



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

NOVEMBER 2021

7 NOV Self-Control
with Judy W.

14 NOV How has West helped you follow
Jesus in 2021?

21 NOV Faithfulness
with Lou G.

28 NOV Hope (Patience)
with Andrew



Kia ora West,

The photo here is from October 14th up on the Pouakai Range. It was the school holidays and I took my kids and one of their friends for an adventure. I love our Maunga!

Our Fruit of the Spirit series was planned about a year ago – and it seems like such good timing! I've certainly been encouraged and reminded that living out kindness and gentleness are Jesus-like ways of being – regardless of whether our context is easy or complex.

Our context is like no other that we've previously encountered in respect to this pandemic, especially when we consider factors like social media which provide information at our fingertips and too often enable polarisation and conflict.

It seems like almost all conversations end up on our Covid response. There are significant decisions ahead for many people, including churches. This includes us at West. We need to engage in a process to determine a way forward together. What does a loving Christ-like response look like? There are many aspects to consider.

I believe one topic (of many) we must consider is a Christian response to the question of personal rights, or more specifically religious exemption. For over 1500 years the church has held a place of power in Western society, and with this comes the unfortunate expectation of thinking we don't have to follow all the rules.

A fellow Baptist pastor passed some writing on to me that the following points are based on: What does our faith in Christ Jesus exempt us from?

- Putting my wants above the needs of others.
There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. Philippians 2:3+4
- Claiming 'my freedom in Christ' is a reason to act without responsibility.
My sisters and brother, you were called to freedom; but be careful, or this freedom will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Rather, serve one another in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Galatians 5:14+14
- Refusing to protect the most vulnerable in our midst.
The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me. Jesus speaking, in Matthew 25:40

In our attitudes and in our decision making; may we put others before ourselves, may we see our freedom in Christ as opportunity to love others, and may we keep Jesus' vision front and centre – to care for and respect the most vulnerable in our midst.

Andrew 😊

We're in a real state of change. Whilst we don't know what's around the corner – that is alright. Everything will be O.K. We will get through this. It is well with our souls.

To help us navigate the changing landscape we will be thinking and talking together in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, 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)

We are working pretty hard to get the most important succession/hand over work done before we leave. Please pray for wisdom and energy for us.

Charlie and Jo (S Asia): In between work and home responsibilities both Charlie & Jo need to get paper work done. Because they are foreigners they need to register. Please pray that this will go smoothly for them. Please pray for health for them, their housemates and for their wider communities. They express their thanks for our journeying with them.

Ryan and Sophie, Spencer and Emerson: Ryan and Sophie are juggling parenting, schooling and working. Please think of them and pray for the whole whānau to have moments of rest and renewal.

CLOSER TO HOME:

Music & Play: The team would love someone to become part of this fun and friendly team - is that person you? Please speak to Carol, Heather, Faye, Val, or Andrew to find out more. Music & Play is on Fridays during the school term, from 10 – 11.30am. We're especially keen on people who are happy to

help in the kitchen and enjoy chatting with parents, grandparents, and pre-schoolers.

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.

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 and Tea! We're now using Common Good Coffee and tea. Fairtrade. Organic. Part of Joyya – supporting positive change in some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the world.

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 and Play got off to a great start for term 4. Many of those who came along had missed their weekly catch up with friends due to the forced COVID break.

Music & Play is a group for preschool children and their parents or caregiver. We meet on Friday mornings at 10am during the school term. We begin with fun, interactive songs with lots of musical instruments, parachutes, ribbons, and many other props. We follow this up with 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.

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

Ethical Fashion Guides (updated) are now available. Joyya has an A+ rating. Not too surprising. What about other shops? Search it up or find the link in the Oct 28 West Weekly.

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 or Andrew for more information.

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

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.

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..

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, Lyn.

west: people

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?

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 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.**

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'll acknowledge Birthdays and Anniversaries in the newsletter, with special birthdays acknowledged on Sundays.

Here are dates for November:

2 nd	Kathy & Mouse Wedding Anniversary
14 th	Hparat L
18 th	Ezra S
19 th	Claudia McK
21 st	John F
25 th	Meryl A & Naomi S
28 th	Aaron S
29 th	Allan W
30 th	John & Carolyn F Wedding Anniversary & Jude S-M.

west: events

NOVEMBER CALENDAR:

4,18 th	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	Music Practice, 7pm (date to be advised)
5,12,19,26 th	Music & Play, at West, 10am	
9,16,23,30 th	Movie Group at venues TBA	28 th Church Meeting, after service.

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 physical offering (cash or cheque), 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 (our offering counting people remove cash shortly after we finish.) 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 a physical 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 by also utilising this offering box. 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 September our offerings were \$10,370.

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.

	6 NOV	13 NOV	20 NOV	27 NOV	4 DEC
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Roi SM	Bedford	Sangsters	Sue J	Gane
	Jude SM	family	Erin R	Steve J	family
Lawnmowing	James McK		Brian M		Isabel B

