

OCTOBER 2025



OCC NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter of Onewa Christian Community



Inside:

- Small groups, Big growth
- Council Report
- March for Humanity
- The Adaptation Game
- What's on this month?
- Thursday Group outing
- Volunteer Experiences

Minister's Message

Small Groups, Big Growth

When I walk toward our church, I notice not only the beautiful building, freshly decorated, but also the front garden. Season by season, it changes—new colours, new blossoms, new growth—thanks to the care of our dedicated gardener. Recently, some of us joined her in a Working Bee at St Aidan's backyard, where weeds were cleared, the soil turned, and new native trees planted. That garden will one day grow into something strong and life-giving.

The same is true for our church life. Just as a garden needs tending, soil prepared, and seeds planted, so too our church community needs care, preparation, and planting for future growth. OCC is ready for new growth, but it needs all of us to tend it. Why is this so important now? Although we live in a world more connected than ever, many people feel lonelier than ever. Hundreds of online "friends" cannot replace the gift of being truly seen, heard, and known. In today's culture, people are not looking for institutions, but for authentic community. That is why our small groups—meeting in homes, cafés, or favourite gathering places—are at the very heart of who we are called to be.

This is not a new idea. The very first believers met in homes to share meals, pray, and walk in faith together (Acts 2:42-47). Even Jesus chose to invest in a small group of disciples. Crowds heard his preaching, but it was within that close circle that people experienced his encouragement, correction, and love most deeply.

Small groups matter in our own context as well. In these circles, we can ask questions freely, receive ¹practical care, and discover faith becoming real. One person recently shared how their group rallied around them with meals, prayer, and encouragement during a difficult season. That is church at its best—love made visible.

Some of us may feel we already know each other well, and so small groups aren't necessary. But true discipleship is more than being familiar with faces; it is being shaped together in Christ. For those new to OCC, small groups offer a foundation for belonging and growth.

So here is the invitation: consider whether God may be calling you to host or lead one, and join a group where you can grow. The future of OCC depends not on programs alone, but on the relationships we nurture in Christ.

May God bless our church as we plant, water, and grow together—until, like a flourishing garden, we become a place of beauty and life for all.

Shalom

Rev Jin Sook Kim



Volunteers hard at work at the Onewa Rd Working bee

Onewa Christian Community Church Council Report

Community Engagement

Church Council warmly notes the wonderful community energy around OCC this month, spearheaded by our excellent Sarah Thorne. We extend our special thanks to Sarah and everyone involved in running and supporting recent events – including the Meet the Candidates session and The Adaptation Game, which were well attended and facilitated meaningful conversations. These events show OCC's commitment to being a place where faith, public life, environmental action and community learning all intersect in respectful and thoughtful ways.

Looking ahead, don't miss the upcoming Alice in Wonderland High Tea and Quiz Night! These both promise to be lovely evenings of fellowship, fun, and in the case of the quiz night a little friendly competition. Both are great opportunities to bring a friend or 5 along and share some of the warmth and welcome of OCC.

Church Plan

Church Council is pleased to report that our Operational Plan has now been finalised and affixed to the Church noticeboard. We encourage everyone to take a moment to have a read. The plan outlines the vision and practical next steps for OCC as we continue to grow in faith, service, and community engagement.

This is a living document that reflects ongoing conversations – both at Council and with the wider congregation. We are pleased to note an increase in number of younger families and visitors to OCC. Council is exploring new ways to support home groups and community life that serve a broader age range. If you're interested in helping form or facilitate a group, please speak to Jin Sook or a Council member.

Building Matters

We continue to be grateful to David and his team for their tireless work on property improvements. From the stained glass window to practical repairs and planning ahead for long-term maintenance, the work happening behind the scenes ensures our Church space remains safe, welcoming, and beautiful.

A summary of recent works and building plans will be shared shortly. Keep an eye out for this so you can see all the many contributions that have been made.

Worship and Ministry

We are looking forward to welcoming a number of visiting ministers in the coming months. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear different voices from within our wider Church family.

We also offer congratulations to Rev Jin Sook Kim on being granted Study Leave in the New Year. This time for renewal and further growth in ministry is well earned and very much supported by the Council and congregation. Rev Jin Sook will share more about this in time to come.

Council held a helpful discussion on how to best support ministry initiatives such as home groups and community outreach. While these ideas are vital, it is important they are shared efforts. We continue to encourage fresh volunteers to take up support roles, particularly those who enjoy relating to a younger demographic. More on this in the months to come.

Children and Youth

Thank you to all those supporting Children's Ministry. While Cathy has been away, the work has continued, and we are grateful to all who have stepped in.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping out with Children's Ministry, please get in touch with Sarah, Kimberly or Rev. Jin Sook.

Pastoral

We ask that you remember in prayer all those who are part of our Onewa Christian Community and other friends who are unwell or needing extra prayers for other reasons. We think about our friends who are travelling and hope for safe and happy journeying for them.

With blessings,

For Onewa Christian Community Church Council



Children enjoy smoothies at last month's Eco Kids event

Friendship group picnic on 25 September 2025



Last Thursday, the Friendship Group enjoyed a picnic at Amberley Regional Park. Although the weather forecast had raised some concerns, the day turned out to be beautifully clear. Everyone seemed to delight in the time together. We even had the unexpected entertainment of two llamas chasing sheep, while a rabbit happily nibbled on the fresh grass nearby. Lunch was shared, laughter flowed, and the whole outing was a refreshing experience for us all. A big thank-you to Pauline, Barbara, Julia, and many others who helped make the day possible.





Eco Kids Event!

ROCK, PAPER...LEAVES!



Sunday 5 October 2025
Meet 9.30am @OCC,
172 Hinemoa Street



Create your own **Nature Art** to take home! We will be making book paper flowers, leaf art, painted rocks and more!

Enjoy a **Free drink**

PLUS Round 7 of our kids **Eco Photo Comp**. Win a \$30 Paper Plus Gift Card!

Register by emailing sarah@onewacc.org.nz.
Parents need to attend.



www.onewacc.org.nz



Bible Talk Suppers

Bible Talk Suppers with Bible 52 October reading plan

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 26 October (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 (33) – John 14

Additional Readings – Numbers 6:24-26,
Ezekiel 1:26-28, Isaiah 28:16
Memory verse: John 14:27

Week 3 (35) – Mark 14

Additional readings – Psalm 55:13-14,
Zechariah 13, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Memory verse: Mark 14:35

Week 2 (34) – John 17

Additional readings – Exodus 29:45-46,
Isaiah 42:8, Daniel 7:13-14, 1 John 5:20
Memory verse: John 17:3

Week 4 (36) – Mark 15-16

Additional readings – Psalm 22, Psalm
38:20-22, Hebrews 5:7-9
Memory verse: Mark 16:6

March for Humanity

By John Railton

Fiona and I went on the 'March for Humanity' to impose sanctions on Israel for the genocide taking place in Gaza. TVNZ1 estimated 20,000 marched. Amnesty was able to give us the name of a child in Gaza to represent. The poster read: I'm representing one out of 2.38 million Palestinian children living in the Occupied Territory: Join me at letchildrenlive.com.

While we waited for the march to begin down Queen St we felt an inspiring atmosphere with people from many different backgrounds coming together supporting justice for Gaza. There were many Muslim women, and a group of about 5 young Korean men nearby were chanting support for Palestine. A few placards nearby said, 'Babies need food not bombs', 'Mothers for Gaza', 'There is no difference between Hitler and Benjamin Netanyahu and 'It all began in 1948'. Some were holding the name of a child living in Gaza. By the time we got to Victoria Park the marchers were beginning to disperse.



**LET
MAHMOUD
LIVE**
1 year old

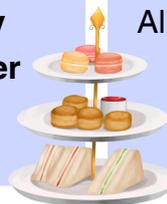
What's happening at OCC this month?

**Sunday
5 October**



Eco Kids:
Rock, Paper
...Leaves

**Saturday
18 October**



Alice in Wonderland
High Tea

Mondays



10am
Coffee and
Games



**Fridays term
time**

Food Together in the
hall

**7th and 9th
October**

Mainly Music and
Friendship Group
start again

**Sunday 19th
October**

Community
Breakfast: Kim
Bulluss

Fridays



9.30-12
Embroidery
Group at 97
Onewa Rd



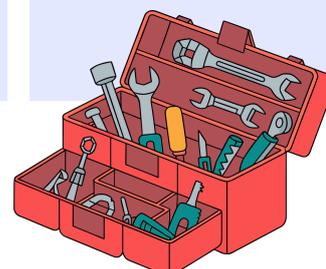
**Sunday 26
October**



Communion
Service & Bible
Talk Supper

**Sunday 1
November**

Repair Cafe



Bring your friends!

The Alice in Wonderland Floral High Tea and the November Mad Hatter's Quiz night are both great opportunities to bring your friends along to join the fun! Tickets are available for both by emailing Sarah on sarah@onewacc.org.nz. They're going to be great events so don't miss out!

A vibrant, whimsical illustration for a high tea event. The background is a light yellow-green with various floral and Alice in Wonderland-themed elements. At the top left is a green top hat with a peacock feather and a playing card. To its right is a smiling, grinning face with yellow eyes. Further right is a blue dragonfly. Below these are a white rabbit in a blue suit, a pocket watch, a teapot, and a cupcake. At the bottom left is a stack of four teacups. At the bottom center is a table set for a high tea with a pink tablecloth, white chairs, and a teapot. At the bottom right is a girl with long blonde hair, wearing a blue dress with a white collar and a white sash, holding a bouquet of flowers. The Onewa Christian Community logo is in the center, with the text 'invites you to a' above it and 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND FLORAL HIGH TEA' in large blue letters below. The date and location are listed, followed by 'Music, Food, Fun, Flowers' and 'We invite you to dress to impress'. A grey box contains ticket information: 'Tickets \$30', 'Book via email or phone to sarah@onewacc.org.nz or 021 0919 7097', and '10% of proceeds go to De Paul House'. The website 'www.onewacc.org.nz' is at the bottom.

invites you to a

ALICE IN WONDERLAND FLORAL HIGH TEA

Saturday 18th October, 2pm.
97 Onewa Rd, Northcote.

Music, Food, Fun, Flowers

We invite you to dress to impress

Tickets \$30

Book via email or phone to
sarah@onewacc.org.nz
or 021 0919 7097

10% of proceeds go to De Paul House

www.onewacc.org.nz

TALES FROM LE ROYS BUSH -

Volunteer experiences by Laurie Wesley

This article is a response to the article in the September edition of the OCC newsletter. I have been a member of the LeRoys Bush volunteer group for many years. The following is from something I wrote many years ago:

(a) I was doing some work clearing leaves and debris from the steep timber staircase that leads down through the bush starting near the Birkenhead Library. An energetic young man was running up and down the stairs, and he made a brief pause near where I was working. I said to him "You appear to be doing some serious training" He nodded and said "Yes", so I followed up with "Are you training for a particular event?" He replied "Yes I am" so I asked "A run or a triathlon?" He looked a little sheepish and replied "Well, the thing is this, I am getting married in a month and my fiancé won't marry me unless I lose 15 kg". I asked "And how are you doing?" he replied that he was doing very well and only needed to lose 2kg more to reach his target and had ample time to do that. I congratulated him, and wished him a happy wedding. He returned to his weight reduction programme and I to my clearing.

(b) I was working on the flat section of track down near Dudding Park (Little Shoal Bay) one morning when an elderly gentleman approached me and put out his hand to give me something. I took it and was very surprised to find it was a \$50 note. I was confused and asked him if he had found it on the path. He said no, it was his money, and that he wanted to give it to me as a thank you gift for all the work I was doing on the tracks. I was quite overcome and explained that while I did not expect such a reward I would accept it because I had spent quite a lot of money on the battery powered edge trimmer I used to mow the grass patches beside the tracks, as well as a few other pieces of much less expensive equipment. I thanked him very profusely and went back to work

(c) In February 2020 I was walking up from the waterfall when I came across our former prime minister, Helen Clark, with a camera crew. Helen was some distance from the crew and as I passed I looked at her and said "Hello, I think we have met before" she looked at me and said "Yes, civil engineer, Santiago" Naturally I complimented her on her memory; we met in 2018 when she was a guest speaker at an international Women's meeting in Santiago and I was lecturing at the University of Chile. She went on to ask what I knew about the Covid situation in Chile as she had been invited there to talk about New

Zealand's "constitution", in particular its electoral system. She was a little uneasy about visiting Chile because of its rising Covid numbers, but I believe she went ahead with her visit.

(d) One fine evening while walking on the main track I diverted into the side track that leads up to Valley Rd. I took a photo of a steep bank endangering a large kauri tree. While putting my camera away I noticed a woman below me at the junction of my track and the main track. She was looking towards me and hesitating to come up. I shouted to her to come up but she shouted back to me to come down to where she was. So I went down and greeted her and she asked me what I was doing and numerous other questions. I told her about the volunteer group and the sort of work it did. By this time the light was fading quickly and I knew my wife would start to be concerned. I suggested she might like to join the volunteer group and help with their work. She replied she would like to, but couldn't because she was blind. I was stunned and asked her a little more about her blindness, and especially whether she could find her way home. She assured me that she knew the track up to Valley Rd very well and getting home would be very easy. We said goodbye and went our separate ways. A full moon had just appeared and I took the track to Glade Place. There was enough moonlight coming through the trees to keep me on the track.

Can you help?

Join us for the annual Floral Affair event on Saturday 18th October. This year, we have an Alice in Wonderland theme. The event will be lots of fun with wonderful live music, a quiz, beautiful flowers and delicious food as well as the opportunity to win a hamper of goodies or a prize for the People's Choice best flower arrangement! We need your help to make this a successful event. We are looking for people to:

1. host a table
2. sell tickets
3. contribute items to the raffle hamper
4. contribute a themed floral arrangement
5. volunteer to help on the day

If you would like to host a table or find out more about hosting a table, please contact Dale on adalekerr@gmail.com or 021 02345087. To buy or sell tickets, contact Sarah on sarah@onewacc.org.nz or 021 0919 7097

New items can be brought in for the raffle hamper on Sunday and placed in the basket in the hall.

Join in the fun by creating a small themed floral arrangement to be displayed on the windowsills on the day. There will be a 'People's Choice' ribbon and prize which can be voted on at the High Tea.

Volunteers needed for assorted roles. Please contact Dale for more information.

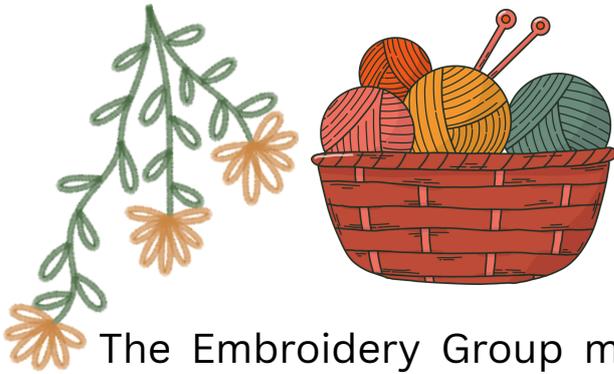
The Adaptation Game



On Monday 22nd September, we had another game session for the Adaptation Game. This amazing tool allows players to role play preparing for and reacting to Climate Impact events like floods, wildfires, high temperatures and so on. This time, we had two tables with players from a wide variety of backgrounds and jobs. It's the third time I have played it and every time is a different experience but a similar outcome: people work together to support each other to prepare for and recover from disaster. We had a terrible time with flooding in the Kaipātiki local board area and saw the community come together to support each other during that time.

One of the attendees lives out in Piha and experienced the awful impacts of Cyclone Gabriel. She was part of a group that set up a Community Muster Point during the event. They were out of power and sometimes communication so having a place for the community to gather to ask for help or offer it as well as charge their phones and get information or just a cup of tea was incredibly important. She has offered to come and talk to us about setting up a community muster point and what it involves so that we can explore it as an option to support our community.





Invitation to join the Embroidery Group

The Embroidery Group meets every Friday 9.30-12 noon during term time in the Lindisfarne Lounge at St Aidan's at 97 Onewa Road.

We would welcome any newcomers who are interested in stitching (embroidery or knitting) to join us. For enquiries contact: Helene Muller (h) 480 9146 or (m) 0211889853



The Pastoral Committee invite you to the

Parish Lunch

**7th November 2025, 12 Noon-2pm at the RSA
Tickets \$25 each**

Meet in the upstairs lounge. Go down in the lift to restaurant. 3 Choices:

- Fish & Chips
- Chicken dish
- Vegetarian

RSVP by Tuesday 4th
November to
barbarawesley21@gmail.com /
021 0825 6064
Pay by cash or Internet banking



Gather your team!

Gather your teams for The Mad Hatter's Quiz Night ! Pick a theme and wear a hat. BYO drinks. It's going to be a fun night!



Mad Hatter's
QUIZ
Night

WEAR A HAT, WIN A PRIZE

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 7PM
172 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead

TICKETS
\$25 PP
\$5 Under 15s
\$150/table of 6

Gather your team for our annual fundraiser* quiz night. Tickets include the quiz, snacks & juice. BYO drinks. The winning team gets a Christmas hamper.

TO BOOK:
email sarah@onewacc.org.nz to or
phone 021 0919 7097

Onewa Christian Community
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTIAROA NEW ZEALAND

* 10% of proceeds go to De Paul House

Roster for the month – October 2025

October 2025 Roster

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer	Morning Tea
5 th October	Robin Baxter	Karen Davies	Karen Davies	Andre Muller	Jocelyn Collinge & Dale Kerr
12 th October	Barbara Wadams	David Hansen	David Hansen	Barbara Wadams	Elizabeth Wong & Robin Baxter
19 th October	Community Breakfast – led by Kim Bulluss with support from John Railton				Fiona Railton and others needed
26 th October	Mary Boyd	Margaret Larsen	Margaret Larsen	Mary Boyd	Rosemary Bold & Linda Buckthought

Serving Elders for 26th October Communion:

Robin Baxter, Karen Davies and Cathy Fraser

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