



**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

DECEMBER 2021/  
JANUARY 2022

28 NOV **Hope (Patience)**  
With Andrew

5 DEC **Peace**  
With Barbara

12 DEC **Joy**  
With Andrew

19 DEC **Love**  
With Andrew

25 DEC **Christmas Day**  
9.30am

26 DEC **No Service**



Kia ora West,

Today (November 28) we will be starting Advent – a time of waiting. Waiting for the hope, peace, joy and love that comes from God in the form of a vulnerable baby, Jesus.

My friend Rob (who's a legend in Baptist circles, especially NZBMS), noted that in his Bible readings this week Jesus saying 'My Kingdom is not of this world.' Sometimes people over-spiritualise God's Kingdom, making it out to be some far away sort of place in the clouds where we get (yummy) pie in the sky when we die. This is well off what Jesus was meaning. Rather, he meant (as as Rob notes) "it's a kingdom that's not going to come into being like kingdoms and empires of the earth grow and expand – military might, population oppression and rule by force. Jesus follows up the first comment with this 'If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.' Where is Jesus going with this? Suffering, service, non violence, no 'othering,' no expansionist dreams by suppression. It's a kingdom of love and acceptance and it comes quietly, without the trumpets of war and cymbals of might."

Isn't this the perfect lead in to the first week of the Christian Church Calendar – to the quiet waiting of Advent and the king not born in a palace.

Recently we've been reminded of Parihaka and their display of God-likeness through their self-control. We might also think of Martin Luther King Jr and Ghandi (both influenced by Jesus and Parihaka) and how our King comes in the weakness of a baby, and in the innocence of hope in God's gentle love. These are God's sorts of ways. May they be our sorts of ways too this Advent – and beyond!

Peace and grace,

Andrew 😊

## 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 leaving KTown on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Please pray for all of the Covid tests coming up, especially for Malachi who is quite afraid of the testing. Please also pray for our precious belongings to make it back to N.Z. – they have currently been delayed. Please give thanks with us also for the incredible season we have had here? We are so thankful for this journey and for the people of Loyal. Thank you, God.

**Charlie and Jo (S Asia):** The launch of Joyya has been encouraging to have been a part of. The building they are using has needed painting and re-plastering, and they are looking forward to it's completion. They are being temperature checked when entering buildings and are wearing masks, and most of their colleagues have been

vaccinated. Charlie and Jo are thankful for our journeying with them.

**Ryan and Sophie, Spencer and Emerson.** Please pray a blessing over Ryan and Sophie and the boys, who are considering schooling options for next year. Please pray God's will and guidance for them.

### Closer to home:

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.

**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.

**Christmas Hampers** We will be giving yummy Christmas Hampers out to 12 households on Christmas Eve. Carolyn & John (thank you!) are making these up from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please bring special Christmas food to share and place it in the basket in the foyer. We also plan to give a meat pack, so if you'd like to contribute some money to these please give it to Carolyn, John, Brent, me or pop it into the church bank account with "Hamper."

## west: growing

The **Movie Group** 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. We will finish for the year on December 16<sup>th</sup> and re-start in mid-February 2022.

**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.

Music and Play finishes for the year on December 10<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas theme.

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. There is no Music Practice for December.

**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 is 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. We will finish for the year on December 10<sup>th</sup> and re-start with school in 2022.

**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.

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.

### west: in our community

**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.

**Contact tracing App:** Let's be responsible and caring by ensuring we use the contact tracing app or sign in everywhere we go – including at services on Sundays.

### 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 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.

**Being family**, we want to celebrate things in each other's lives. Each month, we'll acknowledge Birthdays and Anniversaries in the newsletter,

### WEST'S LEADERSHIP BOARD:

[board@westbaptist.org.nz](mailto: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.

with special birthdays acknowledged on Sundays. Please let Maureen or Andrew know when your special dates are if you think we don't have them, or, if you don't want your special dates made known.

#### **December:**

14<sup>th</sup> Brian & Judy's W.A.  
20<sup>th</sup> Roi & Jude's W.A.  
27<sup>th</sup> Maureen  
27<sup>th</sup> Andy & Lynda's W.A.

#### **January:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Jun & Emma W.A.  
5<sup>th</sup> Erin  
14<sup>th</sup> Cela  
18<sup>th</sup> Naomi & Andrew W.A.  
24<sup>th</sup> Lyn Smith  
24<sup>th</sup> Gary & Heather W.A.

**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?

**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.

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

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

### west: events

#### DECEMBER CALENDAR:

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday night Church, 7.30pm	19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Hampers being made up
2,16 <sup>th</sup>	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Day 9.30am Service</b>
3,10 <sup>th</sup>	Music & Play, at West, 10am	26 <sup>th</sup>	No Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mosaic Youth group		
14,21 <sup>st</sup>	Movie Group at venues TBA		

#### SERVICES IN JANUARY 2022

2, 9, 16, 23, 30<sup>th</sup>, all commencing at 10.00am

### west: pitching in

**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 June our offerings were \$11,552.

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.

	4 DEC	11 DEC	18 DEC	24 DEC	1 JAN
<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea</b>	Gane family	Liane L Wayne L	Brian M Kathy M	Khon A Nang A	Lynda L Andy L
<b>Lawnmowing</b>	David S	Roi SM	Allan W	Wayne L	

	8 JAN	15 JAN	22 JAN	29 JAN	5 FEB
<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea</b>	Judy W Brian W	Val W Allan W	Meryl A Alison D	James M Carol M	Roi SM Jude SM
<b>Lawnmowing</b>	Andy L		Jacob M		Brian W