



Throughout 2025 carry the lessons of Advent with you



Meetings and Carols in the Centre during December 2024



FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH
January 2025

- Church Office 0466 277 649
- Pastoral Care Leader
Dr Greg Jacobs 0403 229 541
- Cross Cultural Worker
Freda Tong 0431 876 328
- Minister Rev Sanghyeon Nam
www.forestvilleunitingchurch.com



WE WARMLY GREET YOU WHEREVER YOU MAY BE

FROM SANGHYEON'S DESK

Every day we greet is 'a gift that has not been opened. It is a gift from the heart that no one knows about. We open it one by one every day. We still don't know what's in it.

But if my heart likes it with my eyes, ears, fingertips, and footsteps, it will be a gift called 'joy', and if it feels love, it will be a gift called love.

If I open it with a heart of complaint and dissatisfaction, it will become a box of complaints and dissatisfaction, and if I open it with a heart of worry and regret, it will bring me a hard and painful day.

Abraham Lincoln said, 'The future is good because it comes day by day.' We hope that your every day will be a gift of love and joy. Every person's life and way of spending each day is bound to be different. Depending on how each person lives and what kind of behaviour they live each day, their appearance will also change.

May your every day and new year be blessed in the love and grace of the Lord.

WHAT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER

Each Sunday in Advent we admired the wreath with its candles of hope, peace, joy, love and the Christ candle for Christmas Day. Thank you, Robyn Jacobs, for your weekly creative decorations and floristry skills.

The Reflective service will be held on 29th December at 7pm. A meaningful time to remember absent loved ones.

Christmas Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday 22nd was a beautiful service presented by the choir and congregation. As always, a lot of work went into preparing for this service and special thanks to Keith, as our organist, all members of the choir and Deirdre, on the piano and leading as the choir

mistress. A special Mandarin/English performance of "Joy to the World" was a delight for the whole congregation.

Morning Tea at the Jacobs on Sunday 15th It was lovely to see so many members of the congregation gather after the service to continue our community get-together. Thank you, Robyn and Greg.

Carols in the Mall on Saturday 21st shared the joyful sounds and message of Christmas with shoppers and passers-by. Thanks to all singers and musicians.

Christmas Day 25th December offering collection was split between the **Exodus Foundation** and **Act for Peace** in assisting in their work here and abroad.

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Sanghyeon will be away on leave from 13th to 23rd January. If you'd like pastoral care support during his absence, please contact your pastoral friend, Freda or Greg Jacobs. Contact details above.

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday this month, 5th January, in church, at home via Zoom or with the paper version of the Order of Service.

The usual term time activities are on holiday until early February:

Wild Swans Bible Study and English Conversation Classes on Tuesdays.

Wild Geese

Women's Fellowship

Kids @9 Bring along your children and grandchildren. They are most welcome!

Play Groups normally on Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am during the school terms.

Leaders will meet late January (TBC) and **Church Council** will meet on **Tuesday 4th February.**

Offerings The need to support the Church and its work in the community continues. EFT, cheque and cash donations can be made as listed below:

***Offering Pouch** on the Stewards' table.

***By Direct Deposit** (internet transfer) Banking details at Stewards' table.

Reference: "Offering"

Forestville Uniting Church

BSB 634 634 Account 100018395

Thank you for your faithful giving and sharing of God's blessings.

Used Stamps Please remember to save your used stamps for donation to the Stamp Committee. When trimming them from envelopes or packages, leave a narrow border of about 5mm beyond the perforations, then collect and deposit them in the cane basket in the church entrance. Any old stamp albums from your past hobbies can also be donated and are enthusiastically welcomed.

A letter of thanks from the Stamp Committee is on the noticeboard and acknowledgement of their, and many others', efforts raising over \$24,000 this year.

Women and Children First An enormous **Thank you**, to everyone who donated gifts and non-perishable food items, all of which were very warmly accepted and distributed. Your thoughtfulness and kindness have brought love and hope to many for whom it is a rarity.

A warm and very well deserved "**Thanks**" to all our volunteers in the various ways you enrich our church life - in leadership roles, assisting with our Cross Cultural Ministry, community outreach programs, enhancing our Sunday services with your input, supporting our Pastoral Friends, Sanghyeon and his family. Your contributions are invaluable, and you are a very important part of our church community. **Thank you !!!**

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

- Pray for those who are lonely or doing it tough this holiday season. May they know the joy and hope of Christ in the church community.
- Pray for Rural areas in Australia, Hongkong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China, and Japan, North Korea, South Korea.
- Pray for a safe summer holiday during New Year's January.
- Pray for those who are struggling physically, mentally and spiritually,

ROSTERS

Date	Flowers	Sound	Stewards	Readers	Intercessory Prayer	Morning Tea
5 Jan	Nisi Vaokakala	Helen Gill	Robyn Cohen	Robyn & Greg Jacobs	Freda Tong	Joan & Kevin Andrews
12 Jan	Helen Gill	Robyn Cohen	Helen & Nick Gill	Helen & Nick Gill	Sandra Rim	Sandra Rim & Marion Hesketh
19 Jan	Rosemarie Pursell	Kevin Andrews	Alan & Nita Mann	Rosemarie Pursell	Minh Towner	Victoria & Mark Brownlee
26 Jan	Ruth Seymour	Helen Gill	Mei Bao & Friends	Sarang Nam	Keith Robards	Robyn C and Lili & Mua