

This comes from **Barbara Peddie, Chair Methodist Publishing Board** and **Ady Shannon, Editor Touchstone**

Note that it contains a link to the latest edition of Touchstone.

Greetings

Please find a link [Click HERE](#) to the latest edition of *Touchstone*.

Over recent weeks, existing words have taken on new meanings. Who knew that a 'bubble' would refer to those you cohabit alongside, and that 'Alert levels' would be tiered and come with prescriptive restrictions around ways of living and behaving? If our language has changed with Covid-19, so too has our environment. And that change has required flexibility and agility in going about our daily lives.

This month we explore Covid-19 adaptability as many have discovered new and novel ways of dealing with novel coronavirus. Throughout Aotearoa people and communities are doing things differently; presbyters are pre-recording worship and posting clips on YouTube, iwi are erecting cordons to protect their vulnerable, early education centres are connecting with their young students and their caregivers via interactive apps, and night shelters are open-all-hours to provide a safe haven for men and women who have no bubble to call their own. The efforts that so many have made to adapt to this global crisis in a short space of time are diverse and inspiring. Kiwi ingenuity at its best.

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**Notices for next Sunday's bulletin to Lynn please
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Weekly Newsletter – 3rd May 2020

**METHODIST PARISH OF
TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA**

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



Easter 4

Do you have a favourite bible verse? This week's lectionary readings include my favourite - John 10:10

One version puts it this way -

"I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

For me life in all its fullness is a life of freedom. Freedom to be. Freedom from my stuff ups of the past. Freedom to treat each day as a new gift. Freedom to be me rather than trying to be like someone else (which I did for much of my life). Freedom to love extravagantly in the face of whatever is going on in my and other's lives. I believe that this is what Jesus came to teach us, show us and gift to us.

I came across this quote -

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you." L.R. Knost

Lynn

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Acts 2.42-47](#) Life amongst the early Christians was like being family together. It

involved meeting together in different homes and in the temple, learning from the apostles, praying, breaking bread and sharing possessions.

[Psalm 23](#) This is David's famous shepherd's psalm in which the Lord's relationship with his people is likened to a good shepherd looking after his sheep.

[1 Peter 2.19-25](#) If we suffer for doing right we are following in Christ's footsteps. "He was nailed to the cross, so that we would stop sinning and start living right. By his cuts and bruises you are healed."

[John 10.1-10](#) Jesus the shepherd leads his sheep. "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

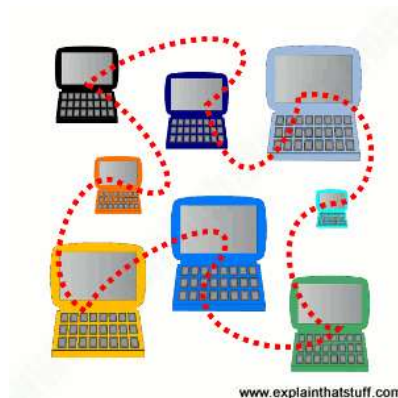


Pray for others -

- for children and young people returning to school and early childhood centres. For the teachers who are there with them. For teachers connecting with their students at home with learning programmes and for parents and others who oversee this.
- for owners and staff looking for innovative ways to keep their businesses afloat within level 3 restrictions
- for families and friends separated and feeling isolated by border closures

Virtual Morning Tea Thankyou Judith for initiating this wonderful idea. It is great to catch up with the chit chat in this way while we are unable to share in person.

Don't forget to check out our **Facebook Page**



This week's lectionary psalm is Psalm 23. *This prayer is by Rev. Gerardo Oberman, Red Create, Argentina:*

A Psalm for this time

The grace of God guides us,
We don't lack and never will lack anything.
He leads us to places of rest and care
and to drink waters of trust.
He renews our strength
so we do not abandon the path of solidarity,
because it is there, in our empathy with others,
where we honour his name.

Even though we pass through polluted streets
and places of possible contagions,
we will not fear any danger,
because You, divine presence,
maintain the prudent distance between tenderness and respect,
and that inspires us with serenity and confidence.

We will share the table again, and the banquet and the party,
before the astonished gaze of the empire of the viruses
and of any empire that proposes death and exclusion.
We will fill our cups again until they overflow
to toast for the new worlds,
already stripped of their greed and their thirst for power,
more aware of being family, people, humanity.

Surely your goodness and love
will follow us every hour of each journey
until we know how to make this earth of yours
a house in which we can all live,
in our full and rich diversity,
with health, fullness, dignity,
bread, shelter, work and justice,
forever.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/covid-19/pray>