

BushFire

Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa NZ
May 2020



Photo from the Contemplative Christianity facebook page

Bushfire has taken a break while we all concentrated on our own bubbles. Now is the time for slowly working out what our lives will be like in this post COVID time. Some of us think of the big picture and what we'll be doing at Christmas while others are thinking short term. This week schools are back and how will we work through that, what will it be next week..

Church life has been different with Zoom meetings, written service sheets, facebook comments and you tube services as well as lots of phone calls.

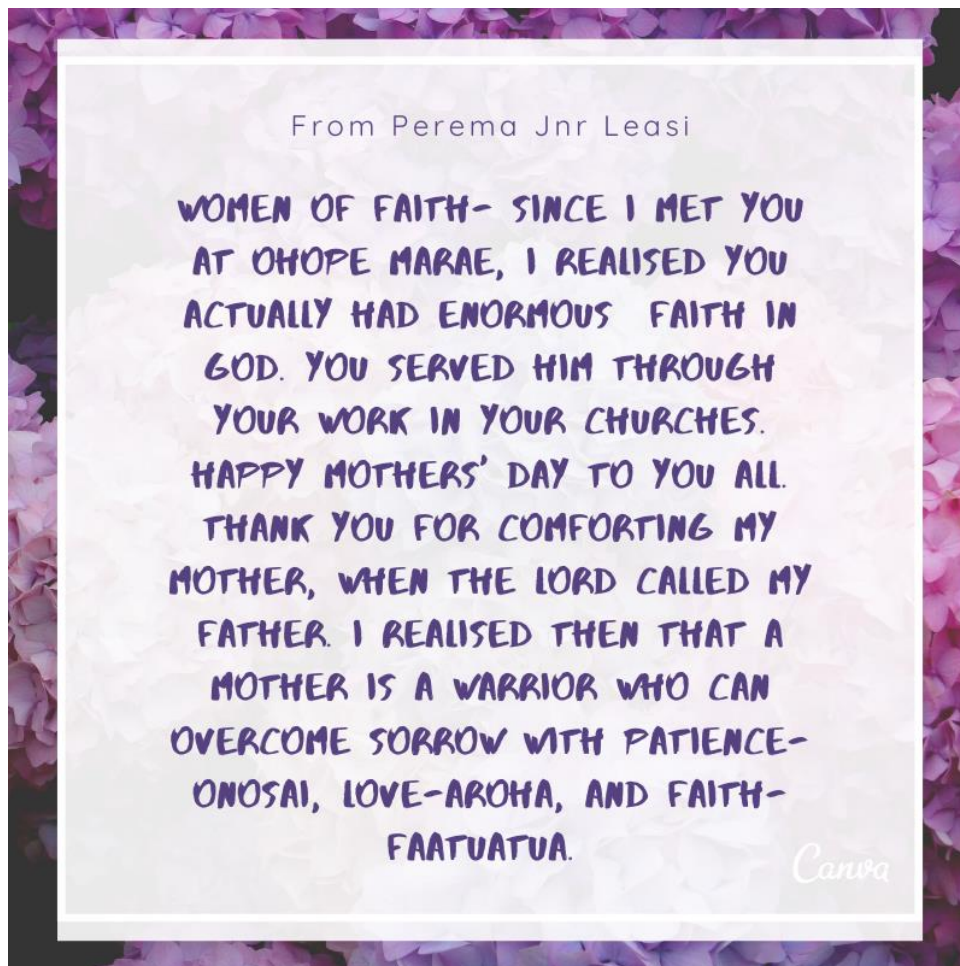
This Bushfire is a catch up on what has been put on our facebook page, so please be patient if you have read this before..

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May 2020

Happy Mother's Day to you all - YES we're still celebrating it regardless of the sudden changes in our faith journey and daily lifestyles due to Covid-19. One of those fundamental changes, is how our children/grandchildren have closely knitted into our compassionate bubbles to become comfort bubbles for us, full of surprises. My son PJ always accompanies me to various women's fellowship activities - he surprised me with his message here...May you all be blessed by your families this Mother's Day as mothers, grandmothers, aunties as we remain in Level 3 Lockdown this year.

Faaolataga-Ola Leasi



April 2020

Presbyterian Women cease all meetings for 2020

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) has announced that all national meetings scheduled or planned for 2020 are cancelled. See message below from national president, Faaolataga Leasi:

Kia ora! The phenomenal touch of Lent Season has currently embraced us through the sequence of uncertainties due to covid-19 lockdown, which affects us all spiritually, psychologically, culturally and socially. Therefore, we wish to announce that every single PWANZ meeting and/or gathering at local or regional level is cancelled. Indeed our yearly national gathering is now postponed to 2021. An immense thank you to the parishes, churches and individuals who contributed via Special Offering/Collection last month; we're grateful of your spirit of giving.

Now may the Peace of Good Friday and the Power of Easter Sunday heal the grief and the heartbroken of the lockdown. "But Jesus immediately said to them; "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matt 14:27). Aroha nui kia koutou katoa! Much love to you all! Alofa tele atu mo outou!

Faaolataga-Ola Leasi

March 2020

Kia ora nga wahine Whakapono!

Talofa lava! Malo e lelei! Kia orana and greetings Women of Faith! Welcome again to our sharing via our newsletter - it's Lent Season already. Lent also known as a retreat season to grow closer to Jesus, to reflect back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God *within* us. This will enable us to defeat evil but to share love and open our hearts to those who are suffering and grieving; like myself. My grief is raw and deep but it's slowly healed by the gracious love of God – Thus I am in awe of your prayers and thoughts – thank you all. Of course Lent is Love – Love is Lent – Lent reminds us Women to Walk with Jesus no matter what.....

So coming up is the IWD (international Women's Day) and the WDP (World Day of Prayers) falls on Friday 6th March 2020 at your regional gatherings. This leads to our Special Collection/Offerings on Sunday 8th March and all of this month to collect your offerings. So, thank God for you women and girls for inspiring, striving and serving community and God, whilst nurturing children and families – only you and I can do it.



E whahine rangatira katoa koe! Your all amazing women! Malo fai o le faiva!

I wish to acknowledge Mavis, AnneMarie and Ruth and PWANZ delegates heading to NY this week for the UN Convention – May the Lord journey with you all and return well. Haere ra! Kia ora te haerenga!

To conclude, I wish to dedicate this song called "Woman, Amen" (Thank God for this woman) by Dierks Bently [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXOTJ-tluUU&list=RDmXOTJ-tluUU&start_radio=1] to all of you sisters of Faith.

Faaolataga-Ola Leasi

(The UN Convention was cancelled this year after some of our delegation had already travelled to New York)

Message from administrator.

Hello everyone, I want to thank all of you for your warm welcome to me as I start this new role as PWANZ administrator, and the support I've had from Nation Executive. Our Mission statement is "Serving God locally and globally with love" and I have truly felt that love.

Some important changes to note, there is a new postal address

PO box 7174, Pioneer Highway, Palmerston North 4443

There is a redirection notice on the previous PO Box, if you have sent mail there it still gets to me through the redirection order.

Membership subscription is due now for the 2019/2020 financial year. It is now \$20 per year. With this subscription we aim to provide a voice for Presbyterian Women within our church, our New Zealand society and to provide a way to connect with each other through PresWomen Bushfire, and the facebook page.

Please send us articles or comments to publish in PresWomen Bushfire or post them on the facebook page - Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand - if you are a facebook user. It's great to hear from you, see familiar faces and have a glimpse into what is happening around the country.

Seeing firsthand the donations that are made to the special projects and mission birthday gifts gives me an insight into the faithfulness and generosity of Presbyterian Women caring for God's creation.

Blessings

Ruth Steven

Presbytery Central – Nukuhau Tapu has a list of the various electronic ways that churches are trying out in this new time of digital communication. Here are what women ministers are doing in the central region and apologies if I have missed people out.

- Mangapapa Union Parish are worshipping together on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mangapapaunion/>
Paula Levy
- St James Whanganui are live on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stjameswanganuieast/>
Rev Morag Morgan
- St Andrew's Hastings have video worship on their website <https://blog.standrewshastings.org.nz/dir/covid-19-worship-video-services/>
Rev Jill McDonald
- St Ninian's Uniting Parish are offering worship services over Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stniniansunitingparish/>
Rev Hana Popea-Dell
- Gisborne Presbyterian Parish's service podcast goes live at 10:30am on their website <https://www.standrewsgis.org.nz/page/523920>
Rev Jin Sook
- St Paul's Napier are joining in Worship through their Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Presbyterian-Church-Napier-211359838877546/>
Rev Sally Carter

Some of 2019 *PWANZ in faith action*
(all photos taken by Faaolataga Leasi)

