

**Weekly Newsletter – 24 May 2020  
METHODIST PARISH OF  
TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA**

**Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu**



Some definitions about GRACE (by Frederick Buechner)

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. There's no way to earn it or bring it about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks or bring about your own birth.

A good sleep is grace and so are good dreams. Most tears are grace. The smell of rain is grace. Somebody loving you is grace. Loving somebody is grace. Have you ever tried to love somebody?

A crucial eccentricity of the Christian faith is the assertion that people are saved by grace. There's nothing **you** have to do. There's nothing you **have** to do. There's nothing you have to **do**.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it.

Dear friends,

Another week under the Covid-19 restrictions has passed, and we give thanks that we have a little more flexibility in our activities. We hope that the number of cases continues to fall, and the actions taken to keep us all safe prove to be of lasting benefit.

This week our church community joins the Hall family as they grieve the death of Colin. A private funeral was held at Alexandra House on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, but there will be an opportunity to celebrate Colin's life at a Memorial Service to be held at a later date. If you would like to do so, please take the time to write down your memories of Colin and send them to me so that they may be collated into a booklet for Ngaire.

This Sunday is Wesley Day, the anniversary of the day in 1738 when John Wesley attended a group meeting in Aldersgate, London, where he received an experience of assurance of his salvation. This development of the Methodist movement. We give thanks for the life and legacy of John and Charles Wesley in our worship this week.

Blessings, Shelley



**PRESBYTER:** Rev Shelley Walker Ph. 07 8714453

Cell 0276948779 Email revshelleynz@gmail.com

**PARISH STEWARDS**

Nynke Piebenga 07 871 9595

Colin Pinkerton 07 8713554

**CHURCH OFFICE** 07 871 5376

**Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website**

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/find\\_us/waikato/waiariki/te\\_awamutu](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 emailbriceandjudith@hotmail.com**

**John Wesley** described Methodists as a people who had been raised up to spread 'Scriptural Holiness' throughout the land, and recognised that immersion in Scripture was one key way in which the people of God grew into maturity and faith.

Here are the **Lectionary Readings for this Sunday** for you to immerse yourself in.

**Acts 1: 6-14** Jesus is taken up to heaven but says "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power---"

**Psalms 68: 1-10, 32-35** Sing to God, sing praises to his name; He gives strength and power to his people.

**1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11**

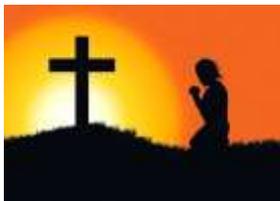
Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you.

**John 17: 1-11** Jesus prays for his disciples

### Services

Attached is this week's Worship at Home leaflet. It is a service for Wesley Day and likens the disciples dealing with the unusual situation of the ascension with us coping with the unusual events of isolation and crisis. God sent His Spirit to comfort the disciples and that same Spirit is there for us as well.

### Prayers for others



- Pray for Ngaire Hall and family as they mourn the loss of Colin
- Pray for people emerging from their bubbles to cope with a different world
- Pray for churches and other groups preparing to open their doors, and learning how to meet the necessary requirements.

### Touchstone:

The latest edition of Touchstone is now available and can be found on the Methodist Church website. If you would prefer a print copy, please contact Shelley.

### 2020 Wesley Day Seminar

Trinity College will mark Wesley Day this year with a Seminar via Zoom video conference. Please see attached document for more information.

You can take part in this online gathering by clicking on this zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94955780498> (Meeting ID: 949 5578 0498). *Please mute your microphone as you enter the Zoom room to avoid audio feedback during the seminar.*



We were initially planning for a Public Lecture but the COVID-19 restrictions mean we have to adjust our plan.

The seminar will also be streamed live via Trinity College's [Facebook](#) page.

### Brennan Manning writes of GRACE

"God loves me just as I am and not as I should be.  
He loves me beyond worthiness and unworthiness.  
He loves me beyond my fidelity and infidelity.  
He loves me in the morning sun and the evening rain  
without caution, regret, limit or breaking point.  
No matter what I do, He will not stop loving me.  
And this is grace."

