

# Weekly News

10TH AUGUST 2025



fairfield baptist church

Connect, Care, Commit, Contribute

## Fairfield Baptist Church

In unity be a fully functioning Biblical community, demonstrating the love, grace and truth of Christ, through our worship, walk and witness.

### Connect with those inside the church and beyond

Do a random act of kindness this week (RAK)

### Care for one another

Encourage someone in the church with a card, note or small gift

### Commit to sharing Christ's love with others

Offer to pray or share your faith with someone not part of the church

### Contribute to the life and mission of FBC

Serve God in a ministry this week

[www.fairfieldbaptist.co.nz](http://www.fairfieldbaptist.co.nz)

Ph: 07 8555 469

Email: [office@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz](mailto:office@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz)

## THIS SUNDAY

Iunisi Katoa

Ephesians 1:3-8

## NEXT SUNDAY

Neville Stevenson

Ephesians 1:9-14

Communion

## THIS WEEKS EVENTS

**Craft Group:** Monday at 10.00am in the Youth room.

**Community Lunch:** Monday at 12.15pm in the cafe

**Cafe Connect:** Tuesday from 10.00am - 11.00am in the cafe.

**Bowls:** Tuesday at 12.45pm in the hall.

## SERMON NOTES

If you would like to take sermon notes during the service we have a booklet available at the info desk for you to use. This is created specifically for our study on Ephesians and there are 20 copies available so get in quick.

Every 2 months, a printable newsletter with Baptist news and articles is released at [baptist.nz/print](http://baptist.nz/print).

The May/June newsletter is out now and there are a limited number of hard copies available at the info desk. If you miss out on a copy and would like one please contact the office.

Here is the link for last week's sermon:

<https://fairfieldbaptist.co.nz/sermon-audio/?sermon=ephesians-introduction>



NEWS, ARTICLES AND STORES  
FROM  
**BAPTIST NZ**  
APP & WEBSITE

MAY  
JUNE  
2025

This newsletter is a print version of the latest articles published on the Baptist NZ website and app. The app now replaces the Baptist magazine and is available to download on Google play and App Store. For those in the Baptist family who prefer to read hardcopy, check out what God is doing in our faith communities in this newsletter, sent bi-monthly to churches. If you have email and would like this document to be emailed to you, sign up to our newsletter at [baptist.nz](http://baptist.nz).



A podcast series bringing you local updates from the Chair of the National Council of The Baptist Churches of New Zealand. Stay updated on what's happening nationally in our movement. Listen on [baptist.nz/podcasts](http://baptist.nz/podcasts)

**Do you have any stories of gospel renewal in your community?**  
You can share them by emailing [stories@baptist.nz](mailto:stories@baptist.nz)

**Feedback**  
If you would like to give feedback on this newsletter, write to our Communications Director at the Baptist Support Centre: PO Box 12 149, Porirua, Auckland 1662, New Zealand.



**CHRISTINE STRIDE**  
**Baptist legend receives King's Service Medal**  
Christine Stride is Executive Assistant to the Baptist National Leader and works at the Baptist National Support Centre in Auckland. She is a member of Tivoli Baptist Church in Auckland.

You'd have to search high and low in the New Zealand Baptist world to find someone who doesn't know of Marilyn Withers.

For nearly 50 years, Merr, as she's known to most, has dedicated herself to enhancing the well-being of young people in New Zealand.

Merr's work was acknowledged in this year's King's Birthday Honours for service on Monday, 1 June. Firstly, she was attending the King's Birthday (KJB) Leadership Training weekend in Rotorua and was able to celebrate the news surrounded by hundreds of young people and Baptist youth ministry workers.

She says her first reaction to receiving the official email from the Honours Unit - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was to wonder if it was a joke or a scam.

"I saw the 'Private and Confidential' and I thought, 'Good heavens, someone's having me on.'"

Time to form. Merr deflects the honour, saying, "It may have my name on it, but I accept it on behalf of all the people in New Zealand who work for and love young people."

Merr was nominated for the KJB by two people who were in a youth group she led in the 1990s and who have kept in contact with her.

New 71, Merr has been actively involved in youth leadership for most of her life. From 1979 to 2004, she led youth groups and led regionally in Canterbury and Wellington, giving up evenings and weekends, organising events, clocking up kilometres of travel.



## The Georgiou family are our Mission Focus for August

Capernwray New Zealand: This year we have students from New Zealand, Australia, England, Ethiopia, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, America, and France.

Ross: This has been a busy but also a very rewarding season, with 11 young people getting baptized in 6 months. It's been such an exciting time journeying with the students, building into them and helping them discover how they can serve in Missions after their time at the college by using the gifts God blessed them with.

One of my highlights was to watch one of them share her faith with a group of homeless people in Auckland during the ministry week.

Roula and I hosted a couple of student groups at our house in Auckland, which they all appreciated.

We thank God for each one of you and pray that you may experience God's amazing love, care and peace in a very tangible way.

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### Prayer Chain

All prayer chain requests should be emailed to [rose@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz](mailto:rose@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz)



### HELP!

Let the office know if you can help serve in our church..



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Iunisi Katoa 11th  
Gaylene Burgess 13th



### Giving at Fairfield Baptist Church

Online banking: 03-0306-0200267-00 Use your name as a reference

Donation Box in foyer at church

Online via website at <https://fairfieldbaptist.co.nz/giving/>



### **We praise God:**

- For the new chaplains who completed the GSCA chaplaincy training 2025. Thank you for praying for their protection.
- For the Sports Chaplaincy training teachers, who shared their knowledge and gave up their free time to equip the new sports chaplains from the global Christian community.
- For the successful GSCA Coaching program 2024/2025 who was completed last week.
- For all the young people who came to Capernwray this year to spend time at the feet of Jesus, to learn and grow in their faith and in the relationship with Him.
- For God's protection on the way, especially for Ross, who is spending many hours a week on the road.
- For my successful eye surgery on June 3

### **Please pray with us:**

- Pray for the new chaplains who completed their GSCA Training, and are positioned to serve in different clubs. Some of them work in dangerous places.
- Pray for Lau from Angola. He feels called to full-time Christian ministry and is pursuing theological studies and further studies in Sports Chaplaincy.
- Pray for the direction of GSCA, especially regarding the GSCA chaplaincy training.
- Pray for the complete healing of my eye. I am struggling, especially with computer tasks.
- Pray that the upcoming conference in the UK would be a blessing to every one attending, including Ross and myself (Roula)
- Pray that we will get a good summer break after that. We are looking forward to special times with God.
- Pray for a complete recovery for Ross's dad, who had a hip replacement surgery today. He seems to be in good spirit,
- Pray for complete healing for Roula's mum, who suffered a heart attack 2 days ago due to pneumonia. She is on the way to recovery.

If anyone is interested in baptism and/or membership, please see Ross.

*"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38*

Prayer is available after the service on Sunday. Please come to the front and one of the prayer team will be happy to pray with you.

The Monday night prayer meeting is held from 7pm to 8pm in the Oasis room.

Tuesday morning prayer meeting is held in the Oasis room at 9.15am.



IF YOU ARE NEW  
TO THE CHURCH  
WE INVITE YOU TO  
JOIN THE  
LEADERSHIP TEAM  
FOR LUNCH AFTER  
THE SERVICE ON  
24TH AUGUST

New  
Peoples  
Lunch



**RSVP** to the church office by  
email:  
[office@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz](mailto:office@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz)  
by 20<sup>th</sup> August (for catering  
purposes)

### **MAORI WARDS**

Between 09 September and 11 October, 42 local authorities will hold referenda about whether to keep Māori wards, alongside their local body elections. As the Church was pivotal in shaping the Treaty relationship, Christians have a unique role to play in this conversation in each local government area.

Common Grace Aotearoa is equipping and educating faith communities with resources to have curious, gracious, and informed conversations —grounded in our faith and guided by the wisdom of Tangata Whenua. You will find a very helpful and informative video via the link below. This is simply my invitation to you to prayerfully consider your engagement with this.

[Learn about the value of Māori wards from a faith perspective.](#) — Common Grace Aotearoa

Blessings on all,  
Ross.





Dear Fairfield Baptist Church,

We're excited to open our hangar doors and invite you and your family to celebrate Father's Day weekend with us!

Come for an afternoon of planes, good food and lots of fun for the family.

Date: Saturday, 6th September

Time: Between 12PM - 4PM

Location: Kendon-Strong MAF Centre, 7 De Havilland Way, Mount Maunganui.

Activities include:

- Exploring an ex-MAF missionary plane and other aircraft.
- Taking a ride in an antique fire-truck
- Be entertained by FUSE Bucket Drummers
- ...and more!

Tasty food and drink will be on site to purchase, and street parking will be available.

Plus be in to WIN a scenic flight for you and your dad, grandad or kids in our MAF Cessna 206!

This event is a fantastic way to introduce your family and friends to the work of MAF, so be sure to forward this email to them!

We can't wait to see you there!

Stay up to date and share the event by RSVPing to our Facebook event below.

[RSVP to the Facebook Event](#)

Prayer for the Pacific	Climate change affects all of us, but our Pacific neighbours bear the brunt of it. In 2019, a group of university students from the Pacific decided to do something about it. Their advocacy spurred the Vanuatu government to take a case to the International Court of Justice. Six years on, the ICJ has come back with their decision: if countries don't act to stop climate change, they could be breaking international law. From a spark of an idea in a classroom to a massive global milestone— we see glimpses of hope and restoration as people work together.
Wednesday 6.8 Jo and Charlie (South Asia)	Thank you for your prayer for the student timetables last. month, they are complete and classes are about to start. We're hopeful for people to attend well, and grow in Confidence, Capacity, Connection and Contribution. We've purchased a scooty and now have the freedom to zip around the city, which is loads of fun for us! Prayer for safety would be appreciated.
Thursday 7.8  Tripura Theological College	Senate of Serampore University B.Th results are out. All the students who graduated this year have passed the final exams for the degree of Bachelor of Theology! Praise God. TTC Spiritual Retreat 2025 was held on 26 July 2025 in collaboration with Haggai Institute Alumni Association (HIAA) of Tripura at TTC. Dr. Susanta Patra, Facilitator of Haggai India & Haggai International spoke on various topics during the day, and Rev. Bishu, Principal of TTC spoke in the evening. -Samuel Laldusaka
Friday 8.8  Brian and Gay (South Asia)	We have gratitude for sensing God's help, presence and hope as we talk and work with various people and communication happening with NZ friends and family - all so appreciated! We continue to wait for Brian's security clearance and work permit and NZBMS's 5 year proforma to be processed - these have now been submitted for approval by mid August. We have some visitors arriving - pray that they will have a beneficial time in Bangladesh as they are impacted by a very different culture.
Saturday 9.8  Village Aid	Please continue to pray for the schools and teachers who are connected to Village Aid in rural Bangladesh.
Sunday 10.8  Loss of Rob Bellingham	This week we mourn the loss of Rob Bellingham. Rob grew up in a Christian family in Northland. He was interested in missionary stories and developed a "very keen interest" in the issue of poverty and how to help the poor. Rob was also a gifted writer, competitive tennis player, a passionate entrepreneur, a devoted missionary and former pastor, husband, Father and Grandfather. In it all, a committed follower of Jesus. Please continue to hold Jan and Rob's family in prayer as they grieve and celebrate the life of a truly remarkable man.