



## FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH

February 2026

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](http://www.forestvilleunitingchurch.com)

Facebook: Forestville Uniting Church

Instagram: forestville\_uc



### Our Mission

**"Welcoming all generations in our culturally diverse community  
to Know, Love and Serve God"**

### **FROM SANGHYEON'S DESK**

#### **Faith Under Fire: A Testimony from Ukraine**

Last September, I travelled to Ukraine for my third aid convoy, delivering medical supplies for first responders. Whenever I visit Kyiv, I attend a vibrant Evangelical church known for its deep commitment to its neighbours. During my visit, this congregation was celebrating 32 years of ministry and dedicating a brand new 4,500-person worship hall, built remarkably in the midst of the war.



**Shahed Drone shrapnel**

Early that Sunday morning, the peace was shattered. Russia attacked the area with multiple Iranian-designed "Shahed" drones. With no military installations nearby, the timing was no coincidence. Yet, a miracle occurred: one drone missed a building where 20 pastors were

sleeping by mere feet, detonating in the parking lot instead. Another landed in the church park. No one was injured. Nearby, a parishioner named Svitlana watched a missile hit the building next to hers; inexplicably, it failed to explode.

In many parts of the world, services are cancelled for snow or power outages. In Ukraine, they don't cancel church for anything. By 11 a.m., thousands poured into the new building to worship. During that service, over 200 people came forward to be baptized. The following weekend, another 50 followed. It was one of the most powerful displays of worship I have ever witnessed.

A senior pastor handed me a piece of shrapnel from a drone that had lodged in the new hall. Russia packs these drones with metal to maximize casualties, seeking to destroy both the faith and the will of the Ukrainian people. Since 2022, at least 52 Christian leaders have been murdered and 650 churches damaged or destroyed. In occupied areas, believers are tortured or driven underground.



**Baptism in Ukrainian Church**

However, Putin's campaign of violence is backfiring. Instead of breaking spirits, the war is driving people to prayer. Almost a third of Ukrainians report that their faith has grown since the conflict began. Every missile that fails to kill becomes a testimony; every service held under threat becomes an act of defiance.

The attacks designed to crush hope are instead igniting it. While the war continues, it is forging believers who will never waver. Putin's war on Christianity is producing exactly what he sought to destroy: an unshakeable faith that persecution cannot extinguish.

Source: *Condensed from an account by Colby Barrett, Producer of "A Faith Under Siege."*

### 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

A reminder that Sanghyeon has a day-off every Wednesday. The church office opens Tuesday to Saturday (Not Wed) from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

## JANUARY HAPPENINGS



### < Refining Our Shared Space >

We are pleased to unveil recent enhancements to our church facilities. The main hall now features **premium timber flooring**, providing a warm, durable foundation for fellowship. Additionally, we have installed **elegant translucent curtains** in both the hall and chapel, replacing older partitions and timber blinds. These updates invite natural light and foster a serene atmosphere, ensuring our shared spaces remain vibrant and welcoming for all.

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Please check the noticeboard in the church entrance for brochures.

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February in church, at home via Zoom or with the paper version of the Order of Service.

Church council meeting Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.00 PM.

Men's Bible Study (MBS) We will resume MBS on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7.15 am at the café, *Brewscape*. 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 will resume on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Contact Freda for more information.

3F Our first meeting for 2026 will be on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in the church hall. Please bring ideas for our gatherings this year whether that be social outings or fellowship together. All welcome.

Kids @9 Sunday School learning and fun for all children. Come and join in the activities during term time. Sunday school will resume on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

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. Playgroup will resume on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

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.

Wild Geese will meet on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm at the home of Robyn & Greg Jacobs.

Celebrating Lunar New Year 2026

As we move further into the year, our community prepares to celebrate the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. This vibrant festival, cherished by many within our diverse congregation and the wider Australian community, marks the beginning of the Year of the Horse.

In the lunar calendar, the Horse is often associated with energy, persistence, and a spirited approach to life's journey. For us as a church family, it serves as a timely opportunity to pause and reflect on the blessings of heritage and the strength found in our multicultural unity.

Many families will gather this week for "Reunion Dinners", sharing traditional foods that symbolise prosperity and togetherness. As these celebrations take place across our suburbs, let us join our neighbours in a spirit of joy and renewal.

### Multi-Cultural Worship Service

On Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we celebrate our diverse community with a Multi-Cultural Worship Service, led by our Chinese members. This initiative honours our rich cultural tapestry, fostering deeper engagement and ensuring every voice contributes to our shared life of worship.

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:

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

- All those impacted by the extreme heat across Australia and the potential of bush fires. May God bring rain to these areas.

- 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.
- Pray for plans/resolutions for 2026, that this will be a year with actions according to the plan.
- Pray for school students, those who go back to school into this new year term.
- Pray for families who have recently lost a loved one.
- Pray for our church leaders for their governance and ministries and seek volunteers for our church ministries.
- Pray for our cross-cultural ministry, cross-cultural worker Freda Tong and Tuesday programs - Bible Study, ESL & Thursday service & Different taste sessions.
- Pray for our community - Forestville. May God's grace and the gospel of Jesus Christ be shared with our community through our ministries.

## ROSTERS

Date	Flowers	Readers	Int. Prayer	Sunday School	Stewards	Morning Tea
1 Feb	Joan Andrews	Brian Greeves	Minister		Robyn Cohen	Joan & Kevin Andrews
<b>Epiphany 4    Mic 6:1-8    Ps 15    1 Cor 1:18-31    Mt 5:1-12</b>						
8 Feb	Lily & Moa	Mary Telfer	Keith Robards	Robyn/Victoria	Freda	Dan & Stephanie Chan
<b>Epiphany 5 Is 58:1-9a (9b-12)    Ps 112:1-9(10)    1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16)    Mt 5:13-20</b>						
15 Feb	Robyn Cohen	Sandra Rim	Robyn & Greg Jacobs	Helen /Nick	Alan Mann	Sandra Rim/Marion Hesketh
<b>Transfiguration of Jesus    Ex 24:12-18    Ps 2 or Ps 99    2 Pt 1:16-21    Mt 17:1-9</b>						
22 Feb	Mei Bao	Chinese Member		Sophie/Doti	Mei Bao	Lily & Moa
<b>Lent 1    Gn 2:15-17,3:1-7    Ps 32    Rom 5:12-19    Mt 4:1-11</b>						
Editorial: Victoria Brownlee <a href="mailto:thebrownleefamily@bigpond.com">thebrownleefamily@bigpond.com</a> and Helen Gill <a href="mailto:helennickgill@gmail.com">helennickgill@gmail.com</a>						