

# Weekly News

5TH OCTOBER 2025



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

Ross Woodhouse  
Baptism, Prayer & Worship  
Communion

## NEXT SUNDAY

Neville Stevenson  
Ephesians 3:1-13



## Fun is More Than Just a Good Time: We've Made it One of Our Core Values

Extreme poverty can strip the joy out of life and without joyful memories, it's hard for people to imagine a hopeful future. So we intentionally create celebrations and moments of joy through things like community carnivals, taking kids to the zoo or taking a group of elderly people on a boat ride.

These special events do a few things for our communities: They forge connections between people, they give people a chance to step away from their (pretty tough) ordinary life and they help people to experience fun, create positive memories and imagine a better future.

You can support FUN by joining Joyride - we would love to have you on the team this year! (You'll also be supporting our other "serious" development work like education, healthcare and legal assistance too.)

## 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 9.45am - 11.00am in the cafe.

**Bowls:** Tuesday at 12.45pm in the hall. The last bowls day for the year is on 21<sup>st</sup> October

If you wish to make a one off online donation please click this link.

[Join Joyride](#)

Please note that the church is not taking payments for this.



# Maori Wards

Decide Together, Thrive Together.

Learn about the value of Māori wards from a faith perspective.

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.

## Small groups...



## Can help you know God personally.

## Become a member today!

### 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

No birthdays this week



### 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/>



fairfield baptist church

# BUSINESS MEETING

FOLLOWING THE  
SERVICE

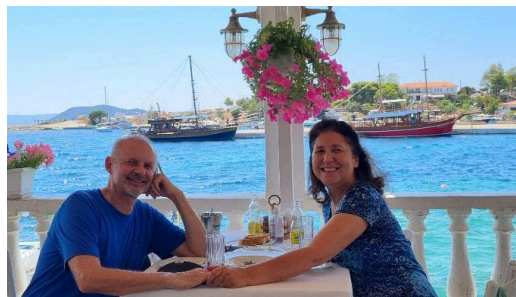
**COME AND HEAR  
ABOUT THE NEW  
BUILDING PROPOSAL**

There will be a 5 minute break  
after the service if you need to  
leave and there will be no  
morning tea provided that day.





# Ross and Roula Georgiou are our Mission focus for October



## Capernwray International Staff Conference

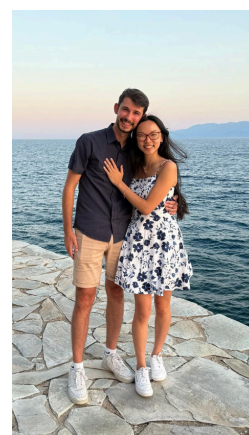
In mid-June, Ross and I attended the Capernwray International staff conference at Capernwray Hall in the UK; a beautiful place. Ross was busy with many leadership meetings and also got to know several national directors he hadn't met before. As I am not a Capernwray staff member, I had no responsibilities, and so I spent my time socializing !

I enjoyed spending time with the NZ delegation, catching up with old friends Theo and Sandra Goutsios, leaders of Capernwray Greece (Kingfisher) and meeting new people who are serving internationally. We shared about God's work in our lives, and prayed for each other.

## Stephanos and Abby got engaged!

Our younger son, Stephanos, wanted to introduce Abby to the European side of the family, and they had planned to be in Greece at the same time as us. A few days after arriving in Greece, Stephanos proposed to Abby—and she said “yes!” We are delighted to welcome Abby into our family as Stephanos's fiancée. Her joyful spirit, love for Jesus, caring heart for Stephanos and others, and her beautiful nature are all wonderful qualities. The news was received with great joy by the big Greek family and by our New Zealand family, who already knew her.

A few days ago our immediate family and Abby's family celebrated their engagement with much love, gifts, and our blessing. God has heard our prayers and blessed our sons with Christian women who love Him. We are thankful!



## Sports Ministry, Global Sports Chaplaincy and me...

I have worked in sports ministry with Ross for over 30 years, eight of those with GSCA. For most of that time I was Ross's PA, mentored athletes, coached chaplains, facilitated and hosted planning and training meetings, and more. Since we returned to New Zealand in 2022, I also served as the GSCA training facilitator.

In October 2024, the Chair of the Board informed me that structural changes were forthcoming. One change was to offer the GSCA training as a self-study course on an online platform instead of live Zoom sessions with teachers, which I had been facilitating. There was no online-only version of the GSCA Training back then. I was given permission to facilitate the GSCA training on Zoom one more year. I felt blessed to work with amazing international sports chaplaincy teachers who volunteered their time to teach people from around the world.

The online-only version of the GSCA training is almost ready now and will be available on the platform as early as January 2026. My role as training facilitator is therefore no longer needed, and I will not be taking on another role within GSCA. Though I am very sad to leave GSCA and my heart is heavy, I remember that God is sovereign also in this situation. GSCA is God's work, and I pray that He will continue to bless and use it for His glory.

Looking back at my time first with Athletes in Action, then Sports Chaplaincy New Zealand (logo changed since then), and finally with GSCA, I am deeply grateful to my husband Ross. He inspired me to become involved in sports ministry, to love sportspeople and sports chaplaincy. I am grateful to the many colleagues, teachers, international and local support staff, coaches, and mentor coaches who worked alongside me over the years. I also thank God for the relationships with athletes, chaplains, and training participants I have met over the years. I praise God for their passion to serve and for the work they do wherever He has placed them. It has been a privilege..



## **Where to from now?**

I (Roula) will provide more details as things unfold, but here is a preview of what lies ahead: Tandem Ministries (Campus Crusade For Christ NZ).

Tandem Ministries is an interdenominational Christian ministry that seeks to help people reach their world (Workplace, Sports, Family, and Campus) with the good news of Jesus.

Ross and I have been on staff with Tandem Ministries for over 33 years. For half of these years, we were seconded to Sports Chaplaincy New Zealand and then to Global Sports Chaplaincy Association. In the last few weeks, it became increasingly clear to me that God wants me to serve once again with Tandem Ministries itself.

Justin O'Malley, our Tandem Ministries director, is happy to have me back on board, and we are working on defining my new role within Tandem Ministries. I will provide more details when Justin returns from his overseas trip. In essence, I am grateful for this opportunity to utilize the gifts, skills, and experiences God blessed me with, serving in multicultural settings.

I trust in our Lord's guidance for us and His work, and I praise Him for His love and faithfulness.

Exciting times are ahead! Thank you for supporting us in prayer. We really need it and appreciate it.

Thank you also for your continued financial support. Our account information for donations remains unchanged.

## **Please join us in Prayer:**

### **We praise God for:**

- the valuable time at the Capernwray International Staff Conference.
- the beautiful time we had with family in the UK and Greece and the few days of holidays we had there.
- Stephanos' and Abby's engagement, and the joy the news brought to our whole family.
- the confidence we have that all things work together for good for those who love God, and are called according to his purpose. Even the hardships and disappointments have a purpose.
- the knowledge that our future, our work, our families, and everything we care about is in His hands, and we can trust Him with all of that.
- the gift of new beginnings and being so warmly welcomed to serve once again directly in Tandem Ministries.
- His love and care for our parents and for providing good medical care and support in times of need.

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

- Pray for Ross and the Capernwray NZ staff, who will welcome the new group of international students next week. Pray that God may bless the teachers with wisdom as they teach God's Word, and for the young people to come with hearts seeking to know God better and love Him more deeply.
- Pray for the new season in my life, that I may continue to serve my Master wholeheartedly and be a blessing where He wants me to serve within Tandem Ministries.
- Pray for my heart to not look back and grieve for what I have given up but look positively and confidently into what God has for me in the future. I want to trust Him to help me do my job as well as I possibly can.
- Pray for the complete healing of my eye. I am still struggling, especially with computer tasks.
- Please pray for the health of our parents. Pray that they may be aware of their limitations and for God's complete healing.

Thank you for partnering with us in building God's Kingdom

<p>Monday 29.9</p> <p>Prayer for Communities Affected by Monsoon Flooding</p>	<p>We invite you to pray for communities across Asia affected by this year's monsoon season, which brings both life and destruction. Each year, monsoon rains affect over 1.5 billion people in the region— while essential for agriculture, they increasingly cause flooding, displacement, and loss due to climate change.</p>
<p>Tuesday 30.9</p> <p>P &amp; D (South East Asia)</p>	<p>We recently learned we need to move as our landlord is selling our old apartment. After some searching, we found a new place that will be a great fit once we make a few fixes. We're thankful for friends helping with the move and ask for your prayers as we unpack and settle in. We look forward to hosting our usual Saturday catch-ups—probably surrounded by boxes at first!</p>
<p>Wednesday 1.10</p> <p>Jo &amp; Charlie (South Asia)</p>	<p>Our building is currently under renovation, and we've had to move bedrooms three times to accommodate the work. The builders are now focused on the two levels that normally house our community centre— a vibrant space with eight rooms used for classes, admin, and meetings. When the 'Red House' is in full swing, it's a lively (and slightly chaotic!) hub where students of all ages connect. See below our new french doors in our lounge, where a wall with windows was.</p>
<p>Thursday 2.10</p> <p>Joyya</p>	<p>Please pray for Suhani, a trainer in Joyya's vocational beauty class. From sketching on scraps of paper in North Kolkata to training over 60 women in beauty skills, she has turned personal loss and hardship into purpose. Suhani helps others to build independent futures and showing how opportunity can lead to lasting change.</p>
<p>Friday 3.10</p> <p>Mission Council Hui</p>	<p>MC is meeting this Friday in Auckland, where they'll be reviewing several new funding projects we've been working hard to prepare. We're especially grateful to our Finance and Risk Committee— their work plays a key role in helping us move these projects forward.</p>
<p>Saturday 4.10</p> <p>Southern Youth Leaders Training</p>	<p>Please pray for the Southern Youth Leaders Training (SYLT) this weekend at Living Springs, just outside Christchurch. Pray for unity, encouragement, and that God's mission would inspire and empower these leaders as they serve our rangatahi.</p>
<p>Sunday 5.10</p> <p>AJ + Joyya</p>	<p>AJ will head to South Asia on Sunday—please pray for his safe travel. He will spend Monday with Samuel and attend the Joyya conference on Tuesday. Please pray for safety, fruitful meetings, and a blessing over the conference.</p>