



**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 2022

**2 OCT** Partnering with Mosaic  
with Lance P

**9 OCT** Caring with Love  
with Andrew

**16 OCT** Partnering with WITT chaplaincy  
with Lou G

**23 OCT** Surprise!  
with Mouse

**30 OCT** Partnering with Hospital Chaplaincy  
with Joe G

**6 NOV** Partnering with Spotswood Primary  
with Mark F



Kia Ora whānau,

Over the last few weeks, we've been thinking about what God is like. It can be hard to know what God is like when we can't see God. The Bible wisely gives us images and ideas to help us grasp something of God's character. Of course, every image has limitations. God is certainly not destructive like a hurricane, nor does God cause house fires by falling over like the flame of a candle might. God certainly isn't an eagle-like scavenger, or a base used in war! God is not a hot ball of gas! BUT!

God is like a gardener, patient and nurturing. God plants, waters, weeds, and fertilises the earth until every good thing on it seeks the nourishing sun and grows.

God is like a fort, strong and secure with walls that are mighty and safe. Inside, there are hidden places to hold you when you're scared or need a quiet place to rest.

God is like the stars, forever present and bright. Even when they feel far away, you can always look up and see them winking at you.

God is like an eagle, sharp eyed and swift, with wings so wide you can play under their shadows.

God is like the flame of a candle, warm and inviting. With God close by, you can look to the light and see through the darkest of nights.

God is like the wind, passionate and full of mystery. God is both here and, mysteriously, also over there. God is everywhere, swirling throughout the world, whistling across mountain ranges, rustling through trees, and pressing against your cheeks on a breezy day.

And because we know what God is like, we know that...

God is kind.

God is forgiving.

God is slow to get angry.

God is quick to be glad.

God is happy when you tell the truth and sad when things are unfair.

She is your protector.

He is trustworthy

They are friends when you feel alone.

God hopes. God perseveres.

What is God like?

That's a very big question, one that people from places all around the world, throughout all time, have answered in many different ways. Keep searching. Keep wondering. Keep learning about God.

But whenever you aren't sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel brave, and what makes you feel loved. THAT's What God Is Like.

(Thanks Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner for putting these words together in your book. )

With Love

Andrew ☺

### west: making a difference

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

**Ryan & Sophie** have settled in Christchurch. Ryan is currently supporting Joyya's IT platforms and IT people, and also contracting himself out to organisations in Christchurch, with the money going to Joyya. Sophie has been working in the West Baptist Church Café and doing writing and editing jobs, as well as volunteering at the boys' primary

school. The children are loving their new school and are especially enjoying field trips and camps, experiences they did not have in India.

**Charlie & Jo (S Asia):** We are loving the classes we are part of - especially cycle class, which everyone is showing great progression in! Please pray for a visa

that Charlie is applying for - we need prayer for these processes that take up time and can be uncertain. Thank you!

### **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, 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.

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.

### **Leadership Board:**

This is a friendly and excited reminder that the election of a new Church Board will take place early in November. Two current Board members are completing their term and are not seeking re-election. This means there is room for a number of new Leadership Board members. The role of the Board is really important at West, a team of people whose vision, background work, prayer, communication and creativity, all adds considerably to the leadership of our faith community.

The nomination committee is asking you to consider, seriously and prayerfully, how and who this new Board could be. Please get your nominations in to Judy W, Wayne L or Andrew, as soon as you can. Please see recent West Weekly e-mail for more information.

**The Music Group** meet at 9.15am 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.

**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** - We have an amazing group of school year 6, 7 and 8's (10 – 12 year olds). We'd love a couple more adults to come along to love these kids. Please contact Ethan or Andrew if you are interested in finding out more.

### **Tēnā koutou e te whānau a West Baptist,**

The end of the school term 3 is just around the corner. West Baptist's intermediate aged youth group has continued to thrive this term. I, (Ethan) have been absent a fair bit this term with some family bereavements, but with an awesome team of volunteers, youth group has continued to thrive. This term we have been journeying through the gospels of Matthew and Luke, exploring the parables. Unfortunately, we have lost our primary meeting space in the basement of the church, but the team have continued to be adaptable and



creative in utilising the upstairs space to enjoy our evenings.

**Mosaic Youth** continues to operate fortnightly on Fridays and is an on-going source of life for our young people. A recent highlight has been an overnight hike to the Waingongoro hut on the eastern side of the maunga. Under the very capable supervision of James McKillop, this was a great opportunity for our young people to step out of their comfort zones and try something new. What a weekend it turned out to be! We would appreciate ongoing prayers of support for us in ending the year strong. Pray that our young people may continue to encounter our wonderful God, and that we might

continue to strengthen our relationships with one another.

Mauri ora e te whānau! Ethan.

**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

### OCTOBER CALENDAR:

5,19 <sup>th</sup>	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK’s	21 <sup>st</sup>	Mosaic Youth
14,21,28 <sup>th</sup>	Music & Play at West, 10am	26 <sup>th</sup>	West Youth
18 <sup>th</sup>	Movie Group at venues TBA		
19 <sup>th</sup>	West Youth		

## west: people

**A huge congratulations** to **Ethan and Sophie** on your engagement! We are thrilled for you, as you are both amazing people!

**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 September:

7 October	Ruth L
9 October	Heather B
13 October	Tracey W
14 October	Roi M
21 October	Jill M
28 October	Lyn B

**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 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 – **Margaret S, 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 August our offerings were \$11,406.

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.

	1 OCT	8 OCT	15 OCT	22 OCT	29 OCT
<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea</b>	Lynda L	Judy W	Val W	Meryl A	James M
	Andy L	Brian W	Allan W	Alison D	Carol M
<b>Lawnmowing</b>	Wayne L	Andy L	Jacob M	Brian W	Peter V

