

Dates to Remember	
Sun 20 th Nov	MUP BBQ Lunch with Vanuatu Men's Group
Thurs 1 st Dec	8am-12noon TOSS Garage Sale
Sun 4 th Dec	Voting after service for Paul to join Elders Team
Sun 18 th Dec	Christmas Family Service / BBQ Lunch / Farewell Vanuatu
Fri 23 rd Dec	8:15pm Carols By Candlelight



Church Office Hours: 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

'Prayer Chain' – Any matters requiring confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Val Judd or Elaine Oates.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study – Meets at 1.30pm on Tuesdays in the Church House. Contact Maureen Wilson for more info.

'Men's Breakfast Group' – Meets at 7am on Tuesdays. Contact John Hawksworth for more info.

Thursday 'Womens Breakfast' – Meets at 7am on Thursdays in the Church House for Breakfast. For more info contact Amanda Lewis.

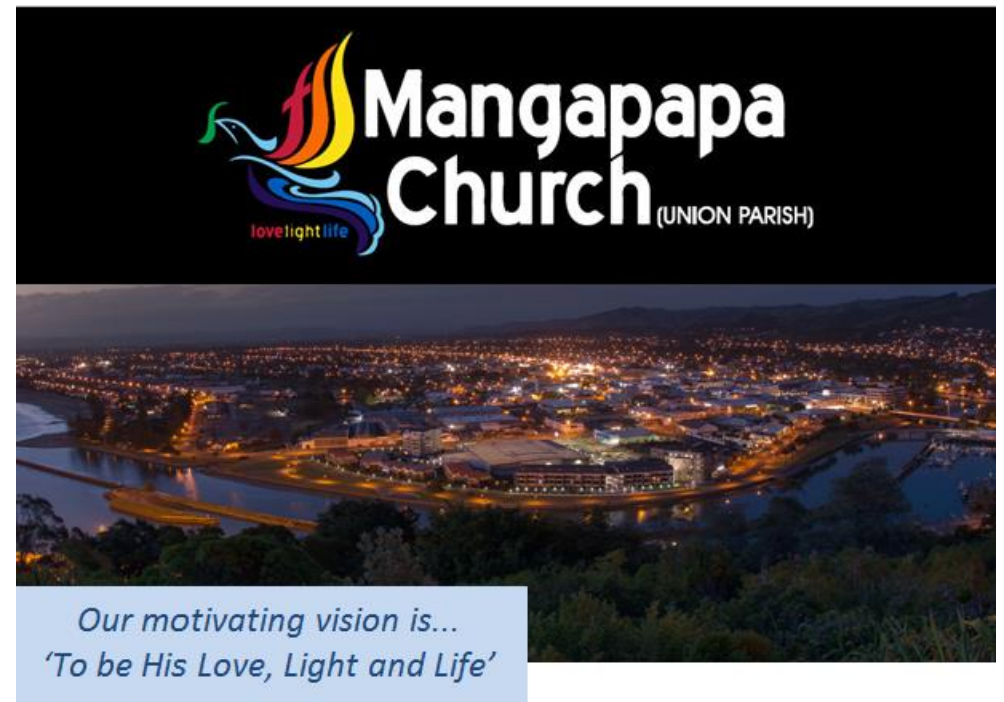
Women's 'Growth Group' – Meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 1pm in the Church House.

'Christmas Nativity Creations' - As a church we would like to invite you, as an individual, as a family, or as a home group, to create a Christmas nativity scene to display in the church for all of December. On the day of our Christmas Carol event before Christmas, we will invite the public in to view. Let's share the 'Good News' this Christmas. Pictured as an example is one of the displays from a similar event at MUP 20 years ago!



Giving/Tithing - If you wish to tithe or make a donation to Mangapapa Church, our account number is: Mangapapa Church, 03-0638-0381084-00. Please make sure you say 'tithe' or 'donation' in the reference. If you would prefer to give using our 'Envelope' system, then see Jenny Phin who will set you up with envelopes allocated to you.

	Today	Next Sunday 27 th November
Greeters	M Raitaukala, L McAra	J & L Hawksworth
Explorers Crèche	Parents	Parents
Ministry Team	A Clement	E Oates
Cups of Tea	N Aston, A Alder	J Dyas, <i>Volunteer</i>
Flowers	A Lewis	A Lewis
AV & Sound	R Nelson, N Dunn	D Russell / A Russell
Counters	N Coffey	N Coffey



Sunday 20th November 2022

10am: "Be Encouraged"

Luke 15:1-32

Leading: Angela Paton

Preaching: Paul Madsen

Duty Elder: Al Clement

Church Office: Dione Russell **06 867-9604** **9am – 12noon**
E-mail office@mup.org.nz **Website:** www.mup.org.nz
 Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

Elders Team

Stewart Patrick: 021 047 0795 Rodney Judd: 06 863-2400 Al Clement: 027 855 5949

Children 4-8 years go out with Marilyn. 9+ years to go out with Janice.

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and get a R.A.T. Test.

Paul shares the message with us this morning. He writes ...

Jesus is speaking to two different groups, sinners/tax collectors and pharisees/teachers, and He gives three parables, all to do with what is truly lost and the Father's response. Many of us have family and/or friends who are lost or have walked away from God. There is hope in these parables and how the Father responds. Be encouraged.

Stewart's bits & pieces... This Sunday morning, myself along with Metui and Brian & Jo Yuile, are heading down to St Andrews Union Parish in Wairoa, to lead and preach at their 10am Service.

'The Squeeze Of The World' and 'The Test Of Faith' – While a few nights camping this week, I caught up on some reading and writings from Chinese House Church Pastors. I was intrigued by Noah Wang's **'Test of Faith'** on 1 Peter 1:6-9, as it relates to 'the squeeze of the world' that we spoke of last week. He writes; *"God is omniscient - knows everything about your faith and so does not 'test' someone to know the extent of their faith. He also knows if one's faith is tainted, by falsehood, self-righteousness, the flesh, and the vanity of comfort. God tests us to show us our own reality, so we can know ourselves deeply and clearly and rely on God more... Faith that has been tested produces two significant results: love and joy – 1 Peter 1:8. ... Without testing, no one knows the true character of their love... A tested faith produces a heart that loves the Lord. The persecution we experience in China pales in comparison to the Roman Governments extremely cruel persecution of the early Church."* The next time you say *"God is testing me"*, remember it too is a permitted thing by the Lord, like the squeeze of the world, to reveal His Life in you, love and joy.



Lovely to see Courtney Hoskin married to Braden Alsford, in Christchurch last weekend. Courtney, daughter of Craig & Toni, and granddaughter of John & Lyn Hawksworth, grew up with us here @ MUP through Kidzspace and Youth Group, so we join them too, in the delight of her marriage to a fine young man.



The 10am service is live streamed. To access – at 10am 'Ctrl click' on the following Facebook link: [Mangapapa Union Parish](#)



TOSS Garage Sale: 8am-midday, Thursday 1st December - Marilyn will be opening the TOSS Garage for this final sale of the year, weather permitting.



For Prayer This Week: - Let's pray this week for our witness to Jesus Christ in this 'Advent Christmas Season', to our community - Advent displays, 'Carols by Candlelight', 'Christmas Family Service & BBQ Lunch', Christmas Day Service.

Please pray for the new 'Church Leader Search Team', who meet together for the first time this Wednesday evening. Our first task will be to clearly define the attributes and skills of the person we are seeking and to prepare the Job Description. We are agreed that MUP's 'Team Leadership' DNA will continue and the person we seek may be a Lay person or ordained. The position may be full-time or part-time. We always welcome your thoughts and comments as we proceed.

We pray for this recommendation to the congregation - that Paul Madsen be appointed an Elder to the MUP Elders Team. With such appointments we seek ratification by a congregational vote, and this will be held after the Service on Sunday 4th December. Paul is currently employed part-time as MUP's 'Lay Leadership Assistant' on a 1 year contract, and as he is preaching today, he will share his story as part of that.



Te Hahi Christmas Hampers - In conjunction with the Te Hahi Police Whangaia Unit, we will be putting together special hampers for families in need this Christmas. If you wish to give to this over the next few weeks, there is a list of items needed for the hampers on the back noticeboard. Please put any food items for them in the regular collection basket – but label them 'for Te Hahi'.

'Christmas Family Service', BBQ Lunch & Farewell to Vanuatu Men's Group - 10am Sunday 18th December – This will be a special morning with several folk contributing to the Service and a big lunch to follow. The Vanuatu men who have been with us for the past 2 months, will be heading home for Christmas after 2yrs in NZ, working in orchards in Hawkes Bay and now Gisborne.



8:15pm Friday 23rd December

It has been 2 or 3 years since we have been able to hold one of these Community events, and all going well, we will do so this year.



Foodbank – Thank you to those who have been giving to the foodbank. We have noticed that recently there have been items donated that are well past their expiry date. Just a friendly reminder that if you are clearing out your cupboards, please do not pass on to the Foodbank any items that have expired. Thanks.