TOGETHER

KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

ChristianChurchesNZ – Methodist – Presbyterian
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu 5032

NOVEMBER 2026



The redesigned garden by the Raumati Church entrance
It looks lovely - thank you for your work, Dianne Boyce

From the Minister's Desk

The new liturgical year, that is the new year of worship, begins at the end of this month on Advent Sunday. Jesus Christ is always at the heart of our worship and I found myself reflecting on Jesus. What kind of person was he when he walked with human feet through the lives of those who crossed his path? What did he experience as a child that shaped the man he became?

He was a sensitive child and sensitive children don't have an easy time. It probably hurt him to see those close to him, those in his family, those in his town, suffering from the effects of being a subject people. As a man he was driven by his need to open the eyes of others to the power they had which couldn't be taken away from them.
It is possible that as a clever, sensitive child he was bullied, by other boys, by his religious teachers. As a man he was drawn to those who were mistreated – tax collectors, women, poor fishermen, the sick and the weak. And his rare anger was most often directed at the religious leaders and teachers for being coercive and controlling.

He grew up with a mother who was brave, resourceful and intelligent. As a man he was remembered for his respectful relationships with women.
He loved a good story and had no time for narrow-minded fixation with religious laws.
We can imagine him, a child, alight with interest in the stories in the Hebrew Scriptures,
his attention wandering when it came to studying the laws.

He was almost certainly a child who was happy when people made peace with one another and saddened by discord between people he cared about. As a man he turned his face away from violent solutions to his people's plight. Over and over again his teachings were about how to coexist, or simply exist, in the world harmoniously.

When we explore through worship what it means to follow Jesus the man then and the Christ now, it helps to remember his humanness.

Rev Anna Gilkison



A Service of Remembrance for our Cherished Pets

Raumai Combined Congregations service this Sunday 1 November
Waikanae Congregation next Sunday 8 November

The service will include a ritual of blessing
for our animal companions who are no longer with us,
You might like to come with a photo

You are also invited to bring your pets to be blessed.

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. On the fifth and sixth days of creation, you called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless the animals and all living creatures. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen

News from Waikanae

Worship



"Social Responsibility " was the theme of the Simple Service led by Sue Hodgson in the church lounge on 18 October. Bible readings and hymns guided our responses to a series of questions. Each of the four tables was nominated as an age group: 18-28- year-olds; 29-40; 41-64; 65++. It was very helpful for us to consider the needs and hopes of those beyond our Seniors group, and our prayers for others were shaped by our reflections. We carry those thoughts into the November 7 General Election.

Soup Group



The meeting on 20 October, was very fortunate to have Beth Manning, a member of our congregation with current work experience in IT, begin to demystify the AI bogeyman. She introduced us to the processes, benefits and problems of this hugely significant and escalating part of our lives. Beth is willing to share this presentation with the wider parish.

Thinking about next year



November brings us near to the close of 2026 and we have begun to ponder how the life of our little church might develop in 2027. We are thinking about some informal social gatherings to include members unable to attend worship services. We'd also like to have more Simple Services, but will need to be able to use a microphone for the church lounge. As we look to the future we take to heart these words from Paul's letter to the Philippians: *"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is just, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable…think about these things. Keep on doing the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."*

People



Ute, de facto official cake maker, brought a birthday cake to morning tea to celebrate all the birthdays Waikanae members had marked over the past three months, including Friedl Michl who is pictured blowing out the candles! A lovely way to acknowledge and appreciate our faithful people.

Diana Roberts

About People



We were saddened to hear that on the 6 September Bernice Olsson passed away. Bernice was a member of our Raumati Congregation and had been in care in the hospital wing at Summerset, Paraparaumu, for some time where she was visited regularly by one of our pastoral visitors.
Bernice was a long time friend of Diana Roberts their friendship going back to connections with Drama Christi and the Taranaki Street Methodist Church in Wellington. Bernice's funeral was led by Diana in our Raumati Church on the 10 September.
Our prayers have been and will continue to be with the Olsson family.

Sadly another of our parishioners has died. Isabel Robertson passed away on Saturday 24 October. Isabel had been in care in the hospital wing at Seven Oaks for the past few weeks. Isabel was a long time member of our Raumati church and we remember her faithful organ playing for our Raumati Congregation. Her funeral was held on Friday 30 October at Raumati Church. *Rest in peace, Isabel.*

To all who have a Birthday in November we send our very best wishes to you and hope you enjoy your Birthday.
Our very best wishes and congratulations go to Liz Sutherland who celebrates a special birthday on Friday 30 October.

For those celebrating an Anniversary may it be a special time for you.

To those who are unwell you are in our thoughts and we send our very best wishes.

The Pastoral Care Team
Lyn, Carole, Diana, Bastiana, Diane, Dianne and Merrill

Parish AGM, 11 October

The AGM was preceded by a 10am service led by Rev Anna Gilkison.





Thank you, Barrie, for ensuring the microphones were all working!







Parishioners from all three congregations shared their visions for the Parish's direction in the coming year







We are blessed to have many volunteers helping to run our church, Rev Anna acknowledged their importance *(these are just a few of those she thanked)*







Catching up with friends and fellow parishioners after the AGM as we head into the Hall for a shared lunch.

If you would like a copy of the Annual Report and the Accounts which were presented at the AGM, they are available on our website KUP.org.nz and at our churches.









Thank you to everyone who brought food and helped with the meal

Strike!



Some of my happiest memories of being a boy and then a teenager were of the uncomplicated hours spent on the back end of an old kauri launch, holding my threadline rod as we puttered about some part of Lake Manapouri. Those were the days! No other boat in sight, the Waiau River flowing at its proper level and my parents, Dad especially, not in deep water trying to keep the water level of the lake and river normal.



Just frequently enough to make the whole enterprise thoroughly satisfying there would be a jolt of electricity up your arm that had nothing to do with Meridian. You would get your rod tip up and shout “Strike!” and start winding. Whoever was on helm duty brought down the revs, turned the boat into the fray and settled down for the outcome.



These days I spend happy hours puttering my way through a variety of books and memories, often turning them over while sitting on my own back end. Sometimes there’s something that leaps out in electric blue. Becomes an ear worm. Perhaps fits itself to a tune. Grows into its proper place in the wider scheme of where I’m going. Becomes the beginning of a poem or a prayer or a Sunday morning reflection or a something-not-quite-yet. And I am more excited over that than ever I was over a salmon or a rainbow trout. For now life is given, not taken. And when it happens, does someone in Heaven shout, “Strike!” and does St Peter push the tiller over, just for a moment?



Robin List









Blessed are the Potato People

There was a boy in my third form class called Spud Murphy. 'Spud' because 'murphys' was a nickname for spuds, and of course a spud is a potato. Spud Murphy's family was Irish; and the Irish began growing potatoes in the late 1600's. The spud withstood the Irish climate, even flourished in it, and it wasn't long before potatoes became an important part of the Irish diet. So the potato blight that struck Ireland's crop in the mid 19th century was a leading factor in the Great Famine responsible for a death toll of 1.3million. The Great Famine further depleted the population by sending out millions of emigrants all over the world in search of work and food. My grandmother was one of them. 'You're a lot like her', an elderly aunt told me: 'good, broad hands and stubby potato-grubbing fingers.' A Potato Person, and proud of it.

Potato People don't look all that glamourous, but what you see isn't what you get. The true worth of potatoes lies hidden in the earth; it's a buried treasure, multiplying away under the ground. Its not the flowery green tops that are important; you don't harvest your spuds until the tops have died down. The people Jesus talked about in the Beatitudes are Potato People; unspectacular, down-to-earth, quietly productive, nourishing and life-giving. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit' proclaimed Jesus. 'Blessed are those who mourn…the meek…those who hunger and thirst after righteousness…the merciful…the pure in heart…the peacemakers…'

Potatoes are making a bit of a comeback on restaurant menus, but only if they're 'gourmet' – pruperu Maori potatoes or South Island Jersey Bennes. Most potatoes, tough, are distributed not in fancy little boxes, but in hefty bags. We depend on those nearly as much as on our daily bread. Colourful and distinctive personalities enliven the church, but the church's mission is fulfilled through its common and garden Potato People.

New Zealand-born children's book illustrator and author, pamela Allen, has produced a picture book, The Potato People, which expresses this theme with humour and wisdom.

Diana Roberts

From Methodist Touchstone
April 2008



An Aotearoa Prayer at Election Time



God, guide our country through this coming election.
Thank you for all who run for public office,
And the variety of political parties and opinions.

Thank you that we can go to polls
Without threats and intimidations,
And that we can trust the outcome of the count.

Help us choose a government that will rule wisely,
Thinking to the future and learning from the past.
We need a strong economy that leaves no-one behind,
A government that walks justly in relation to iwi.
And cares with them for our beautiful country.

These are soul-searching times for all countries;
Do we want to reach out to help a hurting world
Or retreat behind our borders, playing it safe.

Forgive us for forgetting that you created this beautiful blue planet
With no separations of nationality or race.
Help us find the better angels of our nature
So we can learn to live in peace.

We need peace close to home as well.
We pray for all who are uneasy in body and spirit,
Who are trying to find ways to mend broken relationships.

Bring healing to those we love who are sick,
And strength for all who are care-giving.
Comfort those who grieve.

Keep us grounded this week in the gospel of grace
That Jesus shared with us;
The power of love conquers even death.

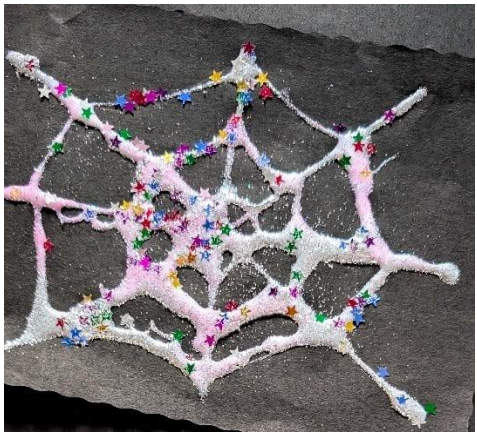
Thank you for this congregation,
A community of hope loving and supporting one another,
Reaching out to those in need.
We do this all in the name of Jesus,

Amen

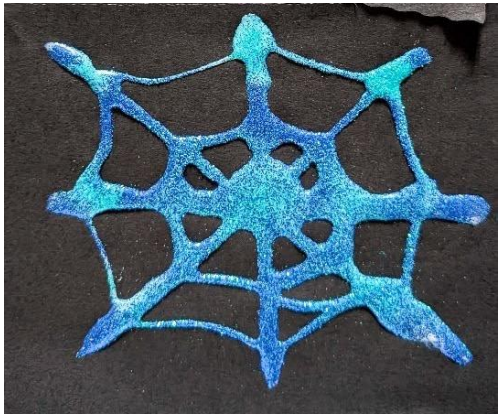
Raumati Playgroup

This term we have had a new volunteer Sylvia Hill start. Sylvia adores the little ones and has been a great addition to our playgroup.

Unfortunately, because of the school holidays, I don't have as much to tell you about as we have only had two sessions of playgroup. It is very hard to believe that we are now in the last term for the year.



We started off the term with a very messy playgroup, because we pulled out the glitter and glue and made glitter pictures. The kids really enjoyed shaking all of the glitter out of the glitter shakers! It was very messy but seeing the joy on the kids faces while playing with the glitter was well worth it.



Last week we made flower sun catchers. Because of all the beautiful flowers that come out in springtime

I love coming up with activities where we can use and appreciate the flowers.



For this activity I cut a hole in the middle of a paper plate and stuck down sticky contact paper. The kids then got to pick the flowers they wanted to use and stick them to the sticky contact paper. The plate then gets hung in the window and the flowers look beautiful with the light shining on them. My daughter Sadie enjoyed making lots of sun catchers to give away to different people at playgroup.

Thank you to our volunteers Marie, Bev, Maureen, Lovinia and Sylvia for making playgroup possible.

We are not alone....

by Pete Strang

I had to travel down from the Kapiti Coast to Wgtn to my daughter Jan's 60th birthday. I couldn't really believe that she could be that age...and accompanying that thought was, "just how old am I?!" Of course I broke all the rules in how I was going to travel there. They get very concerned whether I am on 4 wheels or 2 wheels. Needless to say I was on the latter, a motor scooter. I love that ride to Porirua on Highway 59. The views out to Kapiti Island from the coast are a stunning prospect.

It was a very special time at Berhampore with my three families and friends out in Jan and Bruce's garden with Britta's band playing and a fire in a brazier for heating marsh mellows! The great grand children, Ash and Iris loved it. I stayed the night with Tim, my son, Kim and Aria who live very close. The next morning was very busy with breakfast, and getting out the door, Kim to her medical practice, Aria to school, and Tim conducting a Zoom meeting for his work....all go!

I stacked up the motorbike and headed off into the crazy Wgtn traffic looking for the Photo Warehouse on Victoria St as I had PNG slides to be copied digitally as a resource for "the book" I am trying to put together. Tim said, "It should be easy enough to find, Dad, or you can look on Google Maps." The reality however was that I was somewhat anxious as the Wgtn CBD is criss crossed by one-way streets even more than in Dunedin. There are also bus-lanes that you ride on at your peril with the possibilities of big fines. An "old man" on a scooter going the wrong way especially in a bus lane is a sight to behold and an accident waiting to happen.

I found the shop [after the odd u -turn!] and I was so pleased. That is when the carapace of anxiety fell off. There was a welcome and I could have hugged him. [I didn't!]. "Not a

problem," he said. "Give us week or so and I will send you a link."

I walked out of there on a high and then my phone rang...."Mr Strang, we are ringing from the Bank and we note that money has disappeared from your Visa Account. It is a considerable amount and we would like to check.....". Alarm bells started ringing in my head. "We can help you," he said. I said that I would head to the BNZ in Willis St and they could sort it. He rang off. My anxiety was big time again. The last time I was scammed I lost 25K which the BNZ eventually found in the Taranaki Savings Bank. The woman in the BNZ was just brilliant. She reassured me that it was all a scam and my savings were OK. I thanked her and left in a bit of a daze. I needed a coffee and a debrief.

How could I get so anxious in Wgtn? I thought back to my life's experiences, climbing, skiing off polar peaks, and Joshua getting out of the jeep in the Highlands of PNG ducking arrows and spears as well as rocks to shout to the people fighting that the doctor had come, "Docta em I kam, Docta em I kam", and the people would stop fighting to let us through. When doing surgery we had to frisk the relatives of the patients of their knives and guns as they would come to watch and make sure we were not working magic [puri puri]. If so they would have killed us. The Papua New Guinean doctor in the Govt hospital down the road in Mt Hagen had been killed [payback] after he backed accidently over a child in the Hospital carpark. I knew the doctor well. It was very upsetting.

I realised that I had forgotten something. My loneliness had caught up with me. I was feeling very vulnerable managing everything myself.....but I had run into Him in the Photo shop and in the Bank. He was present just as He was in PNG despite all. I had not recognised Him. I have to remember that he walks with us as he did on the road to Emmaus. He draws close to us when we feel grief, confusion or disappointment....but we do not always see Him. Our Lord is a constant surprise. Keep a lookout!

Greetings to you all, Pete.

Our Hirers

The Kāpiti Community Choir are an everyone-welcome kind of group.

The Choir has been together for over 6 years, and continues to grow as a choir and a community.

They have a firm belief that people have an innate ability to sing, and they come together to celebrate this every week.

Meetings are on Tuesday evenings at the Kāpiti Uniting Parish Raumati complex, in the church, 7-8.30pm.

The choir welcomes new singers to come along and join in, no experience is required and all songs are taught 'by ear' so you don't need to be able to read music!
They sing songs from Aotearoa New Zealand, and many other cultures and places around the world, in English and other languages – including te reo Māori.

The Choir perform occasionally, usually for community events, including carol singing at Christmas. They will be singing at Big Mac Slabs on 31st October at 12 noon, as part of the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail; and the Whareroa Farm Community celebration at Whareroa Farm on 1st November, also at 12 noon.



Choir rehearsing at Raumati Church



For more information, please see
the Kāpiti Community Choir Facebook Page

Bible Occupations

by Rosalie Sugrue

With Labour Day in mind it is interesting to reflect how some work roles have changed and and some have lasted for millennia. Underline one word in each line that <u>is not</u> in the Bible (KJV)

butler, butcher, baker, candlestick-maker
blacksmith, builder, carpenter, cobbler
carver, chemist, commander, courier
cupbearer, doctor, doorkeeper, drummer
fisherman, farmer, firefighter, hunter
hairdresser, jailer, judge, king
labourer, lawyer, machinist, maid
magistrate, mason, mechanic, merchant
midwife, musician, nurse, painter
pilot, potter, priest, prophet
prostitute, plumber, queen, sailor
sergeant, servant, shepherd, slave
spy, stone-cutter, tailor, tanner
tentmaker, tinker, trader, witch
tax-collector, wardrobe-keeper, warden

Answers on page 22

Extract from a Eulogy for John, a member of the Actively Coping with Cancer group who meet weekly in Raumati Hall:

John was very in tune with the ambience/special energy both in a room and among the participants. Although he was not a Christian, the large hall at the Uniting Parish Church in Raumati was his favourite. He was not so enthralled when we had to have any sessions elsewhere. He would remind us that the large Hall was once a Church and thus contained a history of spiritual connections through prayers and other religious and spiritual practices. He had his own preferred place – over by the door where sunlight warmed the area. Holding our sessions in the Hall when possible was very much motivated by John.

Christine Lenck

Thrifty Place

We thought it would be a good idea to explain why Thrifty is continuously asking for donations from yourselves and the wider community.

Firstly, we have noticed that having a wide range and choice of goods, reflects positively in our turnover. We also have many regular customers, and it's very satisfying to be able to have new items on display for those people to view or buy. Overall, it makes a visit to Thrifty more appealing.

Also, we thought you would like to hear about some of the small acts of outreach we've helped with. One of our regulars is teaching her extended family to cook, because she knows it's beneficial for them. Firstly, though, her pupils need kitchen items, so we sold several items at half price to her, as we wanted to show our support for a great project.

Our neighbour Te Ara Korowhai, an organization that teaches vulnerable people life skills, asked if we could help with kitchen items. We gave the manager a Thrifty voucher, and encouraged her to come in and use the voucher to buy whatever they needed.

Our Tiny Tunes playgroup at Raumati is growing and reaching many new families. When a child who attends has a birthday, they are given a little pack of goodies which also includes a $10 Thrifty Place voucher so they can 'go shopping' to choose their own present. Similarly, the parents of new babies at playgroup are given a voucher to spend on things they need.

These are just three examples of how Thrifty and our church are able to reach out to the community, and we know we have the support of our parish in this matter.

Thank you to everyone who helps make Thrifty a success.

Kay McIntosh. Kate Foley.

Raumati Women's Fellowship

This group will meet on the 12 November at 11am at the home of Merle Stevenson in Waikanae. After a short business session Merle will show us around her garden. If it is wet she will entertain us with piano music after which we will have a shared lunch. Please bring a small plate of finger food.

Any queries about transport please contact
Merrill 027353 2307 04 9024134
Lyn 04 9048361 022 165 7523.

E-Prayer Requests

A group from our Parish receives requests for prayer every week. You can ring, text, or email to ask for the request to be passed on:

Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 or text 0273 532 307 or amkram.nz@gmail.com

Maureen Calhaem 04 299 1903 or text 0278 568 611 or maureen.calhaem@xtra.co.nz

The requests will remain confidential and names will not be used without your permission.

Maureen and Merrill

Occupations answers from page 20: butcher, cobbler, chemist, drummer, firefighter, hairdresser, machinist, mechanic, painter, pilot, plumber, sergeant, tailor, tinker, warden

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote…that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."
Samuel Adams

November: for your diary

4	11am	Parkwood Lodge Service
10	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
11	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
12	11am – 1pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
13	10 -11.30am	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
17	10.30am	Waikanae Women's Fellowship
19	10.30 – 11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
27	10am – 12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
	10am	Folding December Together

November: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm	Craft group, Raumati
	10.30am – 4pm	Thrifty Place
Thursdays	10am -12pm	Raumati Playgroup
	10.30am – 4pm	Thrifty Place
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place

Donating to Kapiti Uniting Parish

Donations are always welcome to help us with our Parish expenses and you can make your gift in different ways:

We have cash collection boxes at our services or in person at your bank, or online, to account:

Kapiti Uniting Parish 03 0732 0063111 00

Please put your name as reference for your payment so that we can issue a tax receipt which you can use to apply for a tax refund.

November Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
1st	Barrie Woods	Rev Anna Gilkison HC *Service of remembrance for animals*	
4th	11am Parkwood Lodge Service		
8th	Rev Anna Gilkison HC *Service of remembrance for animals*	Heather List	Maureen Calhaem
11th	11am Sevenoaks Service		
15th	Worship Group Church Anniversary	Rev Roger Wiig	
19th	10.30am Coastal Villas Service		
22nd	Rev Robin List	Maureen Calhaem	Rev Anna Gilkison
29th *First Advent*	Rev Anna Gilkison	Kevin Boyce	

WWW.kup.org.nz

email: kapitiuniting@outlook.com Phone: 04 902 5809