



**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

APRIL/MAY 2022

**17 APR** Resurrection Sunday!  
He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

**24 APR** 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18  
God's Love Helps Life Flourish

**1 MAY** Surprise!  
With Barbara

**8 MAY** Mother's Day!  
With Lou

**15 MAY** Being Church # 1  
Our Covenanting God  
Jer 31 & Rev 21

**22 MAY** Being Church #2  
On the Way and in the Fray



Kia Ora whānau,

This photo was from a race I recently competed in at Lake Mangamahoe.

As we read this newsletter, we'll be in the midst of Easter – somewhere between Maundy Thursday and Resurrection Sunday.

Perhaps this year more than most in recent history, we are conscious of suffering in the world. As my family tuned into the 6 o'clock news on Monday we were inundated with images of immense suffering of innocent people in Ukraine. Following this was information about the widening of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the abuse of children throughout all New Zealand churches. There has been and continues to be so much suffering.

Good Friday has a crucial message for the world about suffering. Here are a couple of paragraphs Richard Rohr wrote this month on the topic.

In Matthew' 17:1-19, we read of the wonderful story about Jesus' Transfiguration. In this story "Jesus is preparing his disciples for the cross—it's going to come, so be ready, he seems to say. Jesus knows it's the only thing that's going to transfigure them, and the same thing goes for us, too. You see, suffering has this strange and marvellous ability to pull us into oneness. Maybe you've seen it happen in your family, at the funeral of a loved one or some other communal tragedy. I think many of us felt it in the early days of the pandemic—before our dualistic politics got in the way—there was a sense that we were in it together.

Until we find the communal meaning and significance of the suffering of all life, we will continue to retreat into our individual, small worlds in our misguided quest for personal safety and sanity. A Crucified God is the dramatic symbol of the one suffering that God fully enters into with us—not just for us, as we were mostly taught to think, but in solidarity with us. The Good News is we do not have to hold that suffering alone. In fact, we cannot hold it alone.

As we approach Easter, let us remember that we too can follow this path, actively joining God's loving solidarity with all. What starts in God ends in God. All of reality is moving toward resurrection. This is the great hope of our tradition and one that is becoming more and more necessary for the world to hear."

God knows the messiness of being human. God came and embraced and loved despite this. God is in solidarity with those who are suffering. God is making all things come alive into newness!

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

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)**

Thank you for praying for Paul and Sarah as they continue to figure out some of the new rhythms and routines of working with the team in South Asia.

**Charlie & Jo (S Asia):** Please thank God that we were able to take a relaxing break together, and that we have really clear and purposeful roles at work right now. We would love prayer for our 'relocators' retreat, that it would be fruitful. Please pray too, that we can just 'be' in relationship with our community and not always feel that we need to fix things.

**Ryan and Sophie, Spencer and Emerson** – Please pray for Ryan, Sophie, Spencer and Emerson as they settle into Christchurch and look for a home to make theirs. Pray that God would place people around them who would be supportive and joyful friends.

#### **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 with anybody connected to the school community.

## 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. We meet on Friday mornings at 10am during the school term. We begin with fun and interactive songs with lots of musical instruments, parachutes and 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 & Play recommences for Term 2 on Friday May 6th 10am-11.30am.

Term 1 got off to a great start with some quieter Fridays due to Covid. It was great to welcome several new Mums, carers & grandparents at M&P during Term 1.

**The Music Group** are now meeting once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month, 7 – 9 pm. 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.

**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..

**Pre-teen Ministry** Ethan and Andrew are building a team to run a new group for Year 6 (last year Primary School), Year 7 and Year 8's (Intermediate School.) Please contact us if you are interested in finding out more.

**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!

**"Tēnā koutou e te whānau a West Baptist,** The last month has brought much excitement for our young people. Andrew and I have started meeting with a group of school years 6-10, which has become a huge highlight over the past four weeks. We have started with a small group of 5-10 young people meeting every Wednesday in the downstairs space of the church. Our evenings involve some games, time to hang out, enjoying some snacks, and reflecting on what God is revealing to us through the Bible.

We are extremely excited about what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in the lives of these amazing young people. If you or your young people are in school years 6-10, we welcome you to join us every Wednesday of the school term from 4:30 – 6pm."

**Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, Ethan**

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/>

[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 lovingly and gently with the person you have a concern with. Keep 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, David.

### west: people

**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.

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

**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 April/May:

- 1 Apr Sophie S – 15!
- 3 Apr Megan & Grant WA
- 5 April Caitlyn S – 18!
- 15 Apr James & Carol WA
- 26 April Tiffany R
- 29 May Thomas W – 18!

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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, Lyn S, Marlinka R.**

### west: events

#### APRIL CALENDAR:

7,21 <sup>st</sup>	Chocolate Fish Group at McK’s	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mosaic Big Saturday
		17 <sup>th</sup>	Resurrection Sunday 10am
12,19,26 <sup>th</sup>	Movie Group at venues TBA	21 <sup>st</sup>	Music Practice

#### MAY CALENDAR:

5,19 <sup>th</sup>	Chocolate Fish at McK’s		
6,13,20,27 <sup>th</sup> May	Music & Play,at West, 10am	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Mosaic Youth
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Mosaic Youth	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Music Practice
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Youth Group for School year 6,7,8 starts		
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday night Church		

### west: pitching in

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.

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$10,833 per month in offerings; in February our offerings were \$9,596. For the month of March, our offerings were \$10,381.

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.

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.

	16 APR	23 APR	30 APR	7 MAY	14 MAY
<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea</b>	Val W	Meryl A	James M	Roi SM	Bedford
	Allan W	Alison D	Carol M	Jude SM	family
<b>Lawnmowing</b>	Roi SM		Allan W		Wayne L

	21 MAY	28 MAY			
<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea</b>	Sangsters	Sarah			
	Erin R	and Gang			
<b>Lawnmowing</b>		Andy L			

