

Church giving:

Some folk have asked how they can continue to support the work of the Church while we are in this lockdown period. If you have internet access, please consider making your regular donations online! You can set up a regular automatic payment from your bank account. As long as your name is put in the reference section, we can record the amount for your annual donations receipt. Our Parish bank Account at BNZ is 02-0800- 0005141-000. If you have any queries or concerns, please call Peter Ph 02197834

Facebook Page

Rev Shelley has made a Facebook Page for our church. Every day she posts something new on it. Many of the things are lovely prayers, verses or beautiful photographs she has found so there is always something different to see and hopefully bring hope and light to these closed in days.



"Keep smiling"

Please continue your ringing up programme so everyone still feels part of our church family. The days have been long and cheerless for many with no outings to break up the time and your phone call will brighten their day,
On my walk the other day, I saw that a child had drawn hopscotch on the footpath and at the end had written
"Keep smiling" so that is good advice for us all. *Judith*

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Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website

http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/waikato_waiariki/te_awamutu

or just search 'Te Awamutu Methodist Church'

**Notices for next Sunday's bulletin to Judith please
Phone 07 870 5512 or email briceandjudith@hotmail.com**

Weekly Newsletter – 19th April 2020

METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



From this week's Waikato/Waiariki Synod newsletter

If you look on our Church Facebook page Rev Shelley has posted the full song which is beautiful



"Praise be the farmers, tilling soil,
planting seeds so food can grow,
an act of hope if ever there was ...
praise be the teachers finding
new ways to educate children
from afar and blessings on
parents holding it together for
them ...

praise for the artists and poets,
the singers and storytellers, all
those who nourish with words
and sound and colour ..."

("Praise Song for the Pandemic", Christine Valters Paintner)

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Acts 2.14a, 22-32](#) Peter, in his message to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost, explains that the scriptures foretold the resurrection of Jesus. "All of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life!"

[Psalm 16](#) David praises the Lord for being his protector and guide.

[1 Peter 1.3-9](#) The resurrection of Jesus has given us new life and a real reason to hope. We have the expectation of the joy that lies ahead.

[John 20.19-31](#) Following his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples. On the first occasion, Thomas was not present and he didn't believe the others' testimony. A week later Thomas was present when Jesus appeared and he responded, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Services

April 19 Attached is another **Worship at Home** Service. It includes a wonderful hymn specially written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillete. Do look at it. The reflection is a very topical interpretation of resurrection and may bring you hope.

There are also many services available on YouTube. People have expressed appreciation for services from Takapuna Methodist Church, or others have listened to services from Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland. Our own Te Awamutu St Johns Anglican Church prepared a wonderful Easter Day service you might like to watch or venture further afield and try Westminster Abbey or churches anywhere in the world.



Pray for others

Pray for the family and friends (that's us) of Robyn Holdaway, as they mourn her sudden loss.

Pray for those forced to die alone and for the families unable to comfort them.

Pray that all health workers will remain safe.

Pray for parents learning to home-school their children..

Pray for those who have lost jobs or worry their business will fail.

Rev Shelley sent me this prayer. She did not write the words but they will help us to consider what we want to retain as we 'return to normal'.

For weeks I have heard people saying, "I just can't wait for things to be back to normal." I remember even saying that a few times myself. But as I've thought about our current situation, I have realized how much I don't want things to go back to the way they were. Here are my thoughts

1. I pray that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.
2. I pray that when school resumes and you are dropping your kids off, you take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to your family.
3. I pray that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and thank God for the gift of community.
4. I pray that the next time I'm standing in church listening to the voices of praise and taking communion that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.
5. I pray that the next time I see a person or situation that needs prayer, I hope I pray as passionately and fervently as I have these past few weeks.
6. I pray that when I am at the grocery store that I take a moment to thank God that He provides us with the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.
7. I pray that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the mall, take my kids to a movie, etc.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal. My goal is to pray more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a mere few weeks ago. If someone tells you they love you, take it to heart!