

Dear friends,

As well as being the season of creation on the Church calendar in New Zealand in September we have Maori language week, Te Wiki o te Reo Māori. Maori is one of the official languages in Aotearoa New Zealand and one of the signs that we are maturing as a nation is the growing desire to see it used more and more in everyday life. We are a nation founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, treaty of Waitangi, a genuine expression of partnership between tangata whenua, the people of this land, and settlers, being one people together. We still have a way to go in this area and many of us grew up in a time when this was not the reality that it is now. It has been easy to simply be silos in our own culture, but this is changing, and that's a good thing. Of course for the church this should not be something new as from its conception the church was a genuine mix of people from across the different divides of culture and society. That was a unique distinctive. Paul sums it up well in several of his epistles to churches wrestling with how to be this new people together. We are going to looking at Colossians in October and in chapter 3 verse 11 Paul sums it up like this - *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.* You can imagine people coming together from so many different cultural backgrounds as they came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, yes there was a *lingua franca*, a common language, *kōnaī greek*, but also they would have had so many different heart languages and customs.

I am challenged by the need to grow in my use and understanding of Te Reo, as many of us are, and we are blessed in our church to have people who will share and encourage us in its use and who love us enough to gift us with their language and culture. When we have a blessing at the end of our pastoral email I try and have it in both English and Te Reo. It's helping me to recognize different words and phrases. For Pakeha people having something in writing makes it important. But for Maori hearing it spoken is the key thing. If you heard my message for the season of creation, consider the birds, you'll know I've got a long way to go, and thank you for those who took the time to encourage correct pronunciation. It's also important in Whangarei because as a city we have about 33% Maori in the community and if we are to be a flourishing Christian community, we should reflect that demographic. Being a flourishing Christian Community actually means that we grow multi-culturally to reflect the wonderful diversity of the People of God and universal nature of the gospel, and can I say *vive la difference*.

Here are the notices...

Worship Sunday September 11th

We continue our celebration of creation this week. Come and join us to worship God our creator, celebrate what God has made and reflection on creation care as part of our Christian faith and life. Our speakers will be sharing on a part of creation they are passionate about, how that connects them to God and practical thoughts on creation care. Howard will be on Presbytery duties this week and leading worship, speaking and commissioning an elder to take communion at Bay of Islands Co-operating Church.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - (Shane Jansen) A families commitment to Creation Care

9:30am @ HopeCentral - (Dennis Thorne) the Ocean

9:30am @ Hope Onerahi - (Lorne Campbell) Water

Sunday worship zoom service

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.

Zoom technician and camera operator urgently needed

Isaac Carter our wonderful zoom tech and camera operator is moving to Auckland on Saturday September 17th for work for the summer (at least). Isaac has been a real God send over COVID and will be sorely missed. We are looking for people who will be able to step up and take on this important roll to see us through to the end of the year. Training is available. Please let Howard Carter know if you are keen to give it a go. 0277508602 or howard@hopewhangarei.nz

Project Manager for exploration of City Mission re development of Business block

Job Title: Project Lead: Hope Whangarei City Mission Project: Investigative and Viability Stage.

Fixed Term Part Time: Up to 16 hours a week from October 3rd 2022 to June 30th 2023

We are looking for a person to be responsible for helping Hope Whangarei Presbyterian Church develop and create a conceptual purpose and plan for a City Mission within Whangarei. You will need to have excellent relationship building, communication and report writing skill sets with a good understanding of what a City Mission is and could offer to our community. A job description is available on request. If you are interested in applying for this role please send your CV and a covering letter via email to: karen@hopewhangarei.nz by 5pm on Thursday 15th Sept 2022

Acts of kindness and being neighbourly with the Central City Chaplain

Do you have spare spring flowers in your garden? Are you baking batches of Biscuits? Elaine Holwell, our Central City Chaplain is looking for bunches of flowers and/or biscuits to be able to bless the people she visits on Tuesdays in the CBD. It is a simple act of kindness and being neighbourly and it opens doors and breaks down barriers and builds relationships in the community. If you have an overabundance of flowers in your garden or your biscuit barrel and are happy to bring some to HopeCentral on Monday (before 1pm) or on Tuesday morning before 9:30am they will be given to people as a gift. We are not looking for a huge push on a specific day or great amounts, a small offering can have a great effect.

Gathering of Central's musicians and worship leaders this Saturday 9:30-11:00am

For a time of fellowship over morning tea, with discussions about co-coordinating services with the growth of the music team.

Looking forward to see you there!

Alpha Course Congregational Survey

Many thanks for those who have answered so far.

Even if you have never done Alpha or can't be involved, we still value your opinion.

Please can you return your answers to the Church office by Wednesday Sept 7th

Volunteers for morning tea roster very much needed

Due to illness and some people being away on holiday we are looking for 2 to 3 new volunteers to help out on the roster. We do our best to only have people rostered on once every 6 weeks. If this is something you think you can help with we would so appreciate it. Please contact Colleen at the office. Thankyou

CTN Spring gathering September 17th 9:30am-2pm HopeCentral



We will be hosting the CTN spring gathering here at HopeWhangarei on Saturday September 17th. It is open to all who would like to come along. Opening at 9:30am with worship and communion. Then a key note address from Rev Dr Stuart Lange on the essentials of a Growing Church. As well as Stuart being one of New Zealand's foremost church historians he has also pastored a thriving Presbyterian Church in West Auckland for well over twenty years. A church that is involved

in planting and replanting churches in growing areas and that has embraced the challenge of the very multicultural environment of Massey and its surrounding areas. In the afternoon there will be Churches Together Northland business to attend to. Lunch is \$10 and you'll need to register at the office by September 14th.

Blessing

A simple blessing today is the Aaronic blessing from Number 6:24-26. I've got it in Te Reo and English with a link to a website with an audio file to help with pronunciation (<https://www.calledsouth.org.nz/te-reo-resources/>). It could be a good challenge to learn this...

Mā Ihowa koe e manaaki,

māna koe e tiaki:

Mā Ihowa e mea kia tiaho tōna mata

ki a koe,

māna anō hoki koe e atawhai:

Mā Ihowa tōna kanohi e whakaara

ki a koe,

māna anō e tuku te rangimarie

ki a koe. Āmine

““The Lord bless you

and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you

and give you peace.” Amen

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER

HOPEWHANGĀREI

September 6th 2022

PS: - It wasn't a great day for getting out with my camera yesterday. But right along the roadside in Onerahi was a Matuku Moana (a white-faced Heron) that stood on a rock for about 15 minutes and posed for me. I didn't even have to get out of the car. I just wound down the window and clicked away. At the moment the Herons have their wonderful breeding (lanceolate) plumage, which they keep till after they have reared their young. I'm not sure if another heron was close or it was just cold and wet but I got a wonderful display of these feathers... just for a moment.

