

About Our Church Community

Introduction

The Reformed Church of Wainuiomata is a member of the Federation of Reformed Churches of New Zealand with community of Reformed believers numbering around 100 members, made up of some 60-70 communicant members plus their children. We also enjoy the fellowship of a number of regular visitors. We meet twice every Sunday in our church property in Wainuiomata (or just Wainui for short) to worship our Heavenly Father followed by fellowship over a cuppa.

Wainuiomata is in a valley, a suburb Lower Hutt which is located a short 20 minute approximately 16 km (10 miles) north of Wellington, NZ's capital city, and has a population of just over 100,000 people. The city is well situated on the north end of the Wellington Harbour and with easy access to fantastic amenities including beaches and hiking and mountain biking tracks along Hutt River and in the beautiful hills on either side of the valley that the city is locate in.

We are blessed that our membership represents the full spectrum of ages, from newborn to our 'mature and experienced' members. We encourage and uplift each other with a range of activities, one or more to suit all ages. A brief summary is provided later in this document:

- Bi-weekly bible study
- Catechism classes
- Small Groups
- Cadets and Gems
- Youth club
- Ladies' bible study
- Men's breakfast
- Three Score and More
- Sunday School

We enjoy serving each other with practical blessings such as meals, help in the home, visits, encouragement and all these small things our people do to make things just that little bit easier. We see this as the outpouring of our thanks for our Lord Jesus' love for each of us.

Recent times have necessitated the implementation of technology to allow for live-streaming and other such initiatives, our Audio-Visual team have been instrumental in enabling our preaching to reach our home bound folk twice every Sunday.

Reading through the above bullet points and the paragraphs below it is evident that there is plenty of opportunity for members to be involved and each year we reflect with thanks on how our Lord has blessed our congregation with gifted and willing servants to allow us to operate our activities for the upbuilding of His church here in Wainui.

Our Session

Our Session typically consists of our pastor, four elders and two deacons. The offices of elder and deacon are typically filled through the process of voting by our communicant members on a Session presented duo and are for a three-year period. Session holds monthly meetings for the full session and monthly meetings for the Elders.

Pastoral care is via elder districts where all members are allocated to an elder. The aim is for all members to be visited annually.

Our diaconate is well supported with gifts, tithes and free will offerings which allows us to meet our annual budgets. Over and above the deacons arrange for special collections to meet the needs of our wider community, both local and abroad.

Our Music

We love singing praise to our Creator and King, and we are expertly accompanied by our dedicated team of musicians which include organist, pianists, and a variety of wind instruments on special occasions. The joy that our music and singing brings our members is so evident from both sound and sight.

To help us become even more familiar with our Sing to the Lord psalms and hymns book monthly Soup and Song meetings are organized on a monthly basis. This event directly follows the evening service are held for all who can attend, another much loved activity.

Our Library

Wainui has always had a well-stocked library for our members to use. Recently moved to a handy and accessible location in the fellowship hall it continues to be an excellent resource for our members albeit not used that much in recent years.

Administration

Session is expertly supported by our Committee of Administration and Treasurer in all property and finance matters. Here we again see Gods blessings firsthand with skillful individuals leading in this area of church life.

Our Activities

Within this section we aim to briefly summarize the activities listed in the opening paragraph:

Bi-weekly bible study

Held every second week in two locations, one in Wainui and one in Lower Hutt. All communicant members are encouraged to attend. Typically hosted at each other's homes and led by the host.

Catechism classes

Our pastor takes these classes which are typically bi-weekly. Classes are divided in a Junior and a Senior class. As the Senior group progress a Profession of Faith class is also run.

Small Groups

Our small groups ministry is a recent initiative with the main aims of bringing us closer together, to support each other and for us to grow ever more in Christ. Our motto 'Growing Together to Grow Others' set us on our way, and we have enjoyed an ever-closer fellowship through this ministry.

Cadets and Gems

This activity as along the line of Scouts Club and is available for our youth as well as children from the wider community. Age range is from 8-15. The activities include a range of practical and enjoyably crafts, outings as well as badge work and devotions.

Ladies' bible study

Currently run as a morning group and as the name suggests its designed for our ladies to study scripture together to help grow each other in their faith in our heavenly father.

Men's breakfast

The Men's breakfast bible study has been running for a good number of years now and is attended by up to 10-15 men of all ages. Typically run once a month it is a great opportunity to meet to encourage each other in growing our faith and to have fantastic fellowship.

Three Score and More

This is a mid-week activity run for our older members as well as from the wider community and is a mix of bible devotion and fun games. A time to enjoy each other's company over a cuppa.

Sunday School

Aimed at the youngest of our school aged children these classes are split by age group (junior and senior) and are held after the morning church service.

Our Vacancy

As of mid-2021 our Pastor Pieter Van Huyssteen partially retired reducing his service to half full time a view of entering 100% emeritus status in the not-too-distant future. We continue to be blessed by his faithful preaching every second Sunday with capable and willing men leading and reading on the intervening Sundays, as well as services led by visiting ministers from time to time.

Session has established a Calling Committee to help them in the search for our next Pastor. This committee has surveyed the congregation to gain a clear understanding of what qualities and attributes to look for in our search. This highlighted the below themes of what our membership valued mostly:

- Engaging and biblically sound sermons
- Practical preaching – lots of application
- A Pastor who can relate particularly well to our young couples and youth (a relationship builder)
- Pastorally visible and consistent

As already stated, we remain blessed with sound preaching by both minister and by means of reading services. However, we dearly desire for God to place in our midst the Pastor of His choosing who can faithfully and enthusiastically shepherd our beloved congregation.

We are not searching for a faultless man for we are aware of our own imperfections - you won't find a perfect church here in Wainuiomata. Rather, you will find a group of believers who care and support each other as we seek to serve our Lord faithfully. With this in mind we wish you to take to heart the words of Phil 1:6 'For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus'. In our serving God we realise that we can't do it alone, rather we are fully depended on Him who enables us to carry out the tasks He has set for us.

Please, we pray that you, the reader of this church profile, would prayerfully consider serving God's people in Wainuiomata and continue, as God's appointed servant, with the good work undertaken by our past ministers in our wonder church family. That together as Pastor and Congregation we may herald the joyful message of forgiveness and life in Christ Jesus.