

OCC NEWSLETTER



Minister's Message

Building up the Future

During the school holidays, I had half a day of playtime with my five-year-old grandson. Although I wasn't quite sure how we would spend several hours together, it turned out to be a very meaningful and enjoyable time. The secret was building a Lego T-rex together, one of his favourites. I used to build things with my son when he was about the same age as my grandson. Yet that was such a long time ago that it almost felt like a new experience for me.

We opened the Lego box together. It seemed to be the moment he had been looking forward to the most, almost like opening Christmas presents. As I watched him closely, I noticed how carefully he worked out which brick should come next by following the blueprint. He was eager to build his favourite dinosaur, patiently paying attention to every detail. Step by step, he followed the instructions until the T-rex was finally complete. It brought great joy to both of us. Just as my grandson patiently followed the blueprint one brick at a time, Nehemiah approached Jerusalem's rebuilding with prayer, careful planning, and the help of many people who each rebuilt their own section of the wall.

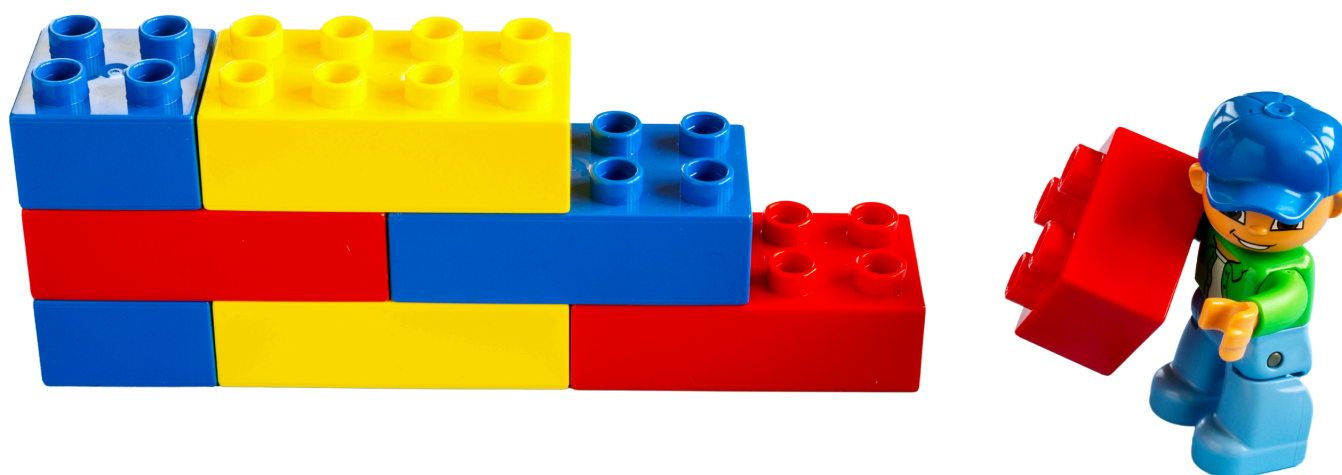
In Nehemiah chapters 1–3, we read about the distressing situation of the people who had returned to Jerusalem. Although the temple had already been rebuilt some years earlier, the city's broken walls left its people vulnerable, insecure, and living in disgrace. Serving as cupbearer to the Persian king, Nehemiah was deeply grieved for his people. He prayed earnestly, carefully surveyed the damaged walls, and organised the rebuilding by assigning each section to different families and groups. This enabled the work to move forward with purpose and without confusion. Chapter 3 records many of those who took part in rebuilding the wall. The project succeeded not only because of Nehemiah's prayerful leadership and careful planning, but also because God's people each played their part.

There is an important lesson for us. We need faithful leadership that prays, plans wisely, and looks to the future of the church. At the same time, the future of the church is built when each person plays their part.

The Strategic Plan of Onewa Christian Community is now being prepared. We invite you to look through the plan and consider where God may be calling you to participate. The plan can only become a reality through the involvement of all the people of OCC. If you have any questions, please speak with Sarah, any OCC Council member, or Jin Sook.

May God guide us as we put this plan into action in the coming months, and may we serve together with joy. Amen.

Rev Jin Sook Kim





Onewa Christian Community Strategic Plan 2026/2027

We're an open, inclusive Christian community - welcoming everyone, growing in faith together and putting the love of Jesus into everyday action.

OUR GOAL: *To achieve sustainability and continue God's mission, we will grow a vibrant, Christ-centred community - deepening faith, strengthening belonging, and welcoming new people into our church family.*

OVERALL AIM: *Our primary focus in all things is to grow our Church membership*

PRIORITY AREA	GOALS AND OUTCOMES (Where do we want to be in a year?)	How do we get there?
WORSHIP LIFE	• Services engage all generations • OCC grown preachers and worship leaders as well as guest preachers build excitement and engagement to grow faith and attract more people to our church. • Worship committee is empowered and developed to lead the way with planning services that engage all generations. • Growth in prayer and discipleship. • More contemporary music is incorporated into worship. • Succession planning for worship related committees and groups	• New prayer group (Bible Talk Plus) • Guest preachers as well as congregation members are invited to deliver testimony and sermons. • Invite new people to join worship committee. • Purchase contemporary music package. • Invite new members to volunteer on committees and with groups to reduce pressure on existing volunteers.
CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY	• Youth group and children's ministries grow and encourage growth of faith and new church membership. • New families join the church. • Parents are able to focus on their own faith journey whilst feeling confident that their children are cared for and are developing their own faith. • Volunteers are less pressured with the responsibility of engaging and caring for children during services.	• Invest in a Sunday kid's programme leader – every Sunday (incl. Eco Kids) • Youth are invited to volunteer as kids programme leaders • Deliver parenting workshops.

		Continue to deliver Youth group and Eco Kids activities.
DISCIPLESHIP AND FAITH FORMATION	- Bible Talk Suppers (BTS) and Bible Talk Plus (BT PLUS) as a platform of Discipleship growth. - Onewa Youth led by Youth facilitator grows discipleship amongst our younger members. - New preachers/worship leaders are developed from our OCC membership. - Create the prayer group for OCC mission and overall wellbeing of people and the world.	- BT Plus meets every Sunday to study the Bible and develop the leadership in a worship service. - Youth group continues and grows. - Prayer group is developed - New volunteers are encouraged to support these activities. - A Sunday kids programme leader is employed.
MISSIONAL OUTREACH/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	- Thursday group, mainly music, kids' crafts, Parenting workshops, Eco Kids, Onewa Youth, Community Breakfast and any other new OCC lead initiatives have a focus on growing our congregation. - All outreach includes elements of worship. - Awareness continues to build in the community of OCC, our values and what makes us stand out from other churches. - Our branding is well recognised. - The community values and recognises OCC's missional outreach.	- Support is given to leaders of all outreach/community engagement to include worship elements. - Continue delivery of community engagement activities with a focus of raising awareness in the community of our church by ensuring that every event is well branded, includes an element of worship and includes information sharing about our church. - Community engagement activities include events, talks, workshops and fundraising activities as well as attendance of local networks and collaboration with other groups who are aligned to our values.
PASTORAL CARE	- Visiting elders collaboration is strengthened. - A growth group is created within each pastoral whānau. - There is succession planning and growth of volunteers to enable us to support our growing in age congregation with pastoral care.	Each pastoral whānau will have a tea meeting at least twice a year together

		(where possible/appropriate) - OCC retreat once a year - More volunteers are recruited to support pastoral care activities and reduce the pressure on existing volunteers.
ECO CHURCH	- Our eco church initiatives are maintained and grown. - Continue to collaborate in the delivery of the Repair Café.	- Continue with existing eco-church activities and actions. - Encourage participation in other areas of caring for creation eg support of local eco initiatives. - Continue with Repair Café, recycling initiatives and eco kids.
LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE	- Succession planning: Building pool of volunteers and encouraging wider engagement in our committees and council. - Our church meets all legal requirements in terms of Health and Safety, privacy and other areas and <u>is able to</u> easily adapt as we grow. - New congregation members are aware of the opportunities to contribute to church leadership and governance. - Risk management and succession plans are in place for key leadership roles (including both staff and volunteers in case of absence/ illness etc - requirement to review and report monthly on progress against the strategic plan - Every Committee shall have a Terms of Reference against which they can plan, operate and report.	- Actively seek more volunteers from the congregation and community. - Health and Safety and other policies are reviewed and written for all areas. - Succession planning takes place.
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	- Processes are in place to manage onboarding of new congregation members. - Explore a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) tool as congregation grows - Clear processes for venue hire, accounts etc - Risk management and succession plans are in place including for access to key accounts (website, social media, Microsoft, mailchimp etc)	- Create an onboarding process. - Explore a CRM. - Develop clear processes for administrative activities. - Risk management developed for computer accounts.
RESOURCING	- A clear fundraising plan is developed for the year including both events and funding applications. - Continue to actively promote venue hire.	Fundraising plan is developed.

		- Fundraising initiatives take place and are well attended. - Consider recruiting more volunteers for fundraising team to relieve some of the pressure. - Actively promote venue hire. - Develop clear processes for venue hire use.
BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION	- The entrance to 172 Hinemoa is modernised. - Both venues are tidy, easy to use and free of clutter. - People feel comfortable and happy to be using the venue. - Younger members are attracted to attending the church because it feels modern and meets their needs. - The venues look attractive.	- Redecoration and modernisation of entry area of 172 Hinemoa Street. - Declutter/disposal of excess furniture etc at both church sites. - Purchase of coffee machine and speaker for 172 Hinemoa. - Ongoing building repairs. - Seek new garden volunteer for 172 Hinemoa.
MARKETING	- The community know who we are, what we believe and what we do. - New members join our church. - Our congregation are empowered to share what they love about OCC. - Our newsletters are engaging and include elements of worship and stories of faith.	- Develop a comprehensive marketing plan, focussed on awareness raising, storytelling and growth of congregation. - Our marketing is consistent in messaging and branding. - We include elements of worship and stories in faith in our messaging.

People of OCC: Pauline Fish

This month in our People of OCC series, we celebrate a congregation member whose life has been woven together with family, faith, service, and community for more than six decades at our church.

Born in Fareham, Hampshire, England, Pauline Fish was just two years old when her family emigrated to New Zealand after her father joined the New Zealand Army. Growing up first in Papakura, then in Glen Innes and later in Birkenhead, she experienced a childhood shaped by army life, lifelong friendships, and a very different Auckland from the one we know today. She fondly remembers train trips into Queen Street, shopping with her mother, and the excitement of visiting Karangahape Road when it was the bustling heart of Auckland's Pacific community.

Although Pauline treasures her English roots, New Zealand quickly became home. A memorable trip back to England as a nine-year-old introduced her to the wider family, and many years later she returned with her husband Ian, and more recently with her son and his family including two of her granddaughters, to show them where her own story began.

Her connection with our church started when she was just thirteen. After moving to the North Shore, the captain of the Girls' Brigade at her previous company in Point England made sure she was connected with the company at St Andrew's. It was a simple act of care that changed the course of her life.



Two women in particular left a lasting impression. Girls' Brigade captain Mrs Ngaire Wilson encouraged her to develop her gifts and take on leadership, while Bible Class leader Beth Yarnton nurtured her faith and made church a place where she belonged. Those relationships kept her connected through her teenage years - and it was here, at Bible Class, that she met her husband Ian. They began dating while still at school and were married in the church in 1970.



Pauline and Ian's wedding at St. Andrew's in 1970 with the Girl's Brigade in attendance

Service has always been a natural part of her life. She trained as a teacher and has spent much of her life working with children, whether in schools, early childhood education, Girls' Brigade, mainly music, or church programmes.

One of the most remarkable chapters in her life came in her 20s when she and Ian became house parents for a Department of Social Welfare family home in Northcote. Over four and a half years, they cared for around 135 foster children, providing a safe and loving home for young people from difficult circumstances. Looking back, she describes it as one of the most important and formative experiences of their lives.

"We were very young," she recalls, "and there was no training. But we just got on with it." Many of those children stayed only briefly, while others became part of the family for much longer. Although decades have passed, she and Ian still find themselves wondering where some of those young people are today.

Pauline's involvement in church has been equally wide-ranging. Over the years she has served as a Girls' Brigade leader for many decades, an Elder, Session Clerk, member of various committees, Thursday Group leader, and one of the people who helped establish mainly music at our church in 2001.

Despite insisting she is not musical, Pauline's love for children made her the perfect person to help get the programme established. In those early days of mainly music, Pauline was working and she took 6 Tuesdays off work to help establish the programme. Nearly twenty-five years later, it continues to bless young families in our community. Asked about memorable moments in church life, Pauline doesn't speak first about buildings or programmes but about people. She remembers vibrant social evenings organised by church members, complete with themed nights, music, dancing and costumes. She remembers the church heaving for a Beatles concert. A yellow submarine advertised the concert outside the church. The next year there was a rock-and-roll concert that filled the building. The dinner clubs where friendships flourished; a wonderful women's group, a mother's group and countless gatherings that strengthened the church family.

"The people have really made being part of the church so special," she says. She also speaks warmly of people who shaped the life of the congregation over many years: the kindness of Bob and Margaret Duthie, the encouragement of Roma White, the dedication of church leaders, and the many volunteers whose quiet faithfulness helped make church feel like home.



Camp at Carey Park, Henderson



The Fish whānau at Ian's 80th birthday in April

Outside church, life has been full of adventures. Together with Ian she has enjoyed many years of sailing, culminating in an extraordinary circumnavigation of New Zealand aboard their yacht Dolittle in 2013–14. Family has always remained at the centre of her life too. Together they have three children, seven grandchildren, and many treasured memories. There have been family trips to England, Canada, and a special holiday to Disneyland with her parents when her father retired.

When asked what keeps her volunteering after all these years, her answer is simple: it's the people. Even after taking a short break from volunteering last term, Pauline realised how much she missed the friendships and sense of belonging that come from serving alongside others.

That commitment to people has been the thread running through every stage of Pauline's life, from teaching and fostering children to leading Girls' Brigade, supporting young families, and quietly serving behind the scenes at church.

Pauline turns 79 in a few weeks, making it 66 years that she has been part of our church – 84% of her life! Pauline continues to bring warmth, wisdom, humour, and an unwavering willingness to help wherever she is needed. We are deeply grateful for her many years of faithful service and for the countless lives she has touched through her generosity, compassion, and commitment to our church family. Thank you Pauline and Happy Birthday!

Onewa Christian Community

Pastoral Visitors

One of the requirements of The Book of Order of Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand is that church council must provide pastoral care for the congregation. At OCC, this is done by a team of pastoral visitors. Each visitor has a small whanau, or visitor's list, and each member of the congregation is part of such a whānau.

Your pastoral visitor may visit you, or keep in touch by phone or email; they might bring your monthly newsletter, or invite you for a coffee sometime. They are your immediate link with OCC. Jin Sook does a great deal of visiting, but cannot see everyone. She will also take home communion to someone who needs or wants that, and it is good if she can be accompanied by the appropriate pastoral visitor.

Do you know who your pastoral visitor is? If not, there is a list on the notice board for you to check. If you are new to OCC and you would like to be part of our pastoral care network, please contact Barbara Wesley 021 0825 6064 barbarawesley21@gmail.com OR Nan Inkson 027 480 2057 inksons@kiwilink.co.nz.

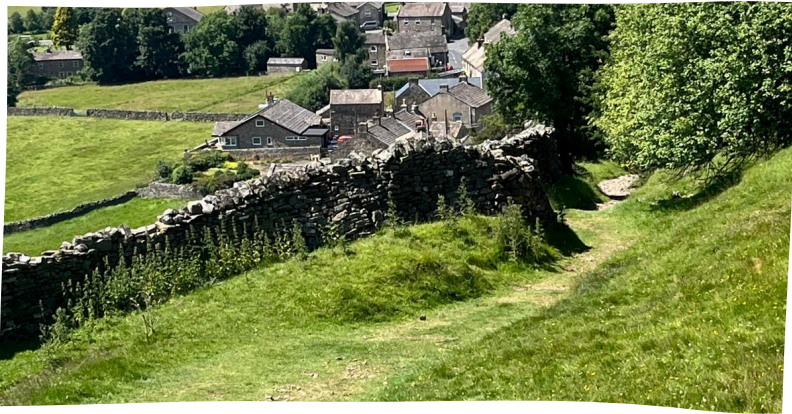
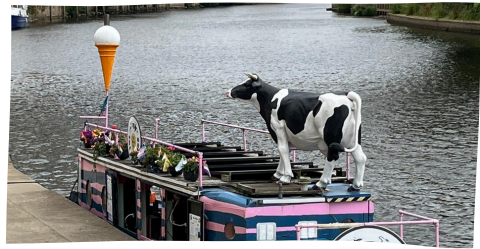


David & Rosemarie's trip so far

Rosemarie and David have finished their UK 'Wainwright Coast to Coast' walk – a total of 300km. We found this walk to be very interesting – every day presented a different view and aspect of the UK countryside – high heather covered moors and tarns; the fells; rock-strewn paths; pavers laid through bog country; farms with wheat in the final stages of growth or recently harvested; haymaking; sheep and cows. The landscape changed from undulating to steep and rocky; land ownership was both public and private. We were surprised by the many different public paths that criss-crossed the land.

Travelling lightly and talking with other travellers, we all were living simply and gently while caring for and about the environment. Our simple daily routine was breakfast, walking 20km +/-, arrival at our accommodation, essential laundry, dinner, sleep – and repeat – for 16 walking days. We had a rest day in two larger towns – essential for our general well-being.





David & Rosemarie's trip so far

Evidence of centuries of human habitation was everywhere and culminated in our visit to the Anglo-Saxon, Benedictine, Abbey in Captain Cook's hometown of Whitby – the Abbey was established in 657 and disestablished in 1638. (Whitby and the Abbey were the inspiration for the book 'Dracula'; the Abby and adjacent churchyard was used as a set in the filming of Dracula!).

We were delighted to visit two churches on the way which had snacks, cold drinks, supplies for campers and a toilet in the cool available for walkers; payment was an honesty system. They also had a Wi-Fi tap system set up for donations.

We couldn't compare our experience of the Coast to Coast with that of two-years ago, walking the Camino de Santiago – though we did find this year's walk to be a much more challenging because of the terrain.

Our party of four then travelled by bus to York where we walked the Roman city wall, visited the Viking Museum and attended Evensong at York Minster – another wonderful experience the evening before the swearing-in of the new UK Prime Minister. The sermon spoke of the need for all leaders to have the wisdom of Solomon in their leadership and of the Church being political, but not party political.

Our next adventure started with a 15 hour ship voyage to the Islands of Shetland and four days later, a 5-hour ferry trip to Orkney.





Eco-Kids

First Sunday of the month.

Meet 9.30am @OCC,
172 Hinemoa Street



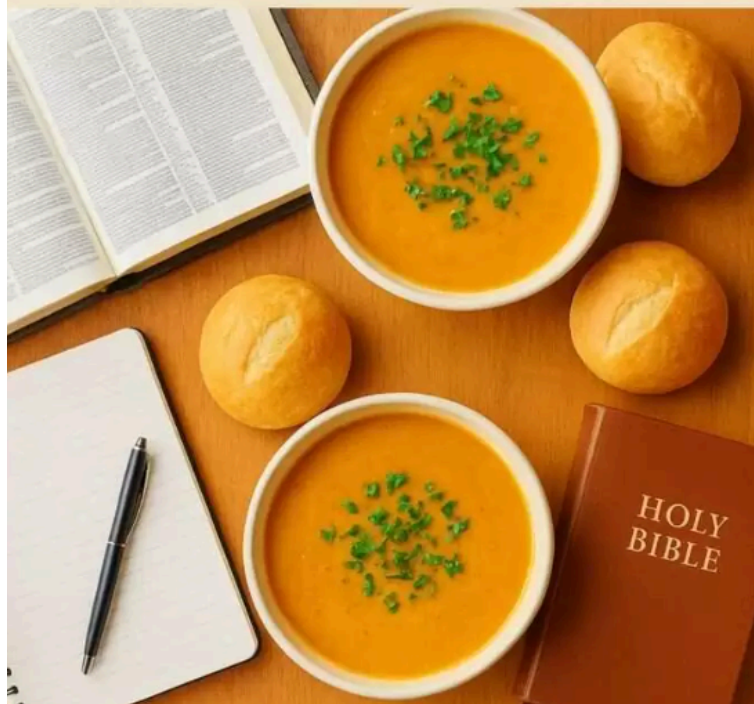
ECO-FUN FOR PRIMARY
SCHOOL AGED KIDS!

Register by emailing sarah@onewacc.org.nz.
Caregivers must attend.
www.onewacc.org.nz



BIBLE TALK SUPPERS

Meet on Every 4th Sunday
5pm at church



Start your Sunday with us!

FREE!

Community Breakfast

All Welcome

Sunday 16th August
9.30am



172 Hinemoa St,
Birkenhead

SPEAKER

Kristin Taylor
Dementia North

Let's build our faith
one verse at a time! ♥

BIBLE TALK PLUS

Discover
God's Word
together!

More than a talk.
It's a life transformed. ♥

Ask.
Share.
Grow!



STUDY
the Bible
together



SHARE
thoughts
and learn
from each other



ENCOURAGE
one another
and grow
in faith



LIVE
God's Word
every day



WE MEET UP
1ST, 2ND & 3RD SUNDAYS
DURING TERM TIME
AT 5.30PM - 7.00PM

172 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead

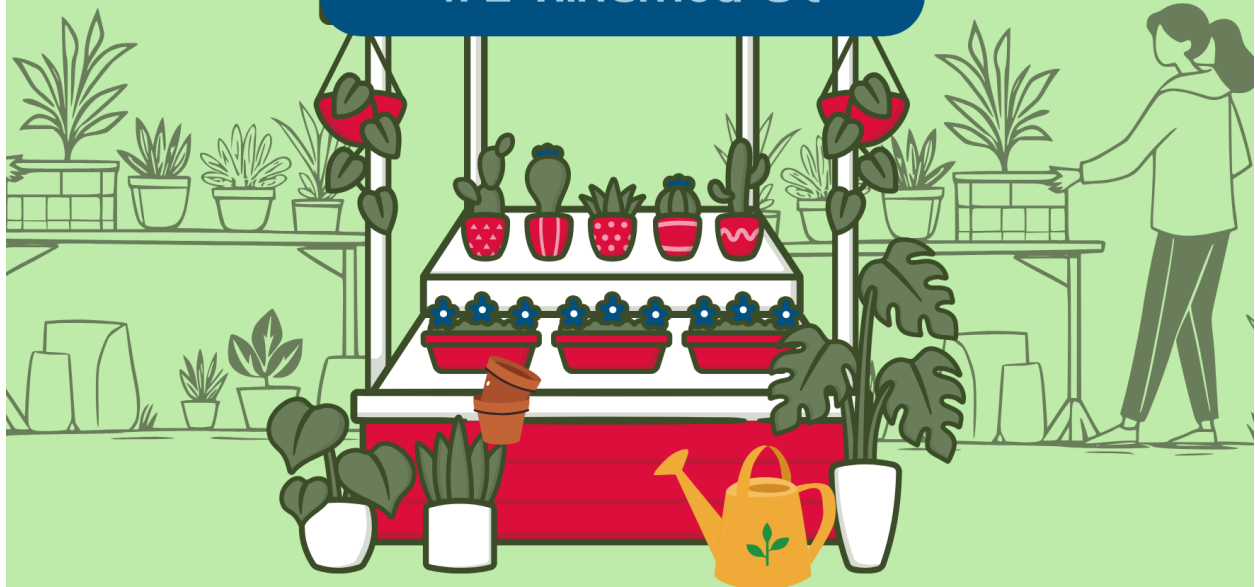


"Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another."
- Proverbs 27:17

Plant Sale

Alongside the Repair Cafe

Sat 1st Aug
1-3pm @ OCC,
172 Hinemoa St



St Margaret's Belmont Final Thanksgiving Service

a final thanksgiving service for St Margaret's Belmont will be held on the afternoon of Sunday the 9th August at 4:30pm

151 Lake Road, Belmont

The invitation to attend and support the congregation is extended to all members of the Presbytery, and especially to those who have had a particular connection with this faith community and its ministry.

Onewa Christian Community Church Council Report – July 2026

Church Council met on 21st July. Jon Sook constituted the meeting by reading the parable of the mustard seed and shared the interpretation of the parable that described mustard plants as fast growing, subversive weeds, and that as part of the kingdom of heaven we are to be like the mustard plant, challenging the status quo.

Strategic Plan

The Draft Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2027 was discussed and accepted as a working document. It will be available in the foyer and members are encouraged to read it.

Ministry and Worship

Jin Sook's sick will be on sick leave from 17 August till 26 August because of eye surgery.

There is important information about worship services because of this:

Our August Communion Service will be on 9th August, which is the second Sunday in August.

On 23rd August, which is the fourth Sunday, OCC congregation will join with Birkenhead Methodist Church.

We will also join Birkenhead Methodist Church as usual on August 30th, the fifth Sunday in the month.

Children and Youth Ministry

Eco Kids continues to do well. In addition, Sarah is going to run a Sunday Kids' Programme, on the other Sundays each month, probably starting later in September.

Onewa Youth meets on Friday evenings under the leadership of Caleb. They are using Youth Alpha and Firestarter Bible Study programmes, and on each fourth Friday they will have a different type of activity.

Community Engagement

Sarah continues to make OCC known in the wider community with a variety of activities and projects. Unfortunately there have so far been no takers for the Parenting Programme, so this has been put on hold for the present.

Community Breakfast

Members of the congregation are to be surveyed about what they think about Community Breakfast in its current form. As with many of our church groups and activities, people are needed to take over the organisation and carrying out of Community Breakfast into the future if it is decided that we should continue.

AGM

The proposed date for our OCC AGM is the second Sunday in November. All groups must have reports sent to Nan Inkson, Acting Secretary, before the end of September please – inksons@kiwilink.co.nz

·There will be no Church Council meeting in August. Next meeting will be on September 15th.

Nan Inkson

IMPORTANT

Our August Communion Service will be on 9th August, which is the second Sunday in August.

On 23rd August, which is the fourth Sunday, OCC congregation will join with Birkenhead Methodist Church.

We will also join Birkenhead Methodist Church as usual on August 30th, the fifth Sunday in the month.

August Roster

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
Sunday 2 nd Aug	M. Larsen	Garry Pash	Garry Pash	M. Larsen	Jocelyn C & Gwen K
Sunday 9 th Aug (Communion)	Helene M	Rachel H	Helene M	Rachel H	Elizabeth & Robin B
Sunday 16 th Aug	Community Breakfast				
Sunday 23rd Aug	Combined with Birkenhead Methodist at Zion Hill (Rev. Jin Sook away)				
Sunday 30 th Aug	Combined with Birkenhead Methodist at Zion Hill (Rev. Jin Sook preaching)				
Serving elders for Communion 9 th Aug: Pauline F, Robin B, Barbara Wadams, Barbara Wesley					

Contact us

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

Community Engagement Lead: Sarah Thorne sarah@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

