

3 June 2020  
Number 10

# Waikato-Waiariki on Wednesdays

*“Arahina mātou, ngā iwi  
katoa hoki i ngā huarahi  
o te tika, o te  
rangimārie.”*

*Guide us and all people  
in the way of justice and  
peace.*

*(A New Zealand Prayer  
Book)*

*“Laumālie Mā’oni’oni,  
lālanga kimautolu ke  
talaki mo’ui!”*

*Holy Spirit, weave us  
together to proclaim life!*

Kia ora e te whānau! If all goes well New Zealand may soon be moving to Alert Level 1 and a new set of guidelines about how to keep ourselves and others safe from Covid 19.

Yet, one thing I’m hearing often is a desire not to simply ‘go back to our old normal’. There are many challenges facing our world. The tragic killing of George Floyd and the ongoing evil of racism is a reminder of only one area where change is desperately needed.

This week District Synod meets by Zoom. We will reflect on our lives and faith in a post-Covid 19 world and the importance of growing back not to what was, but instead towards what we can become.

## News

The Methodist website is up and running again. Keep updated with the latest advice at [www.methodist.org.nz](http://www.methodist.org.nz)

## Staying connected

Now that we are moving towards Alert Level 1, Synod Executive has decided to meet by Zoom on a monthly basis. We save on travel, our meetings are shorter and it helps us stay on top of our business! Those in ministry have also appreciated regular Zoom meetings. They have allowed people who are physically distant to connect, to stay updated and to share ideas. We will continue to meet monthly.

## Reopening as gathered congregations

This week’s ministry meeting shared the decisions each congregation has made about reopening churches for worship.

A small number met for worship on Pentecost Sunday and services were marked by lots of joyful noise (but no singing), a strong pastoral focus and creative approaches to maintaining physical distancing.

More congregations are opening this Sunday and others have decided to wait until Alert Level 1 or even the end of June.

A number of churches will be continuing online services even when they do reopen. These will enable people who aren't yet able or ready to return to church to receive spiritual care and nurture.

One helpful suggestion was that congregations prepare a "Welcome Back" video to let people know what steps have been taken to make the church a safe space. This could be posted on websites or Facebook.

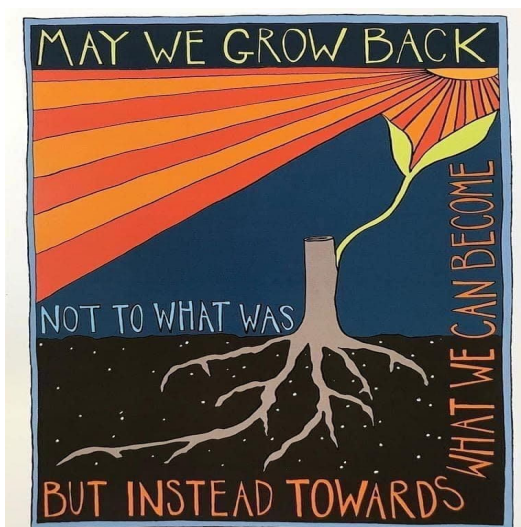
### Zoom updates

If you are planning to join a Zoom meeting, note that you will need to download the latest version of the Zoom programme. Go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) for a free download of Version 5.0.

### This week's Synod events

**District Synod** is being held by Zoom on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Contact Jenny if you haven't received the link.

Our Synod Youth are gathering for a **Youth Zui** on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 7pm. All youth are invited to an exciting spiritual night.



### Contact details

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