



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

JUNE 2022

5 JUNE

Being Church #4
Pentecost Sunday

12 JUNE

"Serve One Another"

19 JUNE

"Bat at peace with One Another"

26 JUNE

Remembering and Celebrating



Kia Ora whānau,

On Sunday mornings we're in the midst of a series on Being Church. We're wrestling with what it means and looks like to be committed to God and to one another as a part of West Baptist Community Church. Here is some of the content I've shared so far, hopefully to serve as a reminder and prompt for subsequent discussions about us replacing membership with covenant partnerships.

- When it comes to thinking about us and God, individualism suggests our relationship with God is something that we, by our faithfulness towards God, are responsible for accomplishing and sustaining. And worse, that our efforts in relating to God are independent from the faithfulness of God and others towards us.

- The danger is that we forget and neglect that it is not our response to God that brings love and life - but God's initiating love for all humanity.

- We can think of being church as having a vertical dimension – God and the gathered community. And a horizontal dimension, between people.

- **“God's love enfolds us not because of us keeping a contract.”** Rather, God wants a relationship based on covenant.

- A covenant is a personal relationship established at God's gracious initiative. It's God started and isn't dependant on us being good enough.

- **God's love enfolds us because of God's nature and initiating Covenant.** Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 33 “I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

- Parents are totally committed to be their child's mother or father and love them no matter what – irrespective of their behaviour. In effect parents declare to children: “we will be your parents, and you will be our child.” The first part of this is saying “This is the kind of person I promise to be to you: I will love you, and care for you and be there for you no matter what.” And when we say “And you will be my child” we're also saying we expect their behaviour towards us to correspond to our covenantal love towards them. So that... we all find joy in participating in this love together. But always covenantal love, never as a behaviour contract.

- When we come to thinking about covenantal partnerships with God and each other – as opposed to membership, a couple of important features are: to be wary of describing what our relationship with God needs to look like – what we need to believe and do. This puts too much weight on our descriptions of efforts to be good. Let the emphasis be on embracing our true identity as being enfolded in God's loving kindness, and responding to this initiative of God in ways God leads. Perhaps the emphasis should be on the direction we are walking... if it's towards Christ – great! That's enough. And of course, this initiating love of God flows into our horizontal relationships with each other

- “On the way and in the fray.” We are on the way – on the messy journey – together with and towards Jesus Christ. And as our draft covenant partnership wording states; “in both ways known and yet to be made known.” We don't have certainty about life, about God, about what being a faithful disciple of Jesus looks like – in relationship with both God and each other – but as we walk together “on the way” towards the risen Christ, we trust that we will be led in the ways of God.

- Being a part of a church family with each other means we are to be radically committed to one another in costly, self-giving, messy, covenant love.

- We can disagree and get along – united by the most important things – and extending grace on less important things. We can love people but sometimes we might not like them. We can't choose our spiritual family – so we choose our friends. This is very counter-culture. It's very challenging and difficult. And I think it also brings great depth and meaning to our lives. It's a big commitment to covenant together to “watch over one another with love” like how we're suggesting in our draft covenant partnership statements.

Draft Covenant Partnership

As a faith community, we are committed to walking in the ways of Jesus, both ways known and yet to be made known. Do you commit to joining us in walking with Jesus?

As we walk in the ways of Jesus, we are committed to watching over one another with love. Do you commit to this with us?

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)

Our family are happily settling back into the 3 C's, our caravan, train carriage and a cabin on the land of our friends in Karangahake. We are hoping to find a home or some land in the area eventually. The children are loving being back at school in New Zealand. Both Sarah and Paul have found part time work, and also some theological study is under way for Sarah.

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): We are so happy here and feel at home - thank you God! We're thankful for roles that work really well for us, and for the kid's club that is growing. We would love prayer for health and energy for us and our community in the heat. And as always, please pray for our relationships with the people around us - that they would flourish and grow deeper.

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, such as sports team coaching. 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 On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westside Grill at 6.30pm. We meet on the third Tuesday night of the month to watch and discuss movies. Phone Megan C for details of venues.

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 At the moment we are not meeting on a Thursday to practice. Will let you know when we restart Thursday Practices.

The Music Group meet at 9.30am Sharp on a Sunday Morning before the service to go through the songs for the service.

We would love to have more singers join us. If you feel this is something you could do on a Sunday please talk to Gary, Heather or one of the team.

Thursday night church We have given Thursday Night Church a good go and have decided to put our energies into other areas going forward. We've had our last time together which was great! We've said as a church that we want to explore new ways of being church and this was a positive attempt and expression of that. We'll keep listening and considering what might be helpful for us and our community regarding future new expressions of church. Thank you David, Jacob and Lou for your vision, energy and passion for this – it's been good!

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!

Pre-teen Ministry Ethan is running a group for school year 6, 7 and 8. We'd love some older youth

and adults to come along to love these kids. Please contact Ethan or Andrew if you are interested in finding out more.

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

The Justice Conference. Saturday September 3rd. looks great! www.thejusticeconference.org.nz

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, David.

west: events

JUNE CALENDAR:

2,16th Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's
3,10,17,24th Music & Play, at West, 10am
10th Mosaic Youth

17th Mosaic Youth
21st Movie Group at venues TBA

west: people

Kia ora West Baptist Whanau. If you are a landlord looking for tenants or if you have nice, clean household furniture that you no longer need please let **Naomi** know on 021 203 3653.

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, Sunday morning services, other stuff.

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 June:

13 June	Kareen
15 June	Robyn R
17 June	Lynda
26 June	Val
29 June	Andrew
30 June	Brian

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

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: 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 April our offerings were \$9,959.

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.

	4 JUNE	11 JUNE	18 JUNE	25 JUNE	2 JULY
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Gane	Liane L	Brian M	Khon A	Lynda L
	Family	Wayne L	Kathy M	Nang A	Andy L
Lawnmowing		Jacob M		Brian W	



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.