



Moderator's Neighbours Day message & resources 2022

18-27 March 2022

Bringing our Kai to a Shared Table

Last week we opened our fridge to find some cupcakes with a note from our 4-year-old neighbour Liam, "We love you Hamish and Anne!". We were out, our doors were unlocked, and Liam claimed 'neighbourly fridge rights' (there have been other times when he has come in looking for chocolate!). And so, last night I harvested blackberries, apples, pears, peaches, and grapes from our garden and handed them over the fence to Liam's mum.

In the same spirit, earlier in the year, they did a big pick of our raspberries, made jam, and sent a jar back across the fence.

And then there are a group of elderly Chinese folk in our neighbourhood who wander past each night. I have taken to giving them fruit from the abundance of our harvest. It seems to me they are humbled and thankful for the connection even more than the food. Now, they always look in and wave as they pass by.

What warmth that comes with this sort of neighbourhood.

In Otautahi Christchurch, we learnt about this in the wake of the earthquakes when we saw a massive rise in neighbourly connection. And after the Mosque attacks, our Muslim friends reported neighbours who had previously been strangers reaching out hands of support and friendship.

It seems to me that this is deeply inline with core Christian values. The Christian church has a rich tradition of gathering around food. There is obviously the magnificent gracious love and acceptance of the Lord's Supper. But I am also thinking of the meals shared by the early Christians in various places around the Roman Empire. They were revolutionary and winsome in the way Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female were welcomed and included!

These are examples from then and now of the core Christian value of being a good neighbour. I absolutely endorse Neighbours Day 2022!

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Connect over kai resources: Neighbours Day Aotearoa 18-27 March 2022

[Kai Connections](#) is the theme for Neighbours Day 2022. A common denominator amongst all communities in Aotearoa is how kai (food) brings us together. During March, Neighbours Day Aotearoa has free online sessions based around making and sharing kai, [see details](#). [Download posters and resources](#). See ideas on how you can join in [here](#), and on the [Presbyterian Church website](#). See a resource prepared for parishes by [Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry](#). Contact your local [Presbyterian Support](#) or [PSNorthern](#) for ways your parish can make Kai Connections this Neighbours Day. Presbyterian Support Northern and Northern Presbytery's new community hub will launch Pātaka Kai during Neighbours Day (Covid permitting) - inviting the community to come and visit and take or drop off food. Find out more [here](#).