



FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH

November 2025

Cross Cultural Worker

Freda Tong 0431 876 328

Pastoral Care Leader

Dr Greg Jacobs 0403 229 541

Minister Rev Sanghyeon Nam

Church Office 0466 277 649

www.forestvilleunitingchurch.com

Facebook: Forestville Uniting Church

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Our Mission

Know, Love and Serve God, Bring Others to Christ

FROM SANGHYEON'S DESK

"A Small Kindness, a Great Miracle"

In Kansas City, USA, there lived a man known as the 'Secret Santa,' Larry Stewart (1948-2007). Once a successful businessman, a devastating failure left him homeless overnight. One cold winter day, unable to bear the hunger, he entered a restaurant and ordered food without a penny to his name. When he pretended to have lost his wallet, the chef quietly handed him \$20 and said, "Sir, I think you dropped this on the floor."

That single act of warm kindness transformed his life. The following year, Larry gave a \$20 tip to a waitress working in the cold without a coat. She broke down in tears, saying, "Sir, you have no idea what this money means to me." From that day forward, Christmas for him was no longer a day for 'receiving' but a day for 'giving.' Over 26 years, the total amount he gave away reached approximately \$1.5 million. Even in his final year in 2007, while battling oesophageal cancer, he went out onto the streets as usual to dispense money to those in need. After his passing, the 'Kansas City's Secret Santa' was created

to carry on his legacy, and countless 'Secret Santas' across the US continue to spread the warmth he left behind.

It seems the hardest good deed to perform is the one done where no one knows, and no one is watching. This is not to say that performing a good deed publicly diminishes its meaning. Rather, the problem lies in *ignoring* opportunities to help simply because they are unseen. If more people would commit acts of kindness in places unseen, wouldn't the world be a much brighter place? In these challenging times, we hope to see more people embrace that spirit.

"But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." (Matthew 6:3-4, NLT)

Our church Facebook, Instagram and Homepage

Through Facebook, you will be able to access our church's news and share online fellowship with various people. Please search on Facebook for "Forestville Uniting Church" and on Instagram for "forestville_uc"

Sanghyeon's day-off and Study leave

A reminder that Sanghyeon have a day-off every Wednesday. The church office opens Monday to Saturday from 9.00am to 1.30pm, except Wednesday. Sanghyeon has a study leave from 13 to 19 November. During his leave, for urgent pastoral matters, please contact Greg Jacobs.

Regarding Prayers of the People

Those who lead prayers of the people, please send the prayer to Rev. Nam by Wednesday. His email address is fc.minister21@gmail.com

Church Growth and Mission Survey

Thank you everyone who contributed to the recent Growth and Mission survey process via online, paper and translated paper copies (thank you, Freda). The anonymous responses were reviewed by the Presbytery Growth and Mission team in conjunction with our Church leaders. Some

specific comments in the responses stood out. Amongst them were that Forestville UC was a supportive community being caring, friendly, inclusive and encouraging participation in Church life and activities.

Our Vision statement was expanded to be more forward looking: "Welcoming all generations in our culturally diverse community to know, love, and serve God".

Future strategies include continuing and expanding the Cross Cultural, family, school and senior citizens/isolated persons' ministries and community outreach.

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

On Saturday 25th of October we had our Operation Christmas Child Packing Day. It was a wonderful morning with nearly 30 people coming to help pack our 150 boxes. It was a delight to see our congregation gather, chat and share in fellowship whilst the boxes were prayed over, packed and then arranged in a brick like fashion out the front of the church.





A HUGE thank you to everyone for their commitment to this mission of our church. So many people, on so many levels, help this packing day to run smoothly. A huge thankyou to Deirdre, Victoria, Marion, Margrit, Lorraine and Robyn C for their generous time in collecting and collating the various items for the boxes. Lastly, I would like to thank all those who have been quietly knitting, beading, sewing and purchasing! Excited children would have nothing to open without your generous and loving spirit. Thank you everyone for another successful year of Operation Christmas Child.....Robyn Jacobs



Joint Worship Service with The Kirk - On October 26th, our church hosted a meaningful joint worship and fellowship service, welcoming over 80 Christian brothers and sisters from the local area. We were truly grateful for the opportunity to spend such a significant time together, celebrating our unity in Christ and strengthening our bonds.



Chinese Members' Retreat - Sixteen members of our Chinese-speaking congregation gathered for a spiritual retreat on October 17th at Pittwater Uniting Church. The day focused on spiritual growth and enrichment, featuring an inspiring message and testimony from our invited guest speaker, Nancy. Fellowship was also a key highlight, enjoyed over a shared morning tea and lunch.

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Please check the noticeboard in the church entrance for brochures.

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday, 2nd November in church, at home via Zoom or with the paper version of the Order of Service.

Men's Bible Study (MBS) We will meet in November on Monday 10th and 24th at 7.15 am at the café, *Brewscape*, and at church. We ask for your prayers for MBS and the participation of those interested. Contact: Rev. Nam.

Wild Swans Bible Study and English Conversation Classes Tuesdays from 9.30am at the church. Bible Study from 9.30am followed by ESL classes. Contact Freda for more information.

3F You are invited to an end of year lunch for 3F. We are meeting at Taste Buds, Terrey Hills at 12.45pm on **Tuesday 11th November**. Men and women are invited. Please let Robyn Jacobs know if you intend to come by Sunday the 9th of November. 0434 020 734

Kids @9 Sunday School learning and fun for all children. Come and join in the activities during term time.

Play Group Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am. For children (0-5 years of age) and carers. Lots of fun and time to meet and share with young families.

Morning Worship Service for Chinese Worship; Prayer; Scripture Reading in Chinese with Christian faith, we embark on the road of experiencing God again in the busy and lonely daily life. Date & Time: **Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:30am at the church chapel.**

Friday Prayer Meeting Fridays from 10:30am - 12:30pm at the church chapel.

Wild Geese Will gather for an end of year dinner together at a venue TBC closer to Friday, **28th November**.

Women and Children First We will once again start collecting in November for distribution in December to this worthy local charity. Please leave unwrapped gifts and food in the basket at the church entrance and any gift cards can be handed directly to Deirdre.

Please note **NO TOYS** Annually they receive new toys from several of Rotary's Tree Of Joy collections. **The last date for collection for W&CF - Sunday, November 30th.**

Items for donation are....

- **Gift cards** - Kmart, Big W, Hoyts, Westfield
- **Gifts for Mums (20-35 years)** - Candles, earrings, bangles, hand cream & body cream, new PJ's size 10 - 16, new T-shirts for summer 10-16, women's slipper's med & large, beach towels
- **Pantry & Household staples** - Rice, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, 2 Min Noodles, Peanut butter, Vegemite, Honey, Jam, Muffin Mix, Muesli Bars, Olive Oil, Long Life Milk, Tuna/Salmon, Kids Breakfast Cereal,

Biscuits sweet and savoury, Nappies, Baby Wipes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hand Soap, Laundry liquid/powder

- **Christmas food** - shortbread, Christmas sweet treats, chocolates

Thank you to everyone for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Dates for the Diary

- **Modern Chinese Cooking** | Venue: Forestville Uniting Church | Date: Saturday, 22nd November 2025 | Time: 10.30 am - 1 pm
Booking: Freda (0431 876 328, *20 on a first-come, first-served basis*)
- **Christmas events** being prepared for December
Sunday, 7th December, 7.00 pm | Reflective Service
Saturday, 20th December, 10.00 am | Carols in Centre
Sunday, 21st December, 9.00 am | Carol Service
Thursday, 25th December, 9.00 am | Christmas Service

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

*By Direct Deposit (internet transfer) Reference: "Offering" FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH BSB 634 634 Account 100018395	*Cheques made payable to Forestville Uniting Church can be sent to FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH PO BOX 264 FORESTVILLE 2087
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SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

- Survivors of child sexual abuse and their families. We pray for justice, for strength and healing as the Church marks the seventh anniversary of the National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.
- The thousands of volunteers who give of their time and energy to support the Uniting Church and affiliated agencies. We give praise to God their talents, generosity and love.
- Pray for our congregation's members who are facing physical, mental, and spiritual struggles and those who find it difficult to meet at church for various reasons - Mary Eggl, Hai Lian Yuan.

- Pray for our church leaders for their governance and ministries and seek volunteers for our church ministries.
- Pray for our cross-cultural ministry and our church ministries - Tuesday Bible Study, ESL & Friday session, Wednesday Playgroup, Thursday morning service for the Chinese, Friday Prayer meeting, 3F and Men's Bible Study, SRE.
- Pray for our community - Forestville. May God's grace and the gospel of Jesus Christ be shared with our community through our ministries and services.

ROSTERS

Date	Flowers	Readers	Int. Prayer	Sunday School	Stewards	Morning Tea
2 Nov	Lilly & Moa	Brian Greaves	Freda Tong	Helen & Nick	Mei Bao	Ruth & Doti
Pent 21 (31) Hab 1:1-4,2:1-4 Ps119:137-144 2 Thes 1:1-4,11-12 Lk 19:1-10						
9 Nov	Helen Gill	Mark Brownlee	Keith Robards	Robyn & Dot	Helen & Nick	Esther & Lorraine
Pent 22 (32) Hag 1:15b-2:9 Ps 145:1-5 2 Thes 2:1-5,13-17 Lk 20:27-38						
16 Nov	Robyn Cohen	Robyn & Greg	Alan Mann	Sophie & Victoria	Alan Mann	Robyn C & Rosemarie
Pent 23 (33) Is 65:17-25 Is 12 2 Thes 3:6-13 Lk21:5-19						
23 Nov	Ruth Seymour	Sarang Nam	Sandra Rim	Sophie & Victoria	Robyn Cohen	Joan & Kevin
Christ the King Jer 23:1-6 Lk1:68-79 Col 1:11-20 Lk23:33-43						
30 Nov	Mei Bao	Dan & Stephanie Chan	Mark Brownlee	Robyn & Lorraine	Mei Bao	Yuru & Stephanie Chan
Advent 1 Is 2:1-5 Ps 122 Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:36-44						
Editorial: Victoria Brownlee thebrownleefamily@bigpond.com and Helen Gill helennickgill@gmail.com						