (VMTC ministries <https://www.breakfree.org.nz/>) will be ministering at HopeOnerahi at 9:30am.

This is an opportunity to come for healing prayer if you are not well ... and also an opportunity to invite a friend who is unwell and experience the Lord's healing touch.

In one of the most wonderful accounts in scripture, Luke 5:18 we read about some men came carrying a paralysed man on a bed to put him in front of Jesus and he was healed by Jesus. Healing of course is not just bodies, but minds and spirits too!

Do mark your diaries and come! Everyone is welcome.

NZ hate speech Laws ... (and conversion therapy)

Two sources for information about Christian responses...

From Family First here is a link to a fact sheet they have put out on hate speech:

<http://familyfirst.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Hate-Speech-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Rev Dr Stuart Lange, National Director of the New Zealand Christian Network, has written a useful resource/article for church leaders and church members on the proposed "Hate Speech" law change and has also made a submission to the Ministry of Justice consultation document. You might like to read his article on behalf of the NZCN here: [download the PDF from website](#)

Churches Together Northland Spring Gathering, Saturday September 18th 9:30am-3:30pm HopeCentral

You are invited to the Spring gathering of Churches Together Northland here at Hope Central on Saturday September 18th.

We have worship, a keynote address and, the choice of four workshops **that will be run twice so you can go to two different ones.**

Here is the list of speakers and workshop leaders

- 1. Rev Dr Stuart Lange** - Stuart Lange is the minister at Massey Presbyterian Church in West Auckland and also a well-known lecturer on Church history. He will be speaking on **Essentials to help Churches grow.**
- 2. Dr Emily Colgan** - Emily is a senior lecturer in biblical studies at Trinity Methodist Theological College and she will be **Reading the scriptures through the lens of ecology**
- 3. Rev Nick McLennan** – Nick is a Minister at Mahurangi Community Church and will be speaking on **Being a missional church** (The Mahurangi experience)
- 4. Dr Rod Watts** is an Executive Officer Northern Presbytery and will be speaking on

Using Results based Accounting as a tool to mission projects.

5. Rev Viv Coleman is a Disciple and Ministry Coach and will be speaking on **The wellbeing of people in leadership.**

Here is the programme for the day:

9:30-10:30 Worship and keynote speaker
10:30:-11:00 morning tea (hall)
11:00-12:15 workshops (round 1)
12:15-1pm Lunch (hall)
1pm-2:15 pm workshops (round 2)
2:15-2:30 pm CTN business
2:30-3pm Communion

We will provide lunch and are asking for a koha of \$10 to cover that.

As we are catering it would be great if people could **register by Tuesday September 14th** by email to Karen@hopewhangarei.nz or by phone to the office at HopeWhangarei 09 438-1667.

Essential Health and Safety notice: COVID-19 Level 1

We are at COVID level 1. So regularly wash hands, avoid touching your face, and sign in using the QR code and COVID tracer app or on paper. **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.

Blessing

It is good to remind ourselves of God's presence, God's great power and that he is for us as well as being our fortress. Psalm/Ngā Waiata 46:10-11

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Kia āta noho, ā kia mātau ko ahau te Atua;
e whakanuia ahau i waenganui i ngā tauwiwi,
e whakanuia ahau i te whenua.
Kei a tātou a Ihowā o ngā mano:
ko te Atua o Hākopa to tātou piringa.

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

17th August 2021

