



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

AUGUST 2023

30 JULY Bible & God as Redeemer
Intro & Overview with Lou

6 AUG Bible & God as Redeemer

13 AUG Bible & God as Redeemer

20 AUG Seeking together

27 AUG Jesus ...

3 SEPT Father's Day event? (TBC)



Kia Ora whānau,

Here are some super helpful reflections from Michael Frost (from his 'In the Shift' podcast) on the current rhetoric and actions we're seeing around Aotearoa at the moment.

In Aotearoa New Zealand (like in other parts of the world) we're seeing emboldened forms of racism, bigotry and prejudice at the moment, particularly against Māori. Perhaps it's not surprising...the power of white Western society

was established in tandem with the suffering of indigenous people and people of colour. Slavery and colonisation have been vital on the pathway to prosperity and power, even as the story we told ourselves was often one of benevolent victors whose civilised ways have changed everything for the better.

And now, when those who have suffered under the weight of this injustice dare to challenge the narrative and bring attention to their oppression, they have to suffer the indignity of being called troublemakers, find themselves accused of "reverse racism" or are simply being ignored and dismissed.

Christianity is implicated in all this too, of course. The church and the empire went hand-in-hand... this is a reality the church cannot avoid in its own story.

The Stop Co-Governance tour by Julian Batchelor is another potent example of this. An evangelist famous in NZ Evangelicalism many years ago with his 'little black book' - designed to convert sinners - he's now building his following by amplifying and manipulating the fears of Pākehā people who aren't used to having their narrative questioned and who aren't used to having to share power, influence and the structures of wider society with Māori.

It is racism, pure and simple.

I grew up pentecostal, and so if I was to label this kind of rhetoric and action with a word that comes from that tradition, I'd call it demonic; fearful and sneering distortions of power used to prop up oppressive systems that cause suffering, pain and trauma.

I'm aware, of course, that I have to turn attention to my own embodied life too. To ask myself challenging questions about how being Pākehā in New Zealand gifts me privilege that others do not have, and how I can participate in different ways of being in the world that open up to diversity and plurality. This is a meaningful opportunity for new forms of life and community, it is not a threat to my wellbeing.

And as someone still trying to follow the way of Jesus, this seems like it was a big part of the whole point. I think about how his vision of the world was one of liberation for the oppressed, which resulted in a kind of liberation for the oppressor. That giving up oppressive power is not only good for those who have suffered under it, it is also life-giving for those whose own humanity has been eaten away by their dehumanisation of others.

Powerful or privileged people can sadly find this too hard to accept. That's why the rich and powerful largely found it impossible to follow Jesus – they couldn't allow themselves to see the world differently because they were afraid of what they'd lose... sound familiar?

But this moment in time does not have to be defined by an anxiety-driven resurgence of white supremacy. It can be defined by a new imagination, by seeing with curiosity and possibility instead of with fear and self-protection.

May we find curious, kind and just ways to be human together. And may those of us (Pākehā) who have benefitted from the status quo, learn to listen to Māori, to learn, to grow... and to change.

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:

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): Jo & Charlie (South Asia)

We are loving seeing the growth, joy, and confidence that the Joyya vocational training is bringing! Being in charge of the timetabling for all of these trainings can be a little wild sometimes though, so please pray that we would find and implement good systems that would be useful for everyone.

Please pray for the Joyya health clinics (and soon to be legal hubs) which are going really well, these are needed and appreciated in the community. Our team is feeling quite stretched at the moment, so please pray for energy and times of rest/respite.

Joel & Lizzie (NZ/South Asia): Please pray for us as we plan our travel back to South Asia. When we return, I (Joel) will be seconded to volunteer for Vine Design for one day a week, offering photography and communications to organisations and freedom businesses that need design/marketing assistance. Please pray for this work and praise God that I can be a part of using my skills in new and exciting ways.

We will have an update on C.J., C.O.O. – Chief Operating Officer of Joyya in the September newsletter.

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 is a supporter of Hospital Chaplaincy. Having Jesus centred people to sit, listen, support and pray with hospital staff, patients and their families is a precious gift we probably all need at some point and time. Part of the funding for this work and ministry needs to be raised locally and an annual Plant Sale is a key feature in the fundraising efforts. This will be on Saturday September 23rd. There was a huge demand for vegetable seedlings and plants last year. We can support our hospital chaplaincy work by growing vegetable seedlings and plants and donating these to the Plant Sale. Contact Louisa at Taranaki Chaplaincy Service on 753 6139, ext.7968 for more information or if you need pots.

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 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. See 'events' section for dates. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to come along and check us out.

Music & Play group is for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or caregivers. We meet at 10am every Friday during the school term. Music and play got off to a good start for term 3.

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.

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

Friday 21 July - Youth @ Fitzroy, 5:30pm

Friday 4 August - Youth @ Fitzroy, 5:30pm

Sunday 6 August - Tenpin Bowling @ Bowlarama, 5:30pm

Friday 25 August - Youth @ Fitzroy, 5:30pm

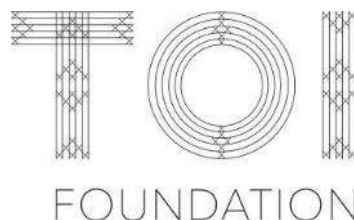
Friday 1 September - Youth @ Fitzroy, 5:30pm

Friday 6 & 7 October - Mosaic Retreat

Any queries, contact Sophie - 021 202 4150

West partners with **Mosaic Youth** – a community that seeks to support youth to thrive. Our teenagers are a part of it, along with a few others that are connected with West. It's a safe place of belonging for youth where they can grow, explore and be disciplined. A number of churches are working together, forming Mosaic Youth. Mosaic are looking for adults with a passion for Youth to consider joining as individual Mission Partners. It's for anybody who wants to see Youth thrive and who'll support this work in ways you can. July 30 meeting at 2pm at the Mosaic space at Holy Trinity Fitzroy. Please contact Ethan, Sophie or Andrew if you'd like 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/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.



Toi Foundation (TSB) has generously given the church \$10,000! Thanks Toi! This grant is towards the costs of the work we do with Youth. Yes, we've budgeted for a youth worker role, and it's important we think of this Toi grant as offsetting the fully supported budgeted costs associated with this role. If we could find and access grants to offset other agreed budgeted areas, that would be awesome as well!

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, and 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 L, David, Erin or Andy G.

Would you be interested in doing a **Carey Baptist College 12 week course** right here in New Plymouth, with other locals in person, and the lecturer via Zoom? Carey has some options for this. I'd love to hear from you if you're interested

west: events

Andrew keeps hearing people wonder aloud if we could do anything for our community on **Fathers Day**. September 3rd. Do you have ideas? Would you love to see something happen? A BBQ? Some sports? Hang out time? We'll arrange a quick chat about whether this is something we'd like to do as a church in a few week's time. This notice is to help us get thinking...

If you'd like to contact Andrew, our pastor, please text or call on 021 149 2328 or andrew@westbaptist.org.nz
If you'd like to make contact with our Leadership Board please use board@westbaptist.org.nz

AUGUST CALENDAR:

30 th July	Father's Day brain-storming meeting after the service	13 th	Soup Lunch. Please bring some bread to contribute if you can
30 th July	Mosaic Mission Partners Meeting 2pm at Holy Trinity Church	15 th	Movie Group at venues TBA
4 th	Youth@ Fitzroy, 5.30pm	20 th	Marriage Equality Discussion #1.
4,11,18,25 th	Music & Play at West, 10am	20 th	Movie Night. Church Building. BYO dinner, 5pm
6 th	10-pin Bowling @ Bowlarama, 5.30pm	25 th	Youth @ Fitzroy, 5.30pm
3,17,31 st	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	27 th	Marriage Equality Discussion #2.

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?

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, Heather H, Robyn R, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R.**

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 July:

30 July	Brent
1 August	Jacob
3 August	Liane
12 August	Eric
14 August	Wayne L (60!)
15 August	Khon
15 August	Andy G (40!)
18 August	Margaret S
22 August	Tiffany & Jason WA
23 August	Tim
26 August	Stuart W

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.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$10,583 per month in offerings. For June offerings were \$10,501.

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.

	5 AUG	12 AUG	19 AUG	26 AUG	2 SEPT
Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	Carol M	Andy L	Brian W	Allan W	Khon A
	James M	Lynda L	Judy W	Val W	Nang A
	Brian M		David S		John V

The longer I live, the more deeply I learn that love -whether we call it friendship or family or romance – is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other's light.