

Levin Uniting Parish Communiqué

Building Bridges. Uniting People.

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www.levinuniting.church



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Levin Uniting Church

THERE IS NO RESURRECTION WITHOUT THE CROSS

Welcome to the Lenten Season. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. It is the Church's spiritual journey through which we join Jesus in his great suffering on our behalf. As the disciples of Jesus, we follow in his footsteps. Lent reminds us that those footsteps are self-sacrificing, and often bloody.

The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness to fast, pray, and endure the temptations of the devil, all in preparation for his public ministry which would culminate in his death on the cross.

Each year Lent offers us the opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters. This Lenten season, I encourage you to hear and ponder more deeply the word of God, and to more intentionally connect with God in prayer (suggestions for how to do this are included in this Communiqué).

Let's together embark on the Lenten journey, so together we can fully receive the joy of Easter.

Arohanui
Sandra



WHERE ARE WE AT WITH BUILDING BRIDGES?

Parish Meeting

On **Sunday 22 March** following the morning service, we will hold a parish meeting to update you all on the progress toward achieving our Mission Goals.

We will begin the meeting in the Gilmour Lounge around 11:30 am to enable everyone to have some morning tea first and will commit to concluding by 12:30pm.



Going Deeper in Lent – Practise Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina simply means divine reading and is an ancient practise of reflecting on the word of God.

PREPARE. Choose a Bible passage. Still yourself (a few deep breaths are always helpful) and invite the Holy Spirit to quiet your heart and make you aware of the Father's presence.

LECTIO (Read). Read the passage slowly and prayerfully allowing short pauses between sentences. Then allow a time of silence to open yourself further to God's Spirit.

MEDITATIO (Receive). Read the same passage again, this time noticing your attention being drawn to a particular word or phrase. Silently reflect, asking God any questions that come to mind. The focus is on listening to what the Father has to say to you.

ORATIO (Respond). Read the passage a third time, listening now for God's invitation and responding from the heart. The Father is always inviting us in some way... to let go of something, or to take up something; to do something or be something. Talk to God about what this might mean for you.

CONTEMPLATIO (Rest). Rest now in the love that the Father has for you. There is no further need to reflect or respond, but simply to allow the Spirit to draw you close and fill you with God's love, grace and peace. As you linger in this place of deep connection, you are being filled and refreshed for your continuing journey.

CELEBRATING: WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Held on: 21 March – every year

Written & Photo By: Jillian McKenzie (10.2.2020)

"Down Syndrome" was first documented by John Down, hence the name, that is every 660 natural births someone was (and still is) born with this genetic anomaly happening at conception (1:660); sporadically there was (and is) a 'cluster' where there are many babies born close together with Down Syndrome – Ngaire, born 2000, was born in a 'cluster' time and there are quite a few people around her age both in Wellington and Manawatu. The 1:660 figure has changed in 1st world countries to less than 1:1200 births due to compulsory pregnancy testing for Down Syndrome and encouraged "terminations" (medical term for strongly-advised abortions) – no other humans are treated with such vigorous eradication through pregnancy than Down Syndrome people.

It is where 3 chromosomes are present on the 21st chromosome and then every cell from there on in has 47 chromosomes, not 46. These people are something more than most people, not something less. The 21st chromosome itself is a short chromosome so anomalies are compatible with natural sustainable-life (and long life), whereas other longer chromosomes with anomalies are not so compatible with life. Nowadays, it is recognised that it can occur in either the sperm or the egg, or at conception, but also within the first 3 months of a pregnancy, and that most mothers are between 18 and 28 which is the highest birthing age range of mothers, (and all the other mothers within the 2000-ish 'cluster' fitted that age group percentage). I was told by Genderists that if the chromosomes anomaly happens nearer to conception the more major health issues of the baby, and the nearer to the 3 month the fewer health issues, i.e. major organs are being created in the foetus nearer to conception, e.g. heart, brain, lungs, spine, etc.

Down Syndrome has had several commonly used names over the centuries, and each 40+ years that name becomes offensive or no longer politically correct to the next generation for, however the general public are slower to change. Likewise, about the last 20 years (my daughter's age) there has been a move to use the medical terminology, as "Down" has the connotation of being 'down and out'. The term that most younger people use is "Trizomy 21", pronounced "tri-zom-mee 21" (long 'o' sound as in 'chromosome'). I see from information about 2019's World Down Syndrome Day, that the United Nations are moving away from using the words "Special Needs" when talking about these people. Among others, there are two good short YouTube videos that show this theme: "World Down Syndrome Day 2019 Not Special" and "Lea goes to school – 21 March 2019".

'Down Syndrome International' first launched their website in 2006 (same year that Kimberley closed here in Levin, and the same year as NZ Sign Language became the 3rd official NZ language). In 2011 the United Nations decided to make 21st March as the official 'World Down Syndrome Day' as part of their calendar to ensure the Human Rights of people with Down Syndrome. This is also to promote global awareness of freedom of personal choice and full inclusion into all areas of society for people with Down Syndrome. The largest United Nations offices, both in Geneva and New York, organise worldwide events and discussions to promote this day. Each year more and more people are taking action. One way United Nations promote World Down Syndrome Day is by wearing of long, brightly coloured, odd socks on the actual day – 21st March – as an icebreaker to get the world talking. There are specific designer-socks that can be purchased through #LotsOfSocks.socks . Last year 32,000 pairs of official designer socks were bought. This year the designer is Jijo Das, who has been inspired by the twisted x pattern of the 3 chromosomes.



Levin Uniting Parish has two regular parishioners who have Trizomy 21, Ngaire Ridley and Cameron Easton. Ngaire has been interested in cycling since 2004, mainly on roads and official bike tracks, with her father and sister. Cameron has a long interest in swimming and continues to receive medals in Special Olympics. There used to be an older lady that came to St Andrews, but I haven't seen her for some time now.

So on 21st March 2020 if you don't purchase the official socks, still find some long, brightly coloured, odd sock to wear, to promote the basic right of all of us which is covered in the "Human Rights Act" for all of us to have total inclusion in society, to be valued, and to be free to have personal choice.

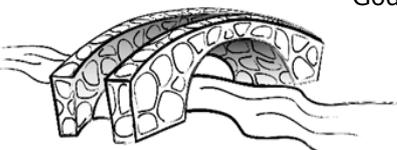
BUILDING BRIDGES. UNITING PEOPLE

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

The first step in BUILDING BRIDGES and connecting with the work of God in the wider community is to discover what the needs are and to discern how God is calling us to respond. It is easy to assume we know the needs, but the reality may be quite different. Intentional discovery requires research. It requires relationship building with the local District Council, social service agencies and the business and education sectors. It requires listening deeply to each of you. To assist with this work, the Parish Council have received a \$10,000 grant from Presbytery Central which, along with some of our reserves, enables us to employ Roxy Warrington on a fixed term contract to complete the project,

BUILDING BRIDGES Phase 1: Community Research and Societal Mapping.

God is certainly blessing us with his provisions.
Please pray for Roxy and for our parish leaders
as we further discern the call of God.



Going Deeper in Lent – Enter Intentionally Into Holy Week

During Holy Week, the week leading up to Good Friday, there will be a service each evening. Put these in your diary now. Further information will be available in the April Communiqué.



PARISH COUNCIL February 2020

After reading our study book, "Who Stole My Church?", this month we discussed 'paradigm shifts'—that is, a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions—and what this means for our worship services. Technology has changed, styles of music have changed, what our younger people are used to in their everyday life is very different from older generations—this means that if we want to be a healthy sustainable church, we need to cater for all those different needs. This will require a lot of thought, so we will be coming back next month with some thoughts in mind to discuss this matter further. If you have any ideas, please share with one of our parish council members.

With our new focus on 'building bridges, uniting people' we previously decided we need to discover where those bridges need to be built—without making our own assumptions, that could be wrong. Already we've discovered areas that we hadn't even considered before. Accordingly, we decided to appoint a Community Liaison and Research Officer to delve into this research. As such we requested funding to support this position, which has been approved since this meeting, of \$10,000.

We are having our church logo redesigned, and we viewed a few ideas, deciding on a design that represented our new 'building bridges, uniting people' approach best—which included a lovely colour pallet especially picked for the appropriate mood they provoke. Watch this space.

Another initiative we would like to start is to have a verger (an Anglican term, but there doesn't appear to be a Presbyterian or Methodist equivalent), that is, a person who can do any errands that are required around the church for Sunday morning services or other events such as funerals. That person would be responsible for opening up the church, making sure the worship leader has a glass of water, starting heaters in winter, etc. We have appointed Peter Cameron into this role, but will be looking for one or two more people who might be able to fill in when Peter is unavailable.

We're looking forward to a new year of new opportunities.



Going Deeper in Lent – Set a Bible reading goal

A good goal for Lent would be to pray through the gospel of Matthew, maybe a chapter a day. Keep a journal and pen with you and write your thoughts on the following:
What was the setting for this story?
What is being said?
What might this mean for my life?

CHURCH SOCIAL EVENTS

The social team is planning events for us all for the year and would like to let you know what we are planning. We intend to try and do around 6 events a year. Bus hire will be around \$20-00 per person. We will attempt to get some events at weekends for families and those who are working.



Church Picnic

A **church Picnic** on Sunday 15th March at Foxton beach.

Bring your own lunch and there will be activities for one and all. Bring your armchairs, lunch and walking shoes.

OPERATUNITY SHOWS. Cost for these is \$35-00 pp. Carpooling included.
Dates we are looking at are-, 5th May Showtime Vegas or 8th September "Fab 50's".
20th October-"I love Paris".

A **trip to Mount Bruce** in September. Cost for this would be \$17.00 adults plus the bus cost around \$20-00. There are family passes as well



Maybe a mid-winter Christmas dinner? During the winter months a soup and rolls after church.

THE ALL STAR TALENT SHOW

Winter Concert July 11th. This will be a bring and share finger food tea at 5.30 followed by a concert showing us your talent.

Any other ideas are welcome. Might you be interested in a cards afternoon, e.g. 500 Murray Easton and Viv are keen.

Contact Viv Hudson 3687191, David Emmott, Ruth Rushton 3683816 or Murray Easton for further details and expressions of interest



Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then you light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. The Lord will guide you continually. *Isaiah 58: 10-11a*
...now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. *Ephesians 5: 8b-9*

If you know of someone who is not well, PLEASE let the office know! I will get someone to get in contact

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

NOTICES FOR MARCH

T.C.F. Thursday 5th March, 10am in the Gilmour Lounge
Afternoon Fellowship: Tuesday 10th March, 1.30pm in the Gilmour Lounge.

Ladies Lunch: Tuesday 24th—lunch at The Masonic café. 12.30pm ALL ladies welcome

THE IMPORTANCE OF A WARM WELCOME

A Meeting of the Door Greeters.

The ministry of greeting people as they arrive for worship is very important. If you are a door greeter, or would like to consider offering for this ministry, please come to a discussion/training session

Sunday 8th March, 11:30am in the Wesley Lounge.

If you are involved in this ministry but unable to attend, please contact Sandra or the parish office with your apology.



Going Deeper in Lent – Download a support app

There are many good apps that can be downloaded onto your phone to assist with daily prayer. To begin try '3 Minute Retreat' by Loyola Press, or 'Daily Prayer App' by RethinkMe or, 'Lectio 365' by 24-7 Prayer.



An Invitation to Missional Leadership Presbytery Central Gathering

14 March 2020

St Alban's Presbyterian Church
 339 Albert St, Palmerston North 9.45am—7pm
 More info on Hall notice board.

To register: contact the Presbytery Central office for a form or: tinyurl.com/GatheringMar2020

Cuppa Time after Worship for March:

March 1st Lois & Bob
 March 8th Helen & Paul Kirkby
 March 15th Rosemary McKay/Heather Haines
 March 22nd Ruth & Richard Rushton
 March 29th Margaret Challies/Betty Burborough
 April 5th Murray Easton/David Emmott



Going Deeper in Lent –

Pray With Each Other

Come to the 'Hour of Power' parish prayer meeting, every Tuesday until Easter, 5-6pm in the Iona Room.



Family Worship

The 4th Friday of every month
 5.30–7pm. Meal provided

27th March

in Levin Uniting Hall

As part of our 'building bridges, uniting people' initiative, we have decided to have a monthly family worship service, catering for the needs of children, youth and families, and more. This programme will include a meal (provided), worship time, an object lesson, discussion and study, prayer, interactive activities and of course fellowship.

We would like to encourage everyone to come and support this new initiative. This opportunity will connect people of all ages in an engaging and relevant way, both within the church and the community, and help them develop a relationship with God in a fun and meaningful way.

Prayer Chain:

If you would like someone to be added to the Prayer chain, please let Elizabeth in the office know. Would you like to be part of the Prayer Chain? Contact the office for more info.



LNI Synod Meeting

21st March 10am
 at Feilding Methodist Church
 11 Grey Street.
 Mark your diary now!

Date	Time	What	Where
Sunday 1st	10am	Communion	Church
Thursday 5th	10am	Women's T.C.F.	Gilmour Lounge
Saturday 7th	8am-11.30am	Monthly Market	Hall complex
Sunday 15th	12pm ish	Church Picnic	Foxton Beach
Wed 18th	7.30pm	Parish Council	Gilmour Lounge
Tuesday 24th	12.30pm By 2pm	Ladies Lunch Communique Material DUE	The Masonic Café Into the Office
Friday 27th	5.30pm	UNITE Family Worship	Hall
Friday 3rd	9am	Newsletter Team	Ministry Office
Sunday 4th	10am	Communion	Church

Levin Uniting Parish What's coming up

March 2020

Every Sunday	10am Worship	Levin & Waitarere Hall
	6pm Community Meal	Hall
	7pm Service	Hall
Every Tuesday	12pm Prayer with Jack	Wesley Lounge
Every Thursday	7.30pm Choir Practice	Gilmour Lounge