

Weekly Newsletter – 6th September 2020

METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



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Fatherhood is a vocation: fathers are called to serve as teachers, models, guides, authority figures, and companions. But fathers are real and imperfect people who, for many different reasons, make mistakes and fall short of being the ideal parent.

Today, in a special way, let us be grateful for:

Our fathers — by birth or adoption — who love us and support us through life

Our single parents (mothers or fathers), who love us and walk with us through life

Our teachers and mentors, who act as role models and take on the role of guiding us through life

And God our Father, who will always love us unconditionally.

Happy Father's Day! Blessings, Shelley.

Talents and Treasures

Planning for the Talents and Treasures event is well underway but is delayed until another suitable date is available. *June*

The Wednesday morning 'Coffee on the Street' will not be held until we are back at Level One. *Shelley*

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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 Lynn please
Phone 07 871 3554 or email lyncol.pinkerton@gmail.com

Season of Creation - Forest Sunday

The observance of a Season of Creation began in the Lutheran Church in Australia in 2000 as a response to the environmental crisis. Since then this opportunity for the church to examine creation-based themes has spread to many different denominations and around the world.

It is also Father's Day today. Like Mother's Day, Father's Day can be polarising. For some, it's a fun excuse to get the family together (well, with limitations this year in Auckland especially) to have a meal and give Dad gifts and/or lots of hugs. Or a day to remember our fathers and who they were for us, or for the Dads amongst us to hear from their families from afar. But for others, it triggers upsetting memories. There are plenty of reasons why Father's Day is a day some people dread, or at least find challenging. Whether someone's dad is deceased, estranged, absent, or not the ideal father, it can be hard for the children (even if/when they're adults), as well as the fathers themselves. Close to my heart this year is a family member who longs to be a father but is suffering the heartbreak of miscarriages. *Lynn*

*Thankyou God for all who show a parent's love - your love - in our world.
Thankyou for those who are special to us. Be close to those who are sad today. Help us to remember that you, our loving parent, are always close.
In Jesus' loving name, Amen*

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Exodus 12.1-14](#) The institution of the Passover. An animal is to be killed for dinner but some of the blood must be put on the doorposts. "...when I see the blood I will pass over you."

[Psalm 149](#) "All you faithful people praise the glorious Lord." A song of praise tinged with a note of the psalmist's vengefulness.

[Romans 13.8-14](#)

All our responsibilities toward others can be summed up in the words "love others." The day of our salvation is drawing nearer, so we should live

[Matthew 18.15-20](#)

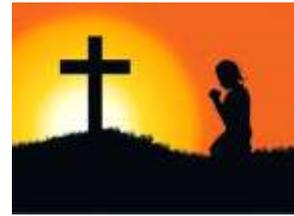
Jesus gives instruction for handling sin in the church and then talks of the power of two or three people praying together.

Services coming up (all subject to lockdown announcements)

- Sept 6** Rev Shelley – Communion
1st Sunday in Creation – Forest2 September 2020
7pm Reflective Service
- 13** Rev Shelley – 2nd Sunday in Creation - Land
Spring Flower Service
- 20** Rev Dr Susan - 3rd Sunday in Creation - Wilderness
- 25 - Friday** - wwwexplore 6pm
- 27** Rev Shelley - 4th Sunday in Creation - River

Our **Reflective Service** will be held at 7pm on September 6 so that is tonight. Please note the new pattern of services on the first Sunday of the month rather than the 3rd. Come along to experience this time of reflection led by Rev Shelley.

Our **wwwexplore service** (we will worship and explore) will be held Friday September 25 at 6pm followed by a supplied meal. Everyone is welcome to come along and share in this.



Pray for others -

- Please remember Rev Mele Molitika's family and the Cambridge Union Parish in your prayers.

- pray for all who show a parent's love (as on the front of this bulletin)

- pray for our people, and all we know, who are convalescing after time in hospital



Congregational AGM This is coming up on 4 October. Could all groups please get their Annual Report to Rev Shelley no later than 20 September so she can prepare the booklet accordingly.

Dear friends,

Another week under Covid-19 restrictions, and perhaps we are getting used to this level of 'normality'.

There are still things we cannot do, but we look forward to being able to celebrate together in the way we used to. This Sunday we celebrate Father's Day, so let us pause to think of the importance of a loving father — his guiding hand, his wisdom, his help. God the Father gave up his only son, Jesus Christ, so that we might learn from him and through him might see God.

Matthew's Gospel (10:35) contains the verse, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

This is a difficult, challenging statement to comprehend, yet in today's complex world, we see this kind of division happening in families everywhere. The call of the Gospel is challenging — and so is the vocation of fatherhood.

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