

Dear friends,

This Friday is the first time Matariki is being celebrated by the whole of New Zealand with a new public holiday. It's so new that my 2022 Collins wall planner does not have Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> coloured grey (the colour for public holidays) and I've had to write it in with a whiteboard marker to aid with my planning.

It's so new that for many of us Pakeha New Zealanders find that we need to stop, listen, and learn what it is all about and how we can celebrate it. Last year I was really blessed to be invited to the court to be present at their Matariki celebration and to hear from some of the Maori judges their understanding of Matariki. It is good to be connected with the people of, and the rhythms of the seasons in, this land.

Matariki of course is a constellation or star cluster that appears in our sky during the midwinter months. It is therefore seen as a Maori new year: A time to remember those who have gone before, particularly those who have died since Matariki last appeared. To give thanks for what we have, the harvest of the last year, by gathering together for a feast with whanau and friends. To look to the future, and start the process of preparing for planting the crop to see you through the coming year.

It's interesting because that is very similar to the traditions of the northern hemisphere, where midwinter is looked forward to and celebrated. We have got used to it being connected with our summer holidays. As people look forward to the lengthening of days again and the prospect of a new harvest. Christmas was placed in that mid-winter time, not because we know Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup> but because ideas like the coming again of the light fit very much into the way Jesus birth fits in with that idea, "those who live in darkness shall see a new light"(Isaiah 9:2 & Matthew 4:16).

Here is a link to the Matariki message from the moderator of Te Aka Puaho (The Maori Synod of our Church) Marina Rakuraku. <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/matariki-message-24-june-2022-from-te-aka-puaho-moderator-marina-rakuraku>

It will be interesting to see how Matariki develops in Aotearoa New Zealand over the next few years.

Here are the notices,

### Sunday Worship June 26<sup>th</sup>

We are continuing our Revelation series *Eternal Hope in Christ in Amidst Present Suffering*. I know our preaching team has found it both challenging and encouraging to look at this letter, prophecy couched in apocalyptic language. I do hope that you are finding it to be helpful and inspiring.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Revelation 14 (Lorne Campbell)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Revelation 15 (Billie Portch) Communion

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Revelation 13 (Howard Carter)

We are in COVID alert level orange which means that masks are highly recommended in services.

### Zoom service June 19<sup>th</sup>

The zoom service is a streaming from the 9:30am HopeCentral service.

**The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>**

If you are using an app on a mobile device the meeting **ID number is: 89285364673**

You can join via landline.

Please note that the process has changed. The phone number is 09 884 6780 you will need to input for the meeting

The number when Meeting ID prompted: 89285364673 followed by the # key. Then you will be asked for a further ID number or to press the # key again. Press the # hash key again. The host will ask for your name so we can put it on the computer screen so after the service people will know who you are.

After the service we will break into small groups so people can catch up, pray with each other. If you are on a landline you can unmute yourself by pressing \*6. If you have someone on a landline in your group please introduce yourselves to them.

### Church Office Closed Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>

The church office is closed on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> as it is a public Holiday for Matariki.

### Zoom Hosting

We are looking for someone to take over hosting the church zoom services. Welcoming and admitting people to our (9:30am zoom service, leading people through the PowerPoints for the service and hosting the time together after the service). It can be done from home or in the minister's office on Sundays. There is training available and support from our zoom technician, Isaac. In term three (July 24<sup>th</sup> onwards) Kris who has been hosting will be looking at developing the children's ministry on Sunday mornings with a team.

### Lost property box

Many Monday mornings we find the odd drink bottle, hat, cardigan, booklets etc. that have been left behind. So I am putting them all together in a lost property box and if not collected within 1 month from the office they will be donated somewhere. 😊

### Bob Lawrence

It is with great sadness that I confirm that Bob passed away late yesterday morning at the age of 93.

Bob was a member at St Andrews (Hope Central) for over 60 years until he shifted to north Sydney in approx. October 2018 to be with his son Greg and family. He had been staying at a dementia unit at a rest home since late last year.

We are extending our love and prayers to Greg and Jill at their loss. Peter & Daphne Shultz

## Tikipunga Challenge Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10am



Knitted beanies, scarves, booties, slippers, blankets or whatever takes your fancy. All items will be delivered to "Family Works" (part of Presbyterian Support), based in Mari Street. Enquires to Helen McGregor

## The Alpha Course ... is there anyone out there?

As you may know, Alpha is a gift to the church to assist us in our calling to be obedient to the Lord's command to make disciples.

It is an 11 week journey of exploring Christianity and is designed for those who are not Christian.

Over the past many years, Alpha has been run through our church and a significant number of people have come to faith, been baptised and joined the church.

☑ Is there anyone out there who has:

1. A friend you would like to invite to come and explore Christianity on Alpha beginning sometime in late July (term 3)?
2. Would like to serve on a team to help run Alpha in term 3?

An Alpha Course can be small and run in a home ... or bigger and run at church ... or in a rest home ... or a school ... etc. etc.

Please would you let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be involved in any way:

Lorne Campbell: ph. 021 1356275 or email me [lorne@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:lorne@hopewhangarei.nz)

## Sponsoring Amelie Jansen for this year's 40 hour famine:

Kia Ora Hope Whangarei whanau. My name is Amelie and this year I am doing the 40 hr famine. The cause this year is getting clean water to children and communities who don't currently have access to it. Today, 800 children died because they didn't have clean water.



Right now, we have everything it takes to bring life-saving water to children in the world's toughest places. And give their communities the tools to keep clean water flowing for years to come.

This is Prisca's story, a young girl from Malawi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qfyp3wxGbzU&t=2s>

Here is the link to my fundraising page:

<https://my.worldvision.org.nz/d/ss/5B10hP/amelie-jansen>

When you click "give now" you may be asked to "sign in". If you don't have an account for world vision, just enter your email address and then select "continue as a guest"

If you are able to give to this amazing cause, that would be awesome. Every dollar counts.

Thank you 😊

## Blessing

A prayer for more light to come into our lives...from Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Kia whakamāramatia ngā kanohi o tō koutou hinengaro; kia mātau ai koutou ki te mea o tāna karanga e tūmanakohia atu nei, ki te korōria nui hoki o tōna taonga i roto i te hunga tapu,

Blessings

*Howard Carter*

**SENIOR MINISTER**  
**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

June 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

*PS:-* I haven't been out with my camera this week, so I could have put an old photo here. But

I thought it might be good in light of Matariki just to share a photo from Presbyterian Archives of the tekoteko from Te Maungarongo marae, at Ohope. Te Maungarongo is the Te Aka Pauho marae at Ohope beach. It is our church's Marae rather than connected to an iwi or hapu. Te Maungarongo means Mountain of peace. The tekoteko is the figure at the top of the wharenui or meeting house. It represents an honoured ancestor, at Te Maungarongo the figure is Jesus Christ, signified by the carrying of the cross. I have had the privilege of visiting and staying on the marae many times (The Bay of Plenty Presbytery held their Easter camps there). It is a very special place and if you have a chance to visit or even better attend a function there I would encourage you to do so.

