

PERTH METHODIST CHURCH

MESSAGES AND INFO

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Our usual news-sheet is renamed Messages and Info and we hope it will be one of the ways we can keep in touch with each other during this strange and difficult time.

Please encourage others to read it and please print a copy for anyone you know who is not on email. Please also send in any items such as personal messages or info that you wish to share with members of the congregation.

Nik Wooller gives us her Manse Musings.

Musings from the Manse Matthew 22:1-15

A group of pharisees were out to trick Jesus. So, they asked him, "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" Now, this might not sound like a trick question, but it was. The imperial tax meant that the Romans forcefully took money from the Jews and if the Jews did not pay it, they were punished. If Jesus said yes to paying taxes, it would make the Jews very angry. But if Jesus said no, this was reason to send him straight to jail for defying Emperor Caesar. Instead, Jesus does not say yes or no. On the other hand, his answer was quite simple. He instructed them to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

Many people have heard the old saying: "Don't talk about religion and politics." But I think there's grave danger in abiding by this saying. Our reluctance to talk about religion and politics is one of the reasons, as a society, we're facing such a hostile environment these days. Instead of digging into the difficult work of learning how to talk (and disagree) with one another on serious matters of the heart and soul, we punted and let the adage create a false narrative that polite folks don't engage in such conversations.

First, as Christians, we must talk about our faith. Jesus tells us to go and make disciples, to share the good news of love and light with all we meet. Our faith is fundamental to the why of our lives. And politics is central to the how we live our lives. Political systems provide an infrastructure for safety, education, health, care for creation, our financial system, and so much more. If we can't talk about the why and how of our lives, what is there to talk about besides the weather?! In this passage from Matthew, Jesus is clear about maintaining a separation of church (religion) and state (politics), but that doesn't mean they're not connected. Our civic decisions should be deeply rooted in our faith values. The two are not separate streams never to run together but ones that feed into the same body of water, this world in which we live and love. This lesson from Matthew is also one often used to start discussions about stewardship. Are we remembering to give to God what is God's? I often ask myself these questions; Am I giving to God what is God's? and Am I living out my Christian Vocation, my baptismal vocation?

How do we as Christians ensure that we are calling for Justice and giving of ourselves through acts of Love, hope and peace, in our communities, in our work or leisure time, and in this world? Each one of us has been entrusted with the care of all of God's creations: the land, the animals, and one another. God has blessed us with gifts and passions to do such work, to be such stewards, and yet, we forget to use these blessings for such a

cause, sometimes we forget to give of ourselves to God, because stewardship isn't just about money. It's so much more. When I think of stewardship, I think about superheroes because stewardship is also about using your gifts and talents and giving those to God as well. Superheroes use their gifts and talents so clearly and wear them visibly on their sleeves. They live their lives based on those special gifts. What if we chose to be stewards like them? What are our gifts and talents? How can we be good stewards? And remember, there is a superhero in all of us.

Let us remember before God our Father our country and its people and give thanks for them and for all people.

We pray you, hear your people.

That everywhere on earth the Church may speak out without fear for peace and the rights and dignity of the human person, let us pray:

We pray you, hear your people.

That justice, love and responsible freedom may be the basis of the social order in the world and in our country, that all may live in peace and security, let us pray:

We pray you, hear your people.

That all humanity may share equitably in the world's material and spiritual goods, and that the state and civic organizations may help and protect the weak and the victims of calamities, let us pray:

We pray you, hear your people.

That all citizens may have a strong sense of civic responsibility and actively participate toward the common welfare; let us pray:

We pray you, hear your people.

That the Church in our country may bear witness to God's kingdom; that our country may play a role of honour in the family of nations and cooperate to world peace and unity, let us pray:

We pray you, hear your people.

God, you love people and people are your concern.
Make us share in your care
through your Son who became one of us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Worship, this Sunday 18th October.

This week's service will be on the Angus Dundee and Perthshire YouTube channel from 9am Sunday. (To access the service or any of the earlier services go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and where it says 'Search' enter 'Angus, Dundee and Perthshire Methodist Circuit'.) If you know of anyone who doesn't have access to YouTube and would like the service on DVD or a full script, please let Nick Wooller or Sue Marshall-Jennings smj4409@hotmail.co.uk know, so it can be posted to them each week.

The funeral for Joan Rangeley will be held at the crematorium on Thursday 22nd October at 12.30pm. If you would wish to attend, please phone Kathleen Halsall on Monday 19th October. Alternatively, please also let Kathleen know if you would like to have the link to the live streaming of the service.

Church Reopening

In the light of recent increases in the rate of Covid 19 infection, the Church Council was asked to reconsider its decision to plan towards reopening for worship in October. The subsequent vote reversed the earlier decision and there are now no plans to open in the near future. Nonetheless, the risk assessments have been completed and the building will be ready to open whenever the Church Council decides to do so. We thank the members of the small group who were appointed to undertake the assessments and to put the required measures in place. We are grateful to them for the care and thought, time and effort that they put into this.

Ethiopia Medical Project

Join us on Wed 28th October for an evening with inspirational speaker, Mark Beaumont, the ultra endurance adventurer who cycled round the world in 80 days.

www.ethiopiamedicalproject.com

Charitable Giving

The September Church Council received the suggestion that since we are unable to do much work in our local community at present, we could donate to some local charities which are currently meeting extreme need. One decision was to give £500 to P&K Food Bank and we noted two weeks ago that we had received a lovely letter of thanks from them. The other decision was to give £500 to Scottish Women's Aid. Yvonne has now received the following acknowledgement of this from Dr Marsha Scott

'Your donation comes at a vital moment as in these unprecedented times we know that those experiencing domestic abuse are facing particular fear and anxiety. We also know that the pandemic has caused a lot of financial uncertainty for many, and so we greatly appreciate that you have donated to us even in these difficult times'

Methodist Homes and Action for Children

Each summer we have a designated Sunday when we celebrate and raise money for these two charities. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to do so this year, especially when the need for both organisations is much greater than usual. We are planning to try to address this situation by inviting you to donate, if you wish, to MHA now and/or to AfC in December.

For MHA we invite you to write a cheque, **payable to Perth Methodist Church** and write **MHA on the back**, and send it to Yvonne whose address is in the church directory. Yvonne will then write a cheque for the total sum to MHA and send it to the Circuit MHA treasurer. Those who pay tax and can claim GiftAid can tear off the declaration below, complete it and enclose it with your cheque to Yvonne

.....

I enclose my donation of £.....

Title.....Full name.....

Home address.....

.....Post Code.....

I want MHA to claim GiftAid on all gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration.

I am a UK tax payer. Signed.....Date.....

Sundays at 7.00pm. We are reminded that Scottish Church leaders encourage us to continue to light a candle in a window and offer a prayer on Sunday evening. The prayer for this coming Sunday 18th October is as follows:

Lord, lead us
To the place where you are known
And to the assurance of your presence.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, lead us
To the place of rest
And to the promise of renewal.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, lead us
To the place where the people made in your image gather
And their voices are heard.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, lead us
To the place where we are called by our name
And find acceptance in your sight.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, lead us
To the place where we are protected
And our safety is assured.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, lead us
To the place where your glory is revealed
And our lives are transformed in Christ.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen.

This **Messages and Info sheet** is currently being produced by Gerald,
please send items for inclusion to him by 12 midday on Thursday each week.
His details are in the church directory.