

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was great to be at the prayer care team gathering on Saturday morning. It was encouraging to see so many (about twenty people ...and we had a few apologies) who are prepared to show care for others by praying for them after the services at all three of our sites. It is a sign of the deep love and care that there is in our congregations for each other.

I was asked to give devotions so shared on Psalm 35, which Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann says is a prayer which journeys from need to joy. It uses images of a battle and false accusation to speak of the psalmists need for God's presence and help. In the face of that need the joy comes when the psalmist hears from God, 'I am your salvation' in v3 but also with the encouragement of the people of the congregation who say, "Great is the Lord, who delights in the wellbeing of his servant." A great summary of what is at the heart of our prayer ministry. the basis of why we pray, why we bring each other's needs to God in faith is because of God's very character: God delights in the wellbeing of his people.

Coming into Easter this week we see that in God sending Jesus to reconcile us to himself. In Hebrews 12 it says that "for the joy set before him Jesus endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." The joy of seeing people coming to new life, new relationship and wholeness. We see it in the care for the marginalised, the sick and the outcasts that Jesus showed. We see it in the fact that God answers prayer.

A few weeks ago I mentioned that I am using the New Zealand bible society's 'Putanga Reorua/ bi lingual bible. So in looking at psalm 35 I wondered what the word for 'wellbeing' was in Te reo. In the verse the word used is 'te Ora'. Ora can mean life, abundant life, wellbeing, to be cured. I guess we can catch a glimpse of what wellbeing means with the use of te Ora in our everyday lives. The health department is Te whatu Ora 'the weaving of wellness'. Kainga Ora the housing and community department looks at healthy communities, ensuring people are housed. Up in Tikipunga is the Christian organisation that looks at the overall wellbeing of At risk young people is 'Te Ora hau' new life; wellness on a spiritual, physical emotional and social level. A holistic understanding of wellbeing.

This Easter may you know the presence and reality of the one who delights in the wellbeing of his servants.

Here are the notices:

Holy Week worship

Wednesday March 27th 7pm Hope Central - *Tenebrae* (a quiet contemplation on the passion of Christ)

Friday March 29th 9:30am HopeCentral - *At The Cross* (combined Ministers Association gathering) if you would like to walk down to the gathering meet outside Church Unlimited at 9am.

Sunday March 31st *Easter Sunday*

HopeTikipunga @ 10am - Mark 18:1-8 (Pauline Hampshire)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Mark 18:1-8 (Howard Carter)

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - John 20:24-29 (Lorne Campbell)

Zoom service Sunday March 24th

The zoom service this week will be a streaming of the HopeCentral 9:30am service.

Here is the link for the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429062440>

If you are using the zoom app on a mobile device or smart phone the **Meeting ID is 83429062440**

If you are joining by landline, dial 09 8846780 and follow the Instructions, again the meeting ID is **83429062440**.

There is a waiting room and then our host will let you into the live stream.

Please feel free to stay after the service and spend time chatting with other folk attending via zoom. The ability to have this contact with each other is one of the reasons we use zoom as a platform, rather than just live streaming.

Space: relaxed worship in the lounge @ central 7pm Sunday April 7th

Come join us for a time of relaxed worship, prayer and sharing.

Offerings

A reminder that the end of the tax financial year is coming up end of March after which you can submit your donations receipts for a rebate with the Inland Revenue Department.

If you have any questions around this, please contact me on karen@hopewhangarei.nz or phone the office 9-2pm Tuesday to Friday.

Staff Matters

The Church office will be closed on Monday March 31st as it is a public holiday.

Weekly prayer meeting. Tuesdays 1pm-2pm – for community outreach

Come along and join in praying for our outreaches into the community each week on Tuesdays from 1pm-2pm at HOPECENTRAL.

Jesus said: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field; Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

We will be praying for various ministries where we have community contact e.g. The Court Chaplaincy; The Inner-city Chaplaincy; Alpha 2024 ...

Everyone welcome ...

Moderator's easter message

Here is a link to the moderator Right Rev Rose Luxford's easter message *Resurrection Hope*

<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/moderators-easter-message-2024-resurrection-hope#:~:text=Easter%20is%20at%20the%20heart,we%20live%20out%20our%20lives.>

Alpha Course invitations – The Dickens Inn – May 1st -July 3rd



Following the launch of our Alpha Course at Dickens Inn, please take the opportunity to pray for and invite as you are able people to come to the launch night on May 1st.

It is easier to say “ would you like to come with me to this Alpha Course introduction evening at Dickens Inn?” ... rather than “ would you like to come to church with me?”

If your friends say yes ... please ensure they register with Colleen at the Office ... or use the QR Code on the back of the invite.

Let's have “Great Expectations” for the Dickens Inn outreach!



Might you be able to support Alpha at the Dickens Inn this year?

We are running Alpha again in the community this year rather than at church – taking the gospel to the people.

Our needs to run the course this year:

- \$35.50 – would pay for one person to come to **the Introduction evening** where a roast meal will be served.
- \$135.00 – would pay for **one person to do the course minus the Introductory night** (it is snack food at \$15.00 a head)
- \$195.00 - **would pay for one person to do the 10-week course** (that is food, facility hire and an Alpha Course booklet).

Basically, we have \$1,900 in the Church budget ... but the course is estimated to cost \$7,400.00 if 40 people do it.

If you can give ... please can you let us know and:

- o **Either:** bring your donation into your church and **specify it is for Alpha 2024.**
- **Or:** by internet banking to: **HopeWhangarei a/c number: 02-0492-0208093-00 ... Reference: Alpha 2024**

Many thanks to those who are able to help.

Margaret Scrivens is seeking companionable Christian board in Whangarei Although she has chronic fatigue, she would be able to help with housework. Phone 4300568 for a chat or approach at church

Twice a Month



Would you like to catch up with others and/or meet new friends over a cuppa?

You are invited to the first gathering on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 from 9.30 to 12.00 noon (at the latest), in the Lounge at Hope

Central.



Need a ride or can give a ride? Contact Lorna Child 436 0609 or 029 275 3652. She will try to match requests and offers.

Looking forward to seeing those who are able to come, on **27 March 2024 at 9.30 am in the Lounge at Hope Central.**

Tikipunga Challenge

We invite you to use your craft skills and support our annual challenge for Presbyterian Support (Family Works)

Beanies, blankies, slippers, socks, pyjamas in fact anything to keep folk warm .

We will have a morning tea late June for you to bring your goods. Contact- Helen McGregor 437 3656 or 027 437 3016

Celebrating Easter with Mainly Music and Central City Chaplaincy



At Mainly music this year the children have been making easter cards with fluffy chicks on the cover. Thanks to the team who along with the kids created and compiled these wonderful cards, as Glenys Currie says, "Each

one seems to have a personality of their own."

Also thank you to the wonderful people who baked for the Central City Chaplaincy. They were able to give out over fifty gifts of slices and cookies to businesses in the CBD.



Mainly music and the Central City Chaplains are two ways that we reach out into our community.

Blessing

In 1 Corinthians 15

:3,4 Paul reminds us with the central truth of the gospel. I want to leave you with that this Holy Week.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

I hoatu nā hoki e ahau ki a koutou i te tuatahi te mea i riro mai i ahau, arā i mate a te Karaiti mō ō tātou hara, i pērā me tā ngā karaipiture;⁴ ā i tanumia; ā i ara ake anō i te toru o ngā rā, i pērā me tā ngā karaipiture;

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER
HOPEWHANGAREI
March 19th 2024

Ps:- Maybe the fluffy chicks were enough for a bird photo this week... However Glenys Currie mentioned that there was a nest of Matuku Moana (white faced herons) in a Pohutukawa Tree, by Kafe, next to Riverside park. So I went down there on Monday to get some photos. The remains of a tuft of down on their heads give them a very punk look.



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