

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I got up early this morning to go for a walk along the Hatea river loop track. It started off really well, the river was mirror still, the tide full. Yes I should have noticed the clouds around the hills. I walked along to the Kotuitui Whitinga foot bridge. As you get along by the point there I noticed the water was not as calm anymore, a breeze had started. As it was high tide there were not many birds around. But as I walked on to the bridge there was a Kawau Tui (little Black Shag) drying its wings on one of the pile so I stopped and took a photo or two. Then it was almost like an Alfred Hitchcock film "The Birds" as a whole flock of the Kawau Tui suddenly descended on every pile along the river. So I was glued to my view finder. Until... a clap of thunder behind me and the rain came. Not a light shower but big significant drops. Needless to say I got drenched as I headed back to my car.

My morning walks are part of my daily devotional disciplines. So as I was struggling back, splashing through the instantly formed puddles, dodging from door way to door way, my rain coated glasses making me feel rather insect like I did a bit of reflection.... I must remember to bring my umbrella or get a decent rain coat' but then almost as a prayer I found myself saying 'Lord clean me on the inside 'just as this rain is washing (a euphemism I know) the outside. Clean me to the core of my being and almost as a reply our study in Colossians came to mind "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2: 12) and then in the next verse (2:13) the affirmation "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins" ... In the midst of the rains storms we have the assurance that Christ has forgiven us our sins and cleansed us from all wrong doing. Amen.

### **Just to keep you up to date with a few things.**

On Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> we had the joyous occasion here at HopeCentral of celebrating Kath Agars 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Happy Birthday Kath, God bless you as you head into a new decade.

Congratulation to Lorne and Sue Campbell who have become grandparents for the third time. Their daughter Claire and husband Keith had a wonderful baby boy. Lorne and Sue are chuffed if you see Lorne he'll get out his phone and show you some photos (proud grandies)



Also people will be pleased to know that work has started on cleaning the church ceiling at Central. I want to acknowledge the hard work Karen has done in trying to get people who were able and willing to do the job. It really has been frustrating as it is a specialist job and many tradies are very busy and it is not really a highly sort after job. In the end Hein Van Zyl put in a quote for the job which was accepted.

**Here are the notices ...**

### **Sunday Worship November 26<sup>th</sup> First week of Advent**

Come join us as we work through the final chapter of our study of Paul's letter to the church at Colossae, *Colossians: In Christ and Christ Alone*.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Colossians 4:7-18 (Howard Carter)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Colossians 4:2-6 (Lorne Campbell) Communion

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - Colossians 4:7-18 (Catherine Bremner)

### **Zoom service Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>**

The zoom service will be the 9:30 am service from HopeCentral. The link for the service is.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83111922245>

If you are using an app on a mobile device the meeting ID number is: 83111922245

You can join via landline.

Please note that the process has changed. The phone number is 09 884 6780

The Meeting ID you need when 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.

### **Christmas and Holiday Service Times.**

Over Christmas and the first half of January there will be a combined service at HopeCentral. Services on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> will be led by each of our sites, allowing us to start 2023 with a celebration of who we are and our different ways of doing things as well as our oneness in Christ.

**December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30pm** A Candlelight Christmas eve service (it'll be a real cracker)

**December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am** A 45 minute Christmas celebration

**January 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am** - HopeCentral Special Holiday Service

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** Hope Whangarei meets back at our three sites at our normal times.

Please note that there will be **no zoom services over this period** as well, as we are wanting to give as many of our wonderful volunteers as possible a rest over the summer holiday period. (Last zoom service for 2022 December 18<sup>th</sup>)

## Results of Congregational Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>

It was agreed at a congregational meeting held at all three Hope Whangarei sites that *“That the congregation confirm the lease of 83 Bank St, Unit 5 to 155 Whare Awhina Trust operating as a Community Law Centre, and approve the extension of existing leases in our commercial premises as they come due.”*

## Board Wanted

Abby Armstrong Green is looking for a place to board with a willing individual, couple or family for approximately 6-12 months in the Whangarei urban area. Please phone or email her to discuss pricing and dates on 027 5270330 email - abbyag022@gmail.com

## Connect Group Leaders and Co-leaders BBQ. THIS Sunday November 27th 5pm @ Central



All Connect Group leaders and co-leaders are invited to come along to Central on Sunday Nov 27th to wind up the year together. A chance to share stories from our groups, eat some delicious food and have good fellowship together. Please bring a BIG salad or a BIG dessert ... meat, drink and ice cream provided.

RSVP to Lorne by 5pm Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> ... lorne@hopewhangarei.nz or text 0211356275.

## Christmas Designs

**Hosted by Lynley McFarland & Glenys Currie**

Come and enjoy a morning with Friends as we look at creating Christmas wreaths or floral designs. We are happy for people to participate in making their own designs or just to observe.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 9am-12pm - Morning tea provided. Admission by Koha  
Please contact Glenys Currie for reservations.**



## Blessing

Let me just leave you with this wonderful affirmation and encouragement to come to Christ from 1 John (Hoani) 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Ki te whāki tātou i ō tātou hara, e pono ana ia, e tika ana, ā ka murua e ia ō tātou hara, ka horoia atu hoki ō tātou hē katoa.

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIOR **MINISTER** | HOPEWHANGĀREI | November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022

PS:- The Tara (White Fronted Terns) chicks in the nest by the jetty by Te Matau A Pohe have hatched out and it is a busy time for the parents as they have a couple of very hungry mouths to feed. Although mum seems to snatch a rest when she can... watch out if you go to have a look as the parents will dive bomb if you get too close.

