

OCC NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter of Onewa Christian Community



- Making room for the future
- Book excerpt
- Orange and Lemon recipes
- Council report
- Join us for the games night!
- Food Together
- What's on this month?

Minister's Message



MAKING ROOM FOR THE FUTURE BY DECLUTTERING THE PAST

Many of us understand Minimalism as the practice of decluttering our homes and possessions, especially following the Marie Kondo style of letting go of items that no longer “spark joy.” Interestingly, the term Minimalism was indirectly coined by British philosopher Robert Wollheim in a 1965 essay to describe a new kind of art with minimal art content. This embodied the core tenet of “less is more,” which became the hallmark of Minimalism in art, architecture, and beyond. Today, it has been adopted as a lifestyle movement through which people find newness, reduced stress, and a clearer focus on what is truly essential.



Jesus himself was an early champion of Minimalism. When sending his disciples to nearby villages, he instructed them to take nothing except a staff – no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, and no extra coat or sandals. They were to rely entirely on God’s provision and on the hospitality of those they met as they preached the gospel.[1]

Today, however, churches often overlook their past minimal lifestyle. Like individuals who settle in one place for many years, churches can become champions of “maximalism” – valuing accumulation over simplicity. In her book **Claiming Resurrection in the Dying Church**, Anna B. Olson laments this tendency:

“One of the most concrete things you can do to love the future is to make room for it. Most historic churches double as giant storage facilities. Every drawer and closet is full. Much of what is used in the present has to wedge into cardboard banker boxes and plastic tubs under tables, because there is not room for the present, much less the future... Storing things that have passed beyond usefulness is an outward and visible sign of our love affair with the past. Throwing things away is hard because it requires us to grieve. As we turn our gaze to the future, we have to reckon the losses, add up the sorrows, let go of the things that will not be used again.”[2]

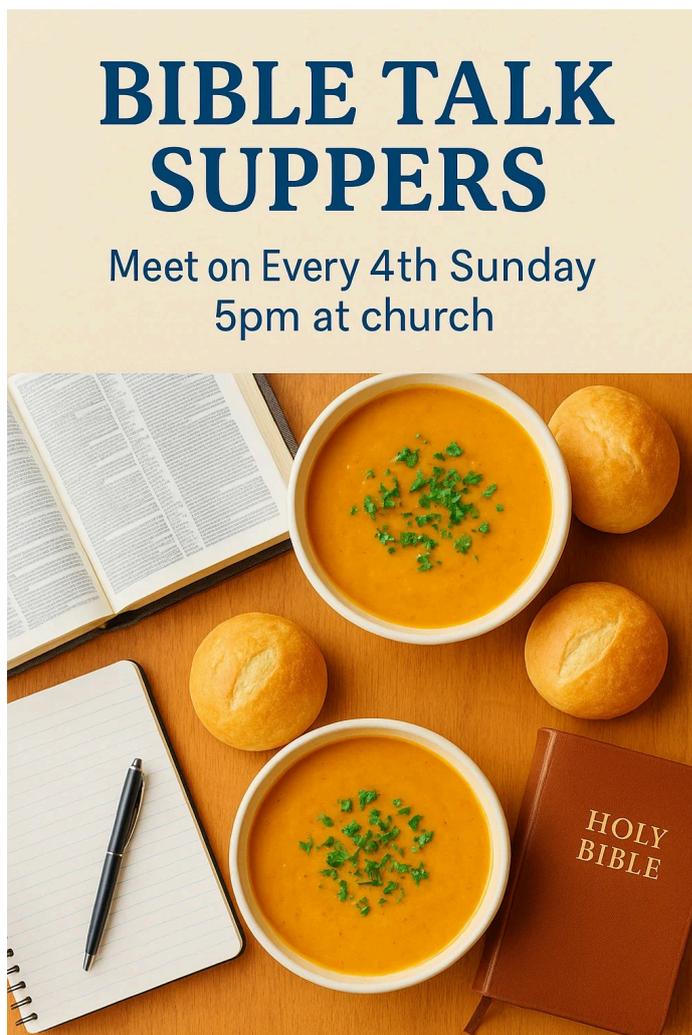
Olson shares how, while cleaning out the kitchen cabinets at St. Mary’s (her church), they came upon a whole shelf of used soy sauce bottles. Deciding what to do with them brought the entire workday to a standstill. The bottles were ordinary and no longer useful, yet letting them go felt like losing unspoken memories.



We often say that the church is not a building, but rather people. This also means that the church is a living body, constantly growing and changing. Just as small and old clothes no longer fit us as we grow, so too we must let go of what no longer serves God's mission among us. With discerning hearts given by the Holy Spirit, may we prepare ourselves for a season of making room for the future. Perhaps God is inviting OCC to have a big clean-up day, letting go of what is no longer needed, while cherishing the memories and purpose that remain. What might God be asking you to release today – in your home, your heart, or your ministry – so that together, we can make room for the new things God is preparing for us? - **Rev Jin Sook Kim**

[1] Mark 6:8-9; Luke 9:3

[2] Olson, A. B, *Claiming Resurrection in the Dying Church*, p19.



BOOK EXCERPT

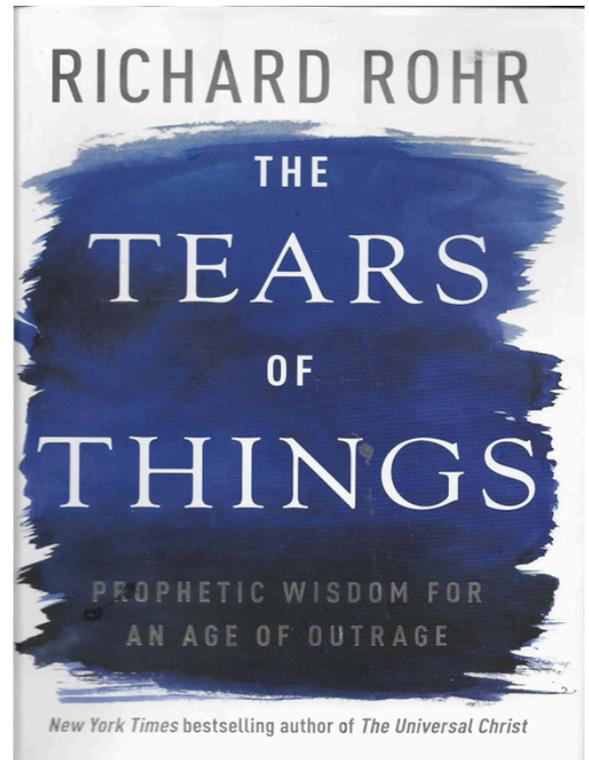
From John Railton

In Richard Rohr's recent book, '**The Tears of Things**', based on the writings of the Jewish prophets, including Jesus he states that we need to recognise that evil, first and foundationally, resides in the Group.

Some of the contradictions in our own culture for example are :

- Killing is wrong, but war is good.
- Greed is wrong, but luxury and capitalism are ideals to be sought after.
- Pride is bad, but nationalism and patriotism are admirable (never in the Bible however).
- Lust is wrong, but flirting and seduction are attractive.
- Envy is a capital sin, but advertising is our way of life.
- Anger at our neighbour is wrong, but angry people get their way.
- Sloth is a sin, but wealthy people can take it easy.
- Murder is wrong ,but easy access to guns is a right and a duty.

He has learned from a lifetime as a preacher that even a slight critique of capitalism is totally unacceptable in American pulpits. The church has been trying for centuries to save individuals while ignoring the corrupt system which these individuals operate. The prophets learned that it is social sin that destroys civilisation and humanity: global warming, war, idealization of immense wealth, celebrity worship, pursuit of fame and fortune, growing income inequality, a denial of common truth and so on.



Abridgement pages 22-24 (SPCK Publishing 2025)

Oranges & Lemons

Lots of us are lucky enough to have a garden with citrus trees in it. Sometimes the fruit glut that comes all at once at this time of year can feel like a chore rather than a blessing. If you are feeling a bit overwhelmed by all the citrus in your life, here are some easy and interesting ideas of how to make use of it. **Love Food Hate Waste** is an Auckland Council website that has some great ideas of how to use your Citrus in recipes. Here's the website: <https://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/how-to-make-the-most-of-citrus/> The orange dressing on this roasted vegetable salad definitely appeals!



Orange dressing

1-2 tablespoons runny honey
½ cup low fat plain yoghurt
Juice and rind of one orange
Warm honey to make it easier to mix in.
Combine ingredients and serve over roasted vegetables. Add walnuts and baby spinach to make the salad extra delicious!

Microwave Lemon Curd (from Linda Hallinan)

Makes: approx 2 cups

1 1/2 – 2 cups sugar according to taste

3 eggs, lightly beaten

200ml fresh lemon juice (about 4-6 lemons depending on size and variety)

zest of 3 lemons

115g butter, melted

In a large microwave-safe bowl, whisk together the sugar and eggs until smooth and thoroughly combined. Whisk in lemon juice, lemon zest and melted butter.

Cook in the microwave on full power for one minute, whisk well then microwave in 30 second intervals, whisking after each interval until the mixture coats the back of a metal spoon. Taste and add more sugar if needed – microwave 30 seconds and stir till completely dissolved. Pour into sterilised jars. Once the curd has cooled to room temperature, cover it with a lid and store it in the refrigerator for about 2 weeks.





Bible Talk Suppers with Bible 52 – August reading plan

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 24th August (4th Sunday) at the church lounge on Hinemoa Street. We'll have a light supper, share our reflections, and learn from one another. All are welcome.

Week 1 (25) – Jeremiah 33

Additional Readings – Psalm 107:19-22,
Romans 8:16-17

Memory verse: Jeremiah 33:11



Week 2 (26) – Ezekiel 37

Additional readings – Psalm 17:15, Colossians 3:1-4

Memory verse: Ezekiel 37:14

Week 3(27) – Daniel 3

Additional readings – Daniel 6, Psalm 27,
Isaiah 43:1-4

Memory verse: Daniel 3:25

Week 4 (28) – Jonah 1

Additional readings – Jonah 2-4, Psalm 104:24-26, Matthew 12:38-42.

Memory verse: 2 Timothy 2:13

What's happening at OCC this month?

3 August	Kids Eco Church Spa in a Jar	22 August	Building Compassionate Communities: Demystifying Death
15 August	Family Games Night (book your tickets now!)	24 August	9.30am Communion Service 5pm Bible Talk Suppers
17 August	Community Breakfast: speaker Jim Andrews from the Men's Shed	31 August	9.30am Service at 172 Hinemoa with Zion Hill



FREE Eco Kids Event!
Nature's Spa in a Jar!

Sunday 3 August 2025
Meet 9.30am @OCC,
172 Hinemoa Street

Create your own **Natural Bath Salts** to take home.
Workshop with natural ingredients.
Enjoy a **Free Hot Chocolate**.
PLUS Round 5 of our kids **Eco Photo Comp**.
Win a \$30 Paper Plus Gift Card !

www.onewacc.org.nz



**You're invited to a Family
Pizza & Games Night!**

Fun • Laughter • Teamwork • Prizes

**Fri 15th August
5:00 pm
172 Hinemoa St**

**\$10 each or \$30 per 4 person
family. Includes pizza.
Email sarah@onewacc.org.nz to
book tickets**

Brought to
you by: 

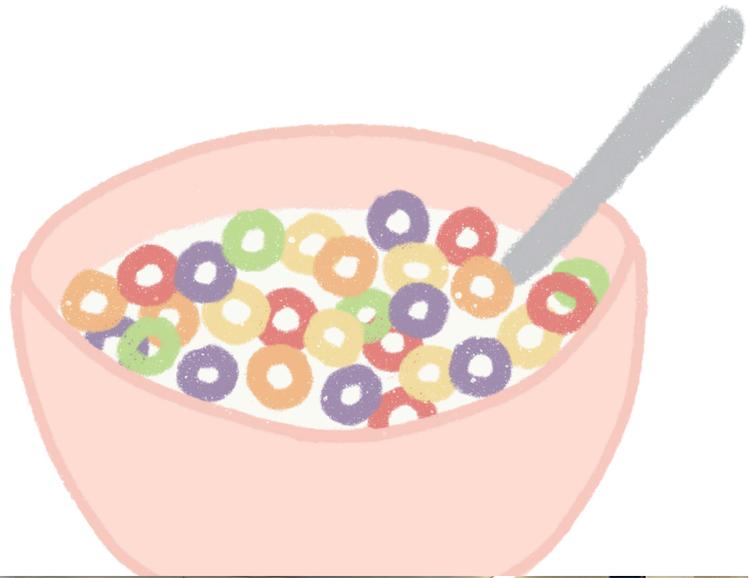
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

At our July Community Breakfast, we hosted Allison Bartlett-Morley from HonoHono Tatou Katoa (Compassionate Communities), a project of Mercy Hospice. They describe a compassionate city as a place where everyone gets support during times of sickness, aging and loss. The community would be involved in palliative and end of life care. This approach would ease the strain on healthcare, strengthen social connections and create a caring system that respects diverse communities. As well, people would be able to make more informed choices about death and dying and it would foster acceptance around ageing and dying. Ideally the project would like churches as well as other groups and organisations to have a dedicated group for end-of-life care support. Allison mentioned an interesting book on the topic: *With the End in Mind* by Kathryn Mannix. You can buy the book online for around \$20-25. Just search the title and options will come up.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST CONTINUED

On 22nd August, Allison and a doctor colleague are presenting a workshop as part of our own Building Compassionate Communities project and the topic is Demystifying Death. If you would like to attend this workshop on Friday 22 August at 10.00am at OCC, please email Sarah on sarah@onewacc.org.nz.

At the Community Breakfast we celebrated John Railton's milestone birthday (Happy Birthday John!) and welcomed a new family: Lael Lee and her children Deborah and Isaac. The tables looked beautiful dressed in red hearts and flowers and the breakfast spread was delicious as always. Thank you to all the volunteers and contributors who make the Community Breakfasts such a success.





An Onewa Christian
Community Project

Demystifying Death



Friday 22nd August, 10am

172 Hinemoa Street

Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief

Honohono Tātou Katoa describe compassionate communities as communities that are compassionate in their support of people through the difficult times associated with care; deteriorating health; dying and bereavement. As our population ages, should care for one another at times of crisis be solely the responsibility for health and social services? How can we build communities that care?

Hear from Allison Bartlett-Morley from Mercy Hospice about why we need to talk more about dying and how we can support each other during difficult times. This is a free event brought to you by Onewa Christian Community. To register email sarah@onewacc.org.nz



Mercy Hospice
Auckland
Te Korowai Atawhai



AUCKLAND NORTH
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT
Te Runanga Ratonga Hapori o Te Raki-Pae-Whenua

KIDS ECO CHURCH



Sprouts, Sprays & Smiles!

Sunday morning in early July saw a flurry of fun at church with our Eco Kids Sprouts and Sprays activity. Eight enthusiastic children (and five supportive families) rolled up their sleeves and got busy with all things lemony and green! From homemade lemonade to eco-friendly lemon peel cleaner, and even beautiful mini gardens crafted in recycled containers — creativity was in full bloom.

A big thank you goes to Kimberly, Juliet and Spencer, who did a brilliant job as always preparing everything for the day. Kimberly, even brought along little wooden spoons for the gardens which she had from her bath-salt making days as a young mum.

We were also delighted to have Millie Vette from A Rocha join us — she jumped right in and got hands-on with the kids. And as always, a heartfelt thank you to Cathy for her support of our Kids Eco Church adventures. It was a morning full of laughter, learning, and left the hall lemon-scented which we love!



FOOD TOGETHER



Fridays at 172 Hinemoa have been filled with laughter and lots of huffing and puffing recently! The wonderful volunteers from the Highbury House Food Together initiative have been using the church hall as a place to receive and

distribute rescued fruit and vegetables to various community organisations and individuals. Highbury House is currently closed due to a roof leak so OCC has stepped up to support this programme with a venue until they can safely reopen. The volunteers arrive early and set up the hall with tables and a white board, listing the items to go in each bag and then it's all hands on deck when the truck arrives with the produce. The volunteers laugh and jostle each other as they carry heavy boxes of fruit and veg down the hall to the tables where they are sorted and then the bags and boxes are brought back down to the entrance where they are ready to be collected by places like De Paul House and the Forrest Hill Community Garden. There are regular community members who come to take advantage of the discounted bags and in the spirit of generosity, the group often leave the church a bag of goodies too!

If you'd like to order a bag of fruit and vegetables for just \$15, you can order online at <https://www.foodtogether.co.nz>. Choose Shop then produce box, then community produce pack and select Highbury House at checkout. Pick up is from 172 Hinemoa on Fridays while Highbury House is closed.

Roster for the month – August 2025

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
3 August	Mary Boyd	Pauline F	Mary Boyd	Pauline F	Karen Davis & Rachel Hurr
10 August	Barbara Wadams	Nan Inkson	Barbara Wadams	Nan Inkson	Jocelyn C. & Robin B.
17 August	Community Breakfast				
24 August	Helene Muller	Jocelyn C.	Helene Muller	Jocelyn C.	Barbara's Wesley & Westra
31 August	Margaret Larsen	Robin B.	Margaret Larsen	Robin Baxter	Lynn Carter & Dale Kerr

Serving Elders for 24th - Jocelyn C, Karen Davis, Robin Baxter & Barbara Wadams

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



Get in touch

Minister: Rev. Jin Sook Kim minister@onewacc.org.nz / Ph 021 0295 2589

Community Engagement Lead: Sarah Thorne community@onewacc.org.nz

Ph 021 0919 7097

Admin: Pauline Soo admin@onewacc.org.nz

Giving

BNZ account

Account name: ONEWA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Account number: 02-0112-0168422-000

Something to share?

News and opinions for the newsletter always welcome:
please think about contributing for next month's edition.

E-mail all articles to Sarah (sarah@onewacc.org.nz)

by 25th of the month

Community Breakfast All Welcome



Sunday 17th August 9.30am

Speaker:

Jim Andrews,
Chair of the Men's Shed
North Shore

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Onewa Christian Community

172 Hinemoa Street,
Birkenhead



Onewa
Christian
Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Our Values



COMMUNITY

We focus on people, personal connection and treating everyone with respect in practical ways ('manaakitanga').

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We want to reflect and support the community around us.

OPEN HEART / OPEN MIND

We make space for personal and spiritual growth. We promote real and meaningful connection with others.

A LIVING FAITH

Active faith begins at the point where certainty ends. A living faith involves faith in oneself, faith in others, faith in the future and faith in God.