

The first **Parish Council** meeting for the year will be Tuesday February 16th at 2pm. Venue to be decided on and advised!

**Lenten studies:**

Lent is rapidly approaching - Ash Wednesday is 17 February! Is there any interest in a four week Lenten Studies programme this year? The time and day of the week can be tailored to suit those interested, so please see Shelley.

There is an **Ecumenical Service** to commemorate Ash Wednesday: 7pm Wednesday 17 February at St Patrick's Catholic Church.

It was wonderful to see our church full to capacity last Tuesday evening for the **Induction service for the new Superintendency Team** for our Waikato-Waiariki (Bay of Plenty) Synod of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

Our President of Conference Rev Andrew Doubleday led the service, Rev Mary Caygill preached an inspiring message and our Deacon June Higham was the organist. Our choir presented a sung blessing. Deacon Margaret Birtles, Viv Whimster and Rev Alison Molineaux make up the team and have decided that 'Superintendency Team' is too much of a mouthful, so they will be known as the 'Super Team'. Thankyou to the many of you who helped with the different arrangements for the service and supper.

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

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

**Weekly Newsletter – 7th February 2021**

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

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



**Covenant Sunday**

Last week Rev Shelley challenged us to prepare ourselves to be able to pray today John Wesley's Covenant Prayer.

The Wesleyan Covenant Prayer was adapted by John Wesley for the renewal of the believer's covenant with God. Wesley says that the prayer was first used in a covenant renewal service held on Monday, August 11, 1755, in London, with 1800 people present. Since then, the Wesleyan Covenant is used by Methodists, usually at the beginning of each year, as a deep surrender of ourselves in complete trust to God. It is not a comfortable prayer to pray. *Lynn*

"I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

## Lectionary Readings for Covenant Sunday:

\* [Jeremiah 31.31-33](#) This prophecy of Jeremiah tells of a day when God will make a new agreement with his people. His law will be written, not in stone, but on people's hearts.

[Psalm 25.4-15](#) David prays for guidance and protection and he extols the Lord's kindness to those who keep their agreement with him.

[Romans 12.1-2](#) Paul pleads with Christians to allow God to transform their thoughts so that they are distinct from other people. "...offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice..."

\* [John 15.1-8](#) Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches. We produce fruit by staying joined to him.

## Alternative readings for Epiphany 5

[Isaiah 40.21-31](#) God created the world and the stars of the sky. He energises the weary, and those who trust in him find new strength.

[Psalm 147.1-11, 20](#) The Psalmist encourages God's people to praise the Lord who is great and powerful and heals the broken-hearted.

[1 Corinthians 9.16-23](#) Paul speaks of his sense of obligation to share the gospel and how he seeks to identify with his hearers.

[Mark 1.29-39](#) Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and many others. The reason he came was to preach the good news and this is what he set about doing.

## Alternative readings for Waitangi Day

[Deuteronomy 10.12-21](#)

[Psalm 144.9-15](#)

[1 Corinthians 1.26-31](#)

[Matthew 6.19-24](#)

## Services coming up:

- 7 February 10am: Covenant Communion service: Rev Shelley
- 14 February 10am: Rev Shelley
- 14 February 4pm: Tamahere Eventide - Rev Shelley
- 21 February 10am: Rev Anne
- 23 February (Tuesday) 2pm: Highfield CHT
- 26 February (Friday) 10:45am: Beattie Home, Otorohanga
- 28 February 10am: Rev Shelley

## Please pray for -



Our Rev Dr Susan Thompson as she begins her new role as chaplain at Tamahere Eventide Home. There was a powhiri for Susan this last Wednesday and we wish you well Susan as you begin this new chapter in your life.

**Next Sunday** - February 14th -

## Parish Lunch



Bev and Trev have invited everyone to their new home for a parish lunch. We are in for such a treat as we ascend to great heights on the slopes of Mount Pirongia. Please bring food to share. There is a sheet in the lounge for you to indicate that you would like transport. Please do that today, or let Rita Middleton know during the week (0272435815) so that arrangements can be made next Sunday to get us all up there. There will be a map available on the day for drivers/navigators.

**Saturday 27 February**

## Road trip!

Learn more about the Invasion of the Waikato as we follow in the footsteps of General Cameron, 1863-64. If you are interested in this trip, please let Robin Astridge know so we can arrange suitable transport. He has a list in the lounge for you to add your names. We are so blessed to have our historian Robin as one of us and this is an opportunity to experience his vast knowledge of our own land.

