



# NELSON TASMAN METHODIST PARISH

## Newsletter February 2025

### PARISH MEETINGS AND GROUPS

**Weekly: Exploring Silence**—Wednesday at 10.40am to 11am Church

**Choir** ~ Thursdays at 6.45pm, Church

**Fortnightly:** : Faith Exploring [Living the Question] Group

Every fortnight on Tuesday 2pm-3.30pm

#### **Monthly**

**Bible Study**- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in month 7.30 pm to 8.30pm

**Cuppa & Conversation** –

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 2.30 pm to approx. 3.30 pm

**Man's Breakfast**—

1st Saturday in month 9 am.

**Stoke Methodist Women's Fellowship** – 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 12.00 noon to 2.2pm.

**Singles Lunch**

Monthly on the second Sunday

**Community Sing Along**

Meets 1st Wednesday of month 1.30-3.pm

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**PARISH STEWARDS:**

**Wayne Chapman**

**Nadia Madill**

**Parish News Letter Editor: Cynthia McKenzie**



**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTORAL VISITOR**

What a year we have started! As you read this letter, it will be March 2025. In the church calendar, we are approaching Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. Each of you has had different experiences on this faith journey, shaped by the traditions in which you were raised.

In my tradition back in South Korea, it was customary to commit to fasting at least one meal each day for 40 days, along with participating in a special prayer service at 5 a.m. I followed this tradition until 2002 because I was immersed in that context. There was often a feeling of guilt if you couldn't adhere to it, leading to a need to pray harder for your sins when attending church on Sunday. How many of you would be willing to attend church at 5 a.m. for 40 days?

Don't worry; I am no longer in that context, so I don't follow that tradition anymore. I'll likely enjoy breakfast at the Men's Breakfast gathering and share a meal at the Synod meeting in March. However, this Lent, I would like to encourage you to try something different.

As you may know, we have a meditation group every Wednesday morning for about 20 minutes. How about committing to this time of meditation each Wednesday during Lent? We will have a brief reading followed by a period of silence. If you can't make it to the church, you can certainly meditate at home, but your experience may be different if you join us in person. I know this isn't everyone's cup of tea, but we know that Jesus took time for isolation, as mentioned in the Bible. Imagine what he experienced during those 40 days in the wilderness—no Facebook, no Instagram, no radio, no TV, no library, no books. It's hard to fathom.

It would be wonderful if you could find just 20 minutes of silence for 40 days—or even 365 days. So, here's my invitation: please join us on Wednesday mornings from 10:40 to 11:00 a.m. Rev. Martin Sungchel OH

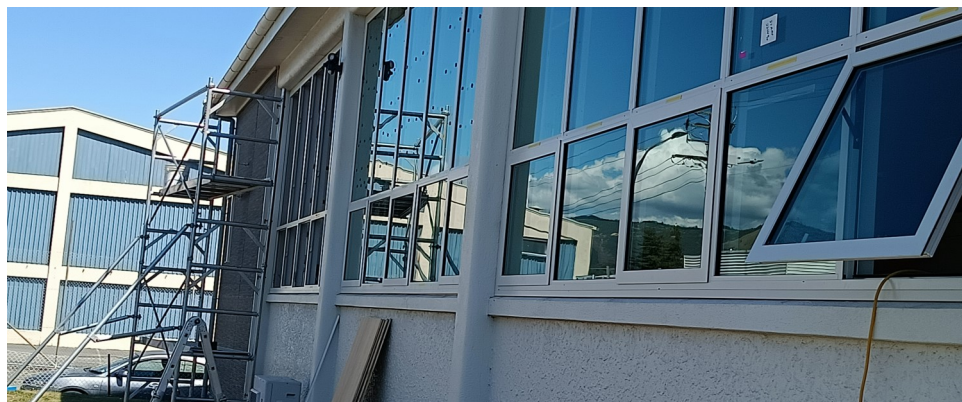
The parish council has decided to create a bimonthly newsletter, and church visitors have agreed to deliver it to congregation members who are unable to attend services. This newsletter will serve both as a pastoral visiting tool and a means of communication with the congregation.

We are grateful to have members who contribute their skills and time to our church. Cynthia McKenzie, who is new to our parish, is already making connections with the congregation through the Community Support Team and Focus Group. She will serve as the editor of the parish newsletter, with Barbara Watson as a backup when Cynthia is unavailable.

Currently, we do not have a specific format for the newsletter, so we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to share your thoughts with Cynthia; she will do her best to incorporate them.

We are trying to include the summary of the parish council meeting in the next newsletter.

Rev. Martin Sungchel Oh.



Thanks to the Climate Justice Working Group.  
“The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa adopt the Climate Justice Working Group proposal for observing a decade for Climate Justice “Rekindle the vā of Papatūānuku”, commencing from 2023.”  
The funding for the insulation of the church complex is provided by the Climate Justice Working Group. We are pleased to share that we have secured funding for double-glazed windows for our church complex, which will help us save energy in the long term. A special thanks to our treasurer, Don Horne, Eric Knight and Barbara Watson for making this possible, as well as to everyone involved in the actual installation work.

The summary of the Parish Council Meeting.  
The meeting was held at 7pm 19th Feb

At the February Parish council meeting it was agreed that the Parish should produce a bimonthly newsletter to give news to the congregation and for distribution by the ringers/visitors to those unable to attend church.

We also agreed to donate \$500 to Stoke Primary School to help uniform purchases and to support an application from Big Brothers Big Sisters to the Camp Snowdon Trust for \$3,000 with the Parish donating a further \$2,000.

A motion was passed that the Focus Group should work towards having a part-time family worker for the Parish, the secretary to ask the Synod Superintendent the best way to go about this.

We also decided to update the Welcome leaflet advertising our groups and activities for newcomers and to continue the monthly advert in Waimea and Nelson Weekly newspapers.



We welcomed 5-month-old Atlas Peiaiti TeKoronga Fuavao for his baptism, accompanied by his father, Masiu Meivahafolau Fuavao, and mother, Lisa Tekoronga, on February 23rd. Friends and extended family gathered to support Atlas, and Sunmi and I had the privilege of sharing a family lunch after the service. We continue to pray for Atlas and his family as they embark on this new journey.

**World Day of Prayer – Friday 7 March 2025 – “I Made You Wonderfully”**

The 2025 World Day of Prayer service and resources have been prepared by the WDP Committee of Cook Islands. The theme is “I Made You Wonderfully” based on Psalm 139: 14.

The 2025 programme invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderfully by God.

**At St Barnabus Church, Main Road, Stoke, Starting at 10am with morning tea before service at 10.30am**