

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

SEPTEMBER 2023

View this bulletin, view video clips and other information on our website:

<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com>

Church Office Phone: 09 423 8076



**Church Centre,
253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900**

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If you know of someone who was absent from church today, or who is new to our community, would you kindly deliver a copy of this bulletin to them... To Show We Care... Thanks.

Our Mission: 'Love God, Love Each Other, and Extend that Love beyond our Church'

What's Happening in September?

PASTORAL: Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are sick and recovering currently. If you know of any person who is ill or would particularly appreciate a visit, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care team. Our thoughts are with Runa as she recovers from the effects of a fall.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council Meeting for this month will be on **the 12th September.**

We are on FACEBOOK! Yes, we are! Please like the page for important updates at this [link](#), or go to Facebook and search for Wellsford - Methodist Presbyterian Co-Operating Church.



HERITAGE REST HOME SERVICE:

The Heritage Rest Home service will be from 10:00am until Noon on the first Friday of each month.

BIRTHDAYS: If your birthday is in **September**, a very happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to Mark Lorenzen, for the 3rd September. Belated greetings to Runa for her 93rd birthday back in July.



SHARED LUNCH after Church will be combined with the Church of Christ.



**REMAINING PARISH MEETINGS FOR
2023** 19 November

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PASTOR'S BLURB FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Brothers and sisters, September is the first month of glorious SPRING! How I love spring. It's the hopeful season. I can't tell you how much I love the flowering magnolia trees, the pink and cerise blossom abounding left, right and centre, and the young leaf on the shrubs and trees. I also love the warmer weather which comes later in spring. But I'm talking about the beginning of spring, the beginning of new life, the start of the opening of each flowering blossom. In the northern hemisphere, of course, the equivalent of September is April (actually it's March, but April is heavenly too. I always remember a line which goes, 'O to be in England when April's here!'). April derives its name from the Latin word aperio which means 'to open'. April is the time when blossoms are opening everywhere (in England). September brings the joyful opening of the blossoms and flowers here as well. Charles Spurgeon makes a fervent appeal to his parishioners to emulate nature, and let their spiritual beings which have been asleep during the long cold winter, wake up and let their hearts bud and bloom with holy desires. I can't put it better than the Prince of Preachers, so I'll quote him now: 'Do you tell me that the warm blood of youth leaps in your veins? Then, I entreat, give your vigour to the Lord. It was my unspeakable happiness to be called in early youth, and I could fain praise the Lord every day for it. Salvation is priceless, let it come when it may, but oh! An early salvation has a double value in it. Young men and maidens, since you may perish ere you reach your prime, 'It is time to seek the Lord'. Ye who feel the first signs of decay, quicken your pace: the hollow cough, that hectic flush, are warnings which you must not trifle with; with you it is indeed time to seek the Lord. Did I observe a little grey mingled with your once luxurious tresses? Years are stealing on apace, and death is drawing nearer by hasty marches; let each return to spring arouse you to set your house in order. Dear reader, if you are now advanced in life, let me entreat and implore you to delay no longer. There is a day of grace for you now – be thankful for that, but it is a limited season and grows shorter every time that the clock ticks. Here in this silent chamber, on this first night of another month, I speak to you as best I can by paper and ink, and from my inmost soul, as God's servant, I lay before you this warning, 'It is time to seek the Lord.' Slight not that work, it may be your last call from destruction, the final syllable from the lip of grace.' End quote. Your brother, David

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The Story behind the Hymns History of Hymns: 'Turn your Eyes upon Jesus' Source: Chat GPT

The hymn "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" was written by Helen Howarth Lemmel, an English-American hymnist and poet. The story behind the hymn's creation involves a powerful moment of personal inspiration and reflection.

Helen Lemmel was born in England in 1863 and later moved to the United States. She had a deep passion for music and wrote many hymns throughout her life. In the early 20th century, Lemmel experienced a profound spiritual encounter that led to the writing of "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus."

According to accounts, Helen Lemmel attended a religious conference where a speaker emphasized the importance of fixing one's gaze on Jesus Christ, rather than being consumed by the circumstances and challenges of life. Inspired by this message, Lemmel found herself contemplating the idea of turning her eyes upon Jesus and seeking His strength and guidance.

The exact details of the encounter that inspired the hymn are not widely documented, but it is said that as Helen Lemmel meditated on this idea, the words and melody of the hymn flowed into her heart and mind. She immediately wrote down the lyrics and composed the music.

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" conveys a powerful message of turning away from the distractions and worries of the world and fixing one's gaze upon Jesus Christ. It encourages believers to find hope, peace, and strength by focusing on His love, grace, and faithfulness. The hymn's timeless message continues to resonate with Christians around the world, reminding them to seek solace and find their ultimate purpose in Christ.

Use our digital edition to listen to...Link is hyperlinked

Sing along with this hymn [here](#)

Or this [version by Alan Jackson](#)

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PRAYER

Lord,

Since you exist, we exist. Since you are beautiful, we are beautiful. Since you are good, we are good. By our existence we honour you. By our beauty we glorify you. By our goodness we love you.

Lord, through your power all things were made. Through your wisdom all things are governed. Through your Grace all things are sustained.

Give us power to discern your laws, and Grace to obey those at all times.

(Edmund of Abingdon, c1180-1240)

Monthly Hour of Power online service: Link:

<https://hourofpower.org/episode/sometimes-it-doesnt-happen-to-you-it-happens-for-you/>

Sometimes, It Doesn't Happen to You, It Happens for You

Pastor Bobby's encouragement for you is when there is a setback in your life or something goes wrong, believe in your heart that it's happening for you, not to you with today's message: "Sometimes, It Doesn't Happen to You; It Happens for You."

Erin Davis is an author and speaker who has written a number of books and Bible Studies. She also hosts the podcast, *The Deep Well with Erin Davis*. Her new book, *Fasting and Feasting: 40 Devotions to Satisfy the Hungry Heart*, explores the relationship between faith and food, while teaching Spiritual principles.

Scripture reading: Genesis 32:22-31

A Poem for Spring

In fields of grace where flowers bloom,
A story told beyond the tomb,
Of Jesus, God's own precious Son,
Whose love for all is never done.

God's light shines bright, a guiding star,
Leading hearts from near and far,
A bond unbreakable and true,
A love that's endless, ever anew.

In springtime's embrace, the world's
reborn,
A symbol of hope since life was torn,
Jesus, the shepherd, leads the way,
Through valleys green and skies so gray.

God's hands extend, with mercy wide,
Embracing all, on every side,
In blooming fields and skies above,
We find their love, unending love.

So let us bask in this embrace,
And share the joy in every place,
For Jesus and God's boundless care,
In springtime's beauty, everywhere.

Spotlight on the Bible

Before the reading:

In the beginning was the word.
And the Word was with God.
And the Word was God.

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Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Isaiah 40:31

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Colossians 3:23-24

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Proverbs 19:21

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”

Psalms 46:1

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Read more by [clicking here](#).

After the reading:

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us; Thanks be to God.
(‘Word of God’- page 21. A Wee Worship Book).

Bible Numbers Quiz, brought to you by Chat GpT

1. What is the primary focus of the book of Numbers?
 - a) The Exodus from Egypt
 - b) The wilderness wanderings of the Israelites
 - c) The conquest of Canaan
 - d) The life of Moses

2. How many spies were sent to explore the Promised Land?
 - a) 10
 - b) 12
 - c) 40
 - d) 70

3. Which of the following is NOT one of the complaints made by the Israelites during their time in the wilderness?
 - a) Lack of water
 - b) Lack of food
 - c) Lack of shelter
 - d) Lack of meat

4. Who succeeded Moses as the leader of the Israelites after his death?
 - a) Joshua
 - b) Aaron
 - c) Caleb
 - d) Miriam

5. What miraculous event occurred involving a bronze serpent?
 - a) The parting of the Red Sea
 - b) The feeding of the multitude
 - c) The healing of a plague
 - d) The defeat of an enemy army

6. How many years did the Israelites spend wandering in the wilderness?
 - a) 20 years
 - b) 40 years
 - c) 70 years
 - d) 100 years

The answers are printed on the back cover of this bulletin.

The Preaching Plan for September 2023:

3rd September: Multi Media, Rheychille Reguyal

10th September: Kathy Clifford

17th September: Rev David Balchin

24th September: Rev David Balchin

Wellsford Duty Schedule for July Duty Stewards

| 3rd Sept. | 10th Sept. | 17 Sept. | 24th Sept | First in Oct. |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke | Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison | Eryl Nolan | Jocelyn Daken | Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke |

Wellsford Morning Tea Schedule

| 3rd Sept. | 10th Sept. | 17 Sept. | 24th Sept | First in Oct. |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke | Ann Clegg / Maria Harrison | Eryl Nolan | Jocelyn Daken | Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke |

Parish Directory for Ministry, please contact a member of the Parish Council. **Church Centre Office: 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900.**
Phone: 09 423-8076 Remember to LIKE us on Facebook!

Minister: Rev David Balchin- email: davidjbalchin@gmail.com

Secretary: Ann Clegg - email: annclegg@proton.me

Treasurer: Willis MacGillivray

Other Members of Parish Council:

Parish Bulletin/Website Admin: Mark Lorenzen marklorenzen73@gmail.com

Answers to this month's Bible Book Quiz:

1b) The wilderness wanderings of the Israelites 2b) 12

3c) Lack of shelter 4a) Joshua 5c) The healing of a plague

6b) 40 years