



shelter



faith



laughter



A special welcome to visitors to West, a place of shelter, faith and laughter. We are an all-age, all-stage community where everyone is included.

Morning tea is part of our time together, so you're warmly invited to stick around for a fairtrade tea or coffee after the sitting-down part of the service.

We especially love having kids involved in the service on Sundays. So please don't worry if anyone with you makes a little bit of noise – we're glad to have you with us!

Look out for people assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

OCTOBER 2021

3 OCT Mental Health and Well-being #4
Responding to Mental Health distress

10 OCT Surprise!

17 OCT Surprise!

24 OCT Surprise!



Kia ora West,

There have been seasons in our household when the kids have woken up night after night from bad dreams. Perhaps it was anxieties they'd been carrying in the day taking a scarier form in their sleep. When they were tiny and woke crying, I would cuddle them in bed until they drifted off to sleep again. Now they're older they come and stand next to my bed, and a squeeze of their hand is enough to comfort them. They feel afraid, and they come to the person they are most secure with, and that gives them the courage to risk returning to sleep.

I really appreciate the concept of God as a secure attachment figure. The Christian scriptures and tradition are full of images of God as perfect love from which we cannot be separated, delighting in us and providing a secure base from which we can enter into the most difficult parts of the human experience.

The phrase "do not be afraid" appears about 70 times in the bible. So often this is interpreted as a command. In our own discomfort about fear and what to do with it, we give a moral judgement to the feeling. But when coming from a source of love this is not a dismissal of our fear or a rebuke. It's an invitation to move towards connection, security and comfort. It's an acknowledgement of our emotions, an embrace for as long as we need it, and an impartation of courage to face the source of our fear.

Fear is a valid feeling, though one that sometimes takes some internal exploration to understand. Whether it's with a parent, a partner, a counsellor or other trusted person, or with a divine source, emotionally secure connections are important to our well-being and the way we are made. Let's aim to seek out and provide spaces we can be honest about our fears and worries, receive one another with compassion and understanding, and find support to confront the hard stuff.

Lou Gane

Here are some important things to know about gathering together on Sunday mornings or other times:

- Please come if you are well. Please don't come if you are unwell.
- Please get vaccinated as soon as you can. Call 0800 28 29 26 or visit [here](#)
- Please bring a face mask and pop it on before you leave your car to walk inside.
- Please sign in via Tracer App or write your name down – like usual. There will be a 'clean/sanitised group of pens' and a 'used group of pens.'
- Please sanitise your hands in the foyer.
- Regarding use of face masks in faith based gatherings, The Government website says: "When you do not need to wear a face mask: [Worship or faith-based gatherings, for example church services](https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others-from-covid-19/wear-a-face-covering/)"
<https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others-from-covid-19/wear-a-face-covering/>

However, we would like everybody to please leave their face mask on during our time together (except morning tea).

- o We want to model actions of compassion to others.
- o We won't be (and do not need to be) socially distanced as a faith-based gathering.
 - This makes mask wearing more important.
 - In addition, we encourage people to sit in their bubbles
- Some people will be comfortable with an elbow bump, some might not. Please be considerate of others and leave enough space for people to keep their distance if they want to. As always, we'll extend grace.
- If you'd like to physically give a money offering – we won't be passing bags around, but we will have a **new wooden offering box** you can put it in at the back of the auditorium – either before, during or immediately after the service.

- People speaking from the front will remove their mask whilst speaking.
- Morning Tea will be happening, carefully prepared as usual.
- For information on why we're doing things this way, please see the government guidelines for faith communities. <https://covid19.govt.nz/activities/faith-based-gatherings/#faith-based-gatherings-at-alert-level-2>

west: making a difference

We have a portfolio of people and communities we support around New Plymouth and the world. The basics:

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia/ NZ)

On Tuesday (28th Sept) Paul and Sarah will once again try to secure an MIQ spot to return home to Aotearoa. The current system makes this very difficult. Please pray that they would be able to secure a spot. Please lift up this whanau, and their journey home, to God.

Charlie and Jo (S Asia): Please pray for us as we readjust and re-acclimatise, and just get used to our day to day once again. Please also pray for our community, as Covid is still around this region. We're so thankful to be here with our community and friends again!

Ryan and Sophie, Spencer and Emerson: Today (3rd September) is Spencer's 9th birthday! Please pray for him, as today may be a hard occasion with only one friend his age. Pray that he would feel loved, feel joy in the celebration, and have hope for the year ahead.

Closer to home:

Music & Play: Is there anybody else who could join this fun and friendly team? Please speak to Carol, Andrew, Faye, or Val to find out more. Music & Play is on Fridays during the school term, from 10 – 11.30am. We're especially keen on people who enjoy chatting with parents, grandparents, and pre-schoolers. People who can help with practical things are super welcome too!

We love and partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Morning Tea for staff at the start of each term, Citizenship Award, and other areas

individuals volunteer in. There are many ways you can serve our school community if you're interested.

Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy. Andrew spends Wednesday mornings at the school. He is a part of regular pastoral care team meetings which seek to collaboratively support children and families, and he spends time listening to and supporting children. Andrew is also working on developing a partnership between West, School and Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

Reading with a child. Would anybody like to change the life of a child by sitting with them as they read a book at Spotswood Primary School? If so, please contact Syd (our resident child reading super-hero, or Andrew.)

Kickstart Breakfast Club. If you or somebody you know would like to help serve breakfast to students at Spotswood Primary once a term/month/fortnight/week, please contact Carol or Andrew. 7.45am – 9.15am, Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday.

Coffee! We're now using Common Good Coffee.

Common Good Coffee exists to support positive change in some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the world. Three times as good as regular coffee.

1. Drink Gooder. Made from the best tasting organic beans, expertly roasted in small batches.
2. Feel Gooder. Beans are ethically traded to ensure producers are paid fairly.
3. Do Gooder. Profits go to creating a better world through investment in community transformation.

west: growing

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at various homes on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. Phone Megan C for details of venues. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westside Grill at 6.30pm.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to check us out. If anyone new would like to join us you're welcome to come along.

Music & Play group is for preschool children and their parents or caregiver. Friday mornings at 10am during the school term. We begin with fun and interactive songs with lots of musical instruments, parachutes and ribbons. Followed by a yummy morning tea and play time. The group is an open welcoming space for all who would like to be a part of it. For more information feel free to check out the Music and Play Group Facebook page or phone Carol on 027 738 5465.

Learning together about curating services and the church calendar. A bunch of our curators are meeting occasionally to engage with Mark Pierson's teaching on curating services. Contact Liane on 027 240 7237 to find out when we're next meeting.

If you'd like to find out more about study at Carey, or tapping into their wonderful webinars, hit <https://www.carey.ac.nz/>

The Music Group are now meeting once a month on the 4th Thursday of every month, 7 - 9pm. We would love to have some more musicians join us especially singers. If you feel this is something you can do, we would love it if you could join us.

Mosaic Youth is for school year 9 – 13. This is our collaborating youth group with a variety of other churches. We meet fortnightly during term time for fun, food, and faith discussions. It's a great place to make friends!

There's another fortnightly Mosaic event called "Going Deeper" for those keen to really focus in on knowing God more.

Please see the poster on the noticeboard for dates and contact James, Isabel or Andrew for more information.

west: in our community

Singing with Laura and Julian. Would you like to join in singing and music from different cultures around the world? Julian and Laura run a singing group on Monday evenings from 7.00 – 8.30pm at Knox Church Hall in Fitzroy, and everyone is welcome.

Parenting: If you or somebody you know would like to participate in an outstanding parenting course, we have funds available to support people to do this. We are no longer running parenting courses, but can help connect people into them. Please contact Andrew.

west: people

John and Marilyn Velvin are available to house-sit over the next 7 or 8 months if you are planning on going away over summer and/or autumn. We can feed and look after cats and dogs, shift cattle, water

Thursday night church (monthly) We are aiming to be a faith community that welcomes all people of all ages, physical abilities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental abilities and economic statuses. Thursday Night Church is a space for all people to gather, get to know one another, enjoy tea, coffee & cake, pray and engage together with some interesting content. A space for people to gather, get to know one another, enjoy tea, coffee & cake, pray, and engage together with some interesting content.

We're exploring something new as we're committed at West to trying new ways of being church. We want to provide a safe space where people can connect with each other, God and themselves.

If you'd like to bake a cake for this, please contact Andrew. If you'd like to find out more, please ask David, Jacob or Andrew. Our next Thursday Night Church is 28th October, 7:30pm at West.

board@westbaptist.org.nz This e-mail address can be used to contact our church Leadership Board. We are keen to hear from you. We love serving you.

Please remember that if you have a concern – 'go to the source'. That means, go and speak to the person you have a concern with Lovingly. Gently. With an open mind and heart. Ask questions to understand. If your concern still isn't resolved, or you'd like support to 'go to the source', contact me or your favourite Leadership Board member; Andy, Carol, Isabel, Lyn.

pot plants, mow lawns, re-tile the bathroom (not!) etc. Contact John 027 437 3552 or Marilyn 027 415 1637.

Message from James and Carol: Our son Michael's wedding is being held in New Plymouth on 5th Feb 2022 (Waitangi Weekend.)

We are looking for accommodation for some of our family and friends. If anyone is planning on going away that weekend, or know someone who is, and is willing to have some people house-sit their house, please contact us.

Also, our good friends from Auckland have offered their house as a house swap, so if this interests you, please also contact us. Thank you.

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays – **Eric P, Ruth S, Margaret O, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Jocelyn D.**

West has a private Facebook page for connecting with each other. **“West Baptist New Plymouth Connection.”**

The Church is people... if you are thinking of somebody or praying for somebody, how about letting them know. Make contact. Ask how they are. Perhaps offer to share a coffee at your home/their home/café.

I'm sure it would be a huge encouragement. Is there somebody you're thinking of right now that might like

a phone call or coffee visit? An older person? Somebody less able to get out?

West Church Membership... At our church everybody is welcome and included.

People who are committed to being a part of us are really welcome to become members. Members love Jesus, members are committed to each other, and have been a part of West for at least six months. We'll be welcoming people into membership shortly. Would you like to find out more about being a member at West? Please contact Andrew ASAP, he'd love to chat with you :-)

Facebook: Are you awesome at this? Would you be willing to administer an events-type of facebook page for West, for awareness/advertising purposes? E.g. Music & Play, Thursday Night Church, Sunday morning services, other stuff, etc.

Being family, we want to celebrate things in each other's lives. Each month, we'd like to put in the newsletter who's birthday it is (first name and date – not year!). Please let Maureen, Alison or Andrew know if you are happy for this to happen. We'll continue to acknowledge big birthdays on Sundays.

west: events

OCTOBER CALENDAR:

1,22,29 th	Music & Play, at West, 10am	Music Practice, 7pm (date to be advised)
7,21 st	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	
12,19,26 th	Movie Group at venues TBA	28 th Thursday night Church, 7.30pm

west: pitching in

Money Offerings on Sunday mornings:

Like many other churches we've decided to stop passing offering bags around as a part of our services. Instead, for people who would like to offer a cash offering, we have a new wooden offering box. Thank you Ian for making this – it looks lovely. The offering box will be located on the rear wall each Sunday morning. Please feel free to utilise this as you enter the building, during the service, or immediately after the service (we have a group of offering counting people that do this shortly after each service). Often (but not always) we have a reflective space in the service where we can get up, move around and engage with various activities. These spaces (or other times if you'd prefer) could be utilised for giving your offering.

Services are about creating a place and space to worship and connect with God together, as well as connect with each other, the world, our neighbours and ourselves. In light of this, our Leadership Board would also like to highlight the opportunity for people who give via internet banking to connect with God. Currently we have a harakeke (flax) woven basket with little written prayers that we can take and read and place in the offering so as

to remember our own offering. We'll be developing this further and hope it will be something meaningful in people's gathered worship.

West Baptist assist regularly at **Spotswood Primary School** in preparing **Breakfast** for the children. We are short of volunteers for Fridays this term – if you think you might like to help, please chat with Carol.

Prayer: If you have a prayer request, please contact Andrew who would be delighted to pray with you and/or put your request on the prayer chain.

We have an **e-mail prayer chain** where a dozen people are committed to praying for any request, as they are able. All West people are encouraged to be a part of this. If you'd like to join the prayer chain as a pray-er, please contact Andrew.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in August our offerings were \$11,897.

If you'd like to set up an **automatic payment** or use envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church please see our treasurer, Brent G. (751 0010.) The government will rebate a full third of what you give.

	2 OCT	9 OCT	17 OCT	23 OCT	30 OCT
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Lynda L	Judy W	Val W	Meryl A	Carol McK
Lawnmowing	Andy L	Brian W	Allan W	Alison D	James McK
		Brian W		Tim B	



MP/CSA

12-14