

TOGETHER



KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

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

OCTOBER 2026



*Kapiti Peace Gathering
for the International Day of Peace 2026
held at Raumati Church*

From the Minister's Desk

Think Small

and

Think Big

What do **‘think small’**; and **‘think big’** mean in a church context like ours?

I believe we need to do both.

‘Think small’ values in the Kingdom of God are:

- To walk humbly with God
- To build the kingdom by sustaining and strengthening both our local community and our church community
- To show love amongst our neighbours and our church family through understanding, kindness, openness to the gifts of all, and gratitude for small mercies
- To give thanks for the benefits of a Church which is a closeknit community where we know each other's names and have room in our hearts for all our people, whether they can come to Sunday worship or not.

An ability to ‘think big’ is also important:

- When it comes to speaking the Word, witnessing to the Gospel and manifesting what Jesus teaches us about the Kingdom.
- We are called to mirror the truth that there is no limit to God's love and God's power. They are as big as the cosmos and as small as a grain of sand.

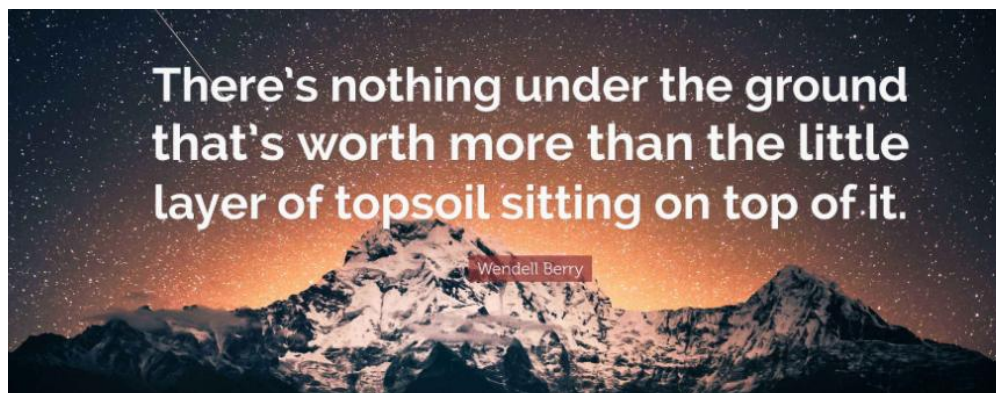
- Relative to our size as congregations, we dream big and act with the same vision as many a larger church.
- We pursue justice, both locally and globally; we put as much of ourselves into everything we do as we would for a larger congregation;
- We offer hospitality with largesse; we participate beyond the limits of what might be expected of a church our size.

Our annual meeting this month is an affirmation of the best qualities of our individual congregations - the large hearts, the deep wisdom, and the plentiful acts of service which characterise the Kapiti Uniting Parish.

There is nothing small about our ministry or our faithfulness. Thank you, our Church family, for being just right, just as you are.

May God rain blessings on us and our community in the coming Church Year.

Rev Anna Gilkison



Wendell Berry - poet, writer, farmer, and environmentalist, died in September

News from Waikanae

Spring flower service: Tina Ireland led us in joyful worship celebrating the beauty and wonder of flowers, for our spring flower service on 20

September.

This is always a significant service for



us in Waikanae as we live in an area with mature trees and well-tended gardens which are bursting into leaf, and opening buds.

We were reminded to open our eyes and hearts to the beauty of creation and to protect and nurture this wonderful gift. Ute Michel remembered the garden of her family home in Germany. The many flowers that bloomed in the church were shared out, to be taken to those unable to be with us. A Maori waiata, acknowledging the end of Maori Language Week, sang of the mantle of God – the natural world – protecting, nurturing and delighting us.

Season of Creation: Our spring flower celebration is part of the Season of Creation. The theme for this year is Living Water. The scripture reading chosen for the theme, Ezekiel 47:9,12, tells of the renewal of creation by free-flowing water, so that environmental healing and human



wellbeing may flourish together.

Use of our Church buildings: Our church lounge will host a polling booth for Waikanae Beach on 7 November, the General Election Day. The old Waikanae Beach Community Hall, built in the early 1930s, is to be demolished, and our church lounge is in demand as a venue for displaced groups. This is a significant outreach and support for the beach community.



Women's Fellowship: Marie Smith will be attending the Methodist Women's Fellowship (MWF) National Council meeting in Te Awamutu, Waikato, 30 October-1 November. She will also be part



of a meeting of the Wellington District MWF on 14 November at Wesley Wellington. Our local group, meeting in alternate months, offers a forum for members to discuss a wide range of issues within the life of our church.



Ute Michel baked a marble cake – a German speciality – as a little thank you to Diana Roberts for all her work in the Waikanae church and community

Soup Group: Soup Group developed as part of the Fellowship, and meets in the 'in between' month. On October 20, Beth Manning will help the group consider

the nature of AI, a phenomenon which perplexes and disturbs us. Beth has some experience in this area.

Diana Roberts



**Whether we and our politicians know it or
not, Nature is party to all our deals and
decisions, and she has more votes, a longer
memory, and a sterner sense of justice than
we do.**

Wendell Berry

About People

For all who are having Birthdays in October we wish you a very Happy day and we hope it will be very special for you.

For those who may be celebrating an Anniversary we hope you have a memorable time and we send our very best wishes.



On a sad note, Doris Alexander passed away on the 22 September, just 3 weeks before her 103rd Birthday. Doris was a long time member of our Raumati Church and although she has been unable to take an active part in church activities for some time she has been kept in touch by receiving our monthly Together and regular pastoral visits. A memorial service (complete with bagpiper) was held in the meeting room at our Raumati Church on the 30 September. Our prayers will be with the Alexander Family.

We are mindful there are a number of people who have or are recovering from the flu, other infections, injuries from accidents and some who are facing other ailments. Our prayers are with you all.

We give a very warm welcome to Sylvia Hill who has recently joined our Raumati congregation. It is lovely to have you with us Sylvia.

The Pastoral Care Team

Lyn, Carole, Diana, Bastiana, Diane, Dianne and Merrill

Sitting at the Wesley Family Table

Mother Susanna ladled the thick pea soup into the bowls, and the servant girl cut slices from the big crusty loaf. Father Samuel carved the boiled beef, and big brother Samuel passed the plates to Emily, Sukey, Molly, Hetty, Nancy, John (little Jacky), Patty, Charles and Kezzy.

Their mugs were filled with cold water, and a wedge of cheese and a dish of apples stood on the table. There was nothing else. When Father had blessed the meal the family ate slowly and quietly.

This was a Wesley Day lunch I prepared for some of the Trinity Methodist Theological College students and staff. Each of them had the name of a Wesley family member at their place setting, and I was the servant girl. The students were surprised at the plainness of the food; it was pretty much what would have been available in the 18th Century. But, to quote Ruth Reichl, food critic of the New York Times, 'what happens around the table is more important than what's on it.'

What happened around the Wesley table was very important to those who sat there, and to those who have followed in the Wesleyan tradition over the centuries. All three daily meals began with prayers, and the children were together with their

elders. As soon as they could use a knife and fork, the youngest Wesleys were promoted from their little table alongside to join with the family group.

The sisters sat by their brothers and weren't expected to wait on them. If the children wanted the servants to do anything they must ask nicely. Such equality and respect were not usual in those days.

I believe they significantly shaped John Wesley's recognition and acceptance of lay preachers, including women – the cause of much ridicule and scandal in the church and society of those times. These Wesleyan attitudes later supported the abolition of slavery and the growth of trade unions.

Here is the *Grace after meals* of the adult John Wesley, founder of Methodism:

O Lord my God, bless Thy Holy Name for this mercy which I have now received from thy bounty and goodness.

*Feed now my soul with Thy grace, That I may make it my meat and drink to do Thy gracious will, Through Jesus Christ my Saviour
Amen*

Diana Roberts

From Methodist Touchstone May 2007

Raumati Playgroup

We have had a great term at playgroup and we are very happy to see the end of winter. We have had consistent numbers at playgroup despite the cold weather and all the sickness circulating.

For Father's Day we of course had to make something for the dads. We put out canvas magnetic hearts, felt tips and stickers.

The kids then

decorated the hearts

for their dads. We also made some cards to go along with these. The kids creations were so incredibly good.



I was unfortunately away sick the week after so a massive thank you to Bev who kindly ran playgroup. She put out instruments and Playdough for the kids to play with.

We then did one of my favourite activities which was colour volcanoes. For this I put baking soda in cupcake cases and hid food colouring in the middle so the kids couldn't see what colour each one was. I then got the kids to pour vinegar on top of the baking soda to cause a

"volcanic eruption" and we all had to guess what colour the eruption was going to be.

This week of playgroup was also my daughter Sadie's birthday, so we all sang happy birthday to her. When kids celebrate their birthday at playgroup they also get a birthday bag full of fun things like Playdough, stickers, bubbles and a voucher for Thrifty Place.



For the last week of playgroup I made some Playdough, some lemon scented and some strawberry scented Playdough with some chia seeds added to make it look like a strawberry. We had a few different Playdough mats like adding

a face to a blank head, making an ice cream and adding food to an empty plate.



A massive thank you to our volunteers: Marie, Maureen, Bev, and my mum Lovinia.



Peace Day Service at Raumati Church

*This service was in remembrance of Erice Carley
who started the tradition*



Organised by Marg Lees, and
Kevin Boyce, with Rev Anna
Gilkison

*Images overleaf – children from Raumati Beach primary school,
and representatives of Kapiti religious organisations at the service*





It takes a child to raise a country.

Mā te ririki – Mā te ririki e ora ai te motu

**message forwarded by Hamish Jarvie of the Methodist Church
about the Tick for Kids Campaign:**

As those of us in the community sector know, change often begins with how we take care of the youngest in our society. If we can change the trajectory of someone's early life in a positive way, the good doesn't stop with them, it often impacts their entire community.

As we lead into the general election in November, we ask you consider the wellbeing of our tamariki and rangatahi. Alongside other leaders in this space, we have been guiding the Tick for Kids campaign – an accessible resource for voters to see how different political parties will prioritise children and young people.

Tick for Kids asked New Zealand's main political parties whether they support action on evidence-based policies across nine key themes that influence the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

To see the parties' responses in their own words, visit: tick4kids.flit.nz and select: 'Tick for Kids Party Scorecards'

What is Tick 4 Kids?

Tick 4 Kids is a collective dedicated to raising awareness of the need for political parties to commit to policies that support children, young people and whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We encourage voters to learn about these political commitments, so they can cast their vote with the rights and wellbeing of children in mind. Head to tick4kids.flit.nz to find out more.

Thoughts on the coming New Zealand Elections

taken from an Otago University article pre 2011 election

Compiled by Sue Hodgson

Of course, it's easy to be cynical about politics, to think that politicians are just out to promote themselves or feather their own nests. Scandals, broken promises, expenses fiddling, an excessive focus on 'personalities' – all this can make us want to lose faith in democracy and wonder what the point is to voting. But politics is much more than this – it's about us expressing our values and hopes, saying what we, as New Zealand citizens and residents, want our country to be. Take voting seriously: the Bible tells us to respect – and pray for – those in authority over us.

Elections also provide an opportunity for issues to be debated more vigorously than usual. Politicians want to know our views and concerns, and we should not be afraid to tell them. Decisions that politicians take in areas like education, employment, transport, crime, the economy, the environment and many others affect us daily, and general elections give us a valuable opportunity to seek to influence them.

All of us take into account a range of issues when we vote, the idea that faith is only a 'private' matter is quite foreign to the Bible, which presents a God who, in the beginning, creates the world, in the end renews it, and in between challenges people to steward and tend it and practise justice in their dealings with each other. Putting the 'kingdom' at the heart of his message,

Jesus also engaged in a ministry that was fully in the public eye, challenging people about the way they lived, who they saw as their 'neighbour', and whether their goal in life was to serve God or themselves. Seeking first that kingdom, and being 'salt' and 'light' in the world, were challenges Jesus left his followers. One way we can respond to them is by taking seriously the business of exercising our vote

Raumati Village Community Garden

The Garden has received a \$500 grant from the Rekindle the Vā of Papatūānuku Fund, issued by the Climate Justice Working Group Committee at the The Methodist Church of New Zealand.

The funds will be spent on compost and seedlings to keep the garden growing and supporting the community throughout the year. We thank the Methodist Church for their generous donation.



Kate Foley working with volunteers Sarah and David Webb

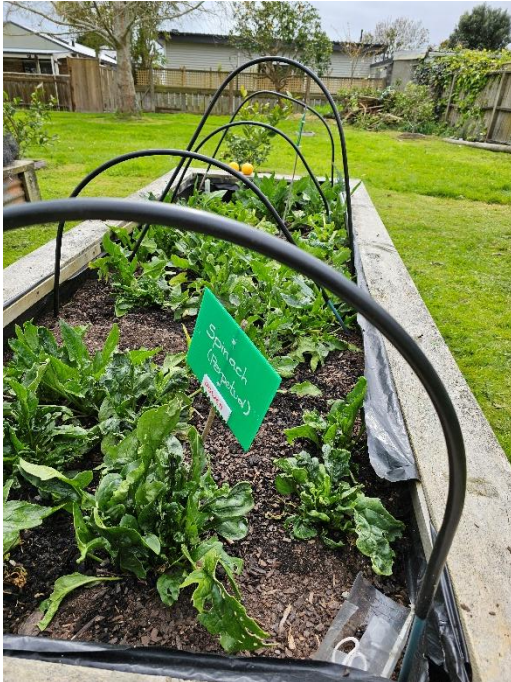


Our stock of fruit trees has expanded with the gift of a 'Monty's Surprise' apple tree from the Presbyterian Church for which we thank them.

We have purchased more citrus (including a Yuzu variety of lemon with thorns to beware of). We will also be buying additional plants for the newly mulched rhubarb bed.



Preparing the garden for Spring



Season of Creation Puzzle:

‘Not in the King James Bible’

Underline the one word in each line that is not in the KJV

by Rosalie Sugrue/ Answers on page 23...

Animals

leopard, rat, bear, wolf
camel, cow, cat, cub
bullock, goat, hyena, hare
fox, frog, rabbit, scorpion,
gnat, flea, moth, butterfly,
calf, kid, kitten, foal,
adder, cobra, worm, viper,

Food and Drink

peaches, pomegranates, grapes
peas, beans, wheat, barley
oats, lentils, millet, corn
wine, water, milk, beer

Trees

cedar, cherry cypress, oak,
pine, peach, almond, olive,
fig, fir, sycamore, pear

Flowers

lily, lotus, myrtle, daffodil
crocus, pansy, pomegranate, rose

October 31, on the eve of All Saints, what the world calls Halloween, carries a deep and often overlooked Christian meaning.

Far from merely a night of costumes and candy, it is a liturgical vigil that orients us toward holiness, remembrance, and hope..

The name Halloween comes from “All Hallows Eve,” the evening that precedes the Feast of All Saints on November 1. The vigil grew from early Christian practices of remembering martyrs and honouring holy men and women. Over centuries local customs, folk traditions, and medieval practices merged with the Church’s liturgical rhythm, producing the familiar mix of solemn remembrance and popular observance that reached our modern culture.

Raumati Women's Fellowship

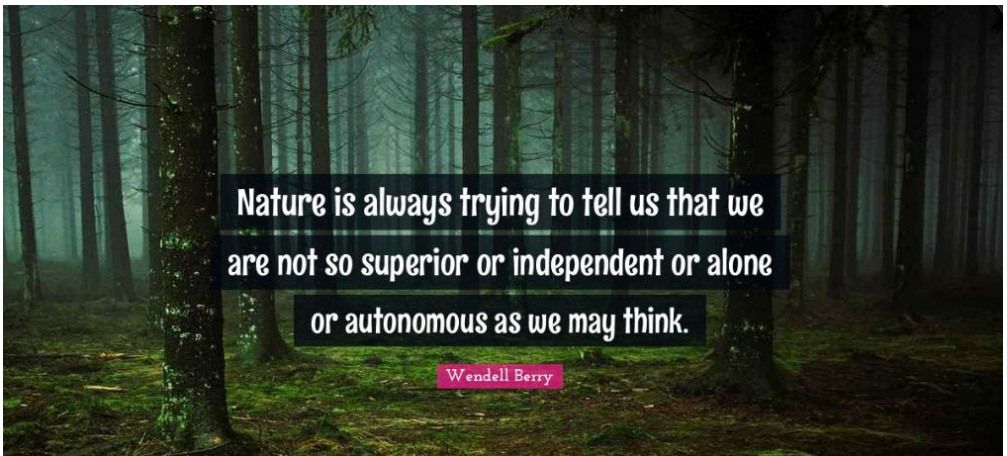
The Raumati Women's Fellowship meets on Thursday 8 October at 10am in the meeting room.

Our speaker will be Lyndsay Osborne. Her topic is: The Story behind The Olympic Games.

All Women are very welcome.

Contacts: Lyn Martin 04 904 8361 022 165 7523

Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 027 353 2307



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

Blessing - of the - **ANIMALS**



Otaki Waikanae Presbyterian Parish

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday 4th October 2026

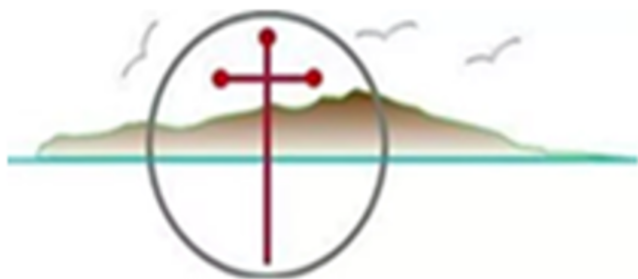
at 2.00 pm

Music by Kapiti Brass

starting at 1.45 pm

Afternoon tea by Relish

Come with your beloved pets
or bring a photo of a cherished pet
no longer with you.



Kapiti Uniting Parish AGM

11 October 2026

**The AGM will be held in the church
after the full parish service
at 10am at Raumati.**

**There will be a shared finger food lunch in the hall
after the AGM all are welcome to attend
*Please bring a plate to share if you are able***

*Copies of the Annual Report and Agenda will be available after
26 September from: the Raumati and Waikanae churches, the Parish
Office (04 902 5809), and on our website KUP.org.nz*

WWW.kup.org.nz

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



VOICES IN THE WIND

presents

Music down in our souls

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spirituals and
choral music
of faith, hope
and freedom

A celebration of
American music and
sacred tradition

Inspiring music that has lifted hearts for generations,
including a powerful selection of African American spirituals.

- ★ Sunday 11 October - Tawa Baptist Church, 3pm
- ★ Wednesday 14 October - St. Barnabas Church, Mana, 7:30 pm
- ★ Sunday 18 October - St. Peter's Village Hall, Paekākāriki, 3pm

★ Tickets ★
\$20 waged, \$15 unwaged



Trybooking.com/nz
or at the door

All are welcome



October: for your diary

2	10am	Folding October Together
8	10am – 12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
9	10-11.30	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
13	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
14	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
15	10.30 – 11.15 am	Coastal Villas Church Service
20	10.30am	Waikanae Soup Group
30	10am – 12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
	10am	Folding November Together

October: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm	Craft Group, Raumati
	10.30am – 4pm	Thrifty Place
Thursdays	10am -12pm	Raumati Playgroup (term time)
	10.30am – 4pm	Thrifty Place
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place

Answers to puzzle:

Animals: rat, cat, hyena, rabbit, butterfly, kitten, cobra,

Food and Drink: peaches, peas, oats, beer

Trees: cherry, peach, pear

Flowers: daffodil, pansy, rose

"A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in."

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

October Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
4	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Rev Roger Wiig HC	
11	Parish AGM full combined service Rev Anna Gilkison 10am at Raumati		
14	Sevenoaks Church Service 11am at Sevenoaks		
15	Coastal Villas Church Service 10.30 – 11.15am at Coastal Villas		
18	Worship Group – <i>the Gospel and social responsibility</i>	Evan Ireland	
25	Maureen Calhaem	Kate Foley and Carole Rudings	Rev Anna Gilkison

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.*