



## FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH

April 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

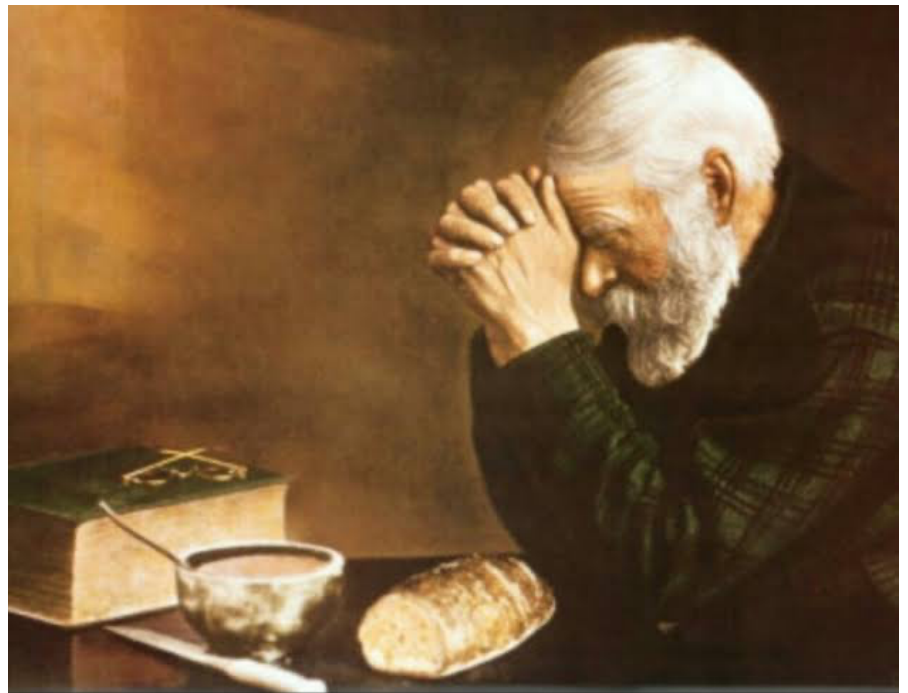
*Welcoming all generations in our culturally diverse community  
to Know, Love and Serve God*

### FROM SANGHYEON'S DESK

#### The Humble Old Man's "Prayer of Gratitude"

In 1918, there was a man who ran a photography studio in a small mining town called Bovey. His name was Eric Enstrom. One day, an elderly man—his hair completely white, looking utterly worn out by life, thin and dressed in shabby clothes—came in to sell a few simple shoe-cleaning brushes. The old man entered the studio in a very humble state, hoping to rest for a moment. He seemed extremely hungry and, with some hesitation, asked if he might have a cup of tea.

Enstrom gave him a little bread and soup.



The old man sat at the table, and before eating the simple meal set

before him, he offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Watching this scene, the photographer, Enstrom, was deeply moved and even stirred to the core. The frail and humble old man, who gave thanks even for such small things, appeared to him as a great person. As he observed him, Enstrom thought: "This man may not possess many worldly things, but he has more than others. He has a thankful heart."

Although the old man looked poor and weary from life, through his simple prayer of gratitude, it became clear that he was, in fact, richer than anyone else in the world. At that very moment, Enstrom took a photograph of him. Later, upon seeing this black-and-white photograph, Enstrom's daughter, Rhoda Enstrom Nyberg, was also deeply moved and painted it as an oil painting. That work is the well-known piece depicting the old man offering grace before his meal, titled *The Grace*. The image above is that very painting.

As we enter April, the season in which Easter reveals the overflowing love and grace of God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ, may this new month be filled with joyful, thankful, and praise-filled days in the Lord, as we give thanks for His grace.

*"Love cannot be imagined without self-sacrifice." - Anonymous*

### 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.

## MARCH HAPPENINGS

Our New Student Minister this year We joyfully commissioned Jermaine Yan as our new Student Minister on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>

March. As he commences his inaugural year as a Uniting Church candidate for the minister of the Word, Jermaine shared his vision for ministry before Sandra Rim offered a moving prayer of mentorship and pastoral care. We extend our richest blessings to Jermaine and his family during this transformative season of formation.



**Farewell, Minh!** After three years of dedicated service among us, Reverend Minh Towner has accepted a call to Hornsby Uniting Church, where she will commence her new ministry on 1<sup>st</sup> April. We took this moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Minh for her insightful messages, and her support for our Welcome Team and offered our prayers of blessing for the next chapter of her journey.

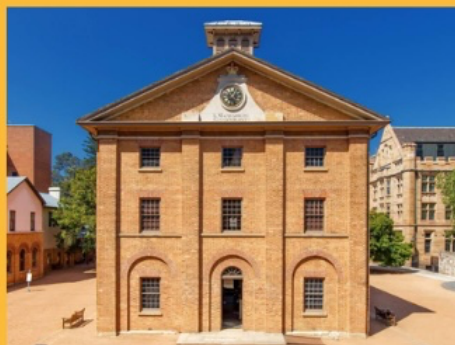


**Excursion to Hyde Park barracks** As part of our Cross-Cultural Ministry, our Tuesday Bible Study and English classes will be visiting the Hyde Park Barracks on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March. This excursion offers a

wonderful opportunity for our Chinese community members to explore local history together. For all enquiries or to reserve your place, please contact Freda. Captured highlights and photographs from the excursion will be featured in our **May newsletter**.

# Historical Excursion

## To Hyde Park Barracks



**Tuesday, 31 March**

**9.00 AM**

**@ The bus stop**

**(Warringah Rd at Starkey St)**

**Booking & Details**

**Freda Tong**

**0431 876 328**

**Celebrating Easter at Preschool** From 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March, Jan Miller and Helen Gill led an engaging **Godly Play** series, bringing the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter morning to life for our preschoolers. The children were captivated by these sacred stories. Our sincere thanks to both and to **Robyn Jacobs** for providing delightful gift bags, making this a truly blessed celebration.

### **WHAT'S ON IN APRIL**

Please check the noticeboard & table in the church entrance for brochures and information...

**Communion** As the first Sunday of April falls on Easter Sunday, it has been decided to bring forward our April Holy Communion to **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March** in church or at home via Zoom

**Holy Week** We will be observing Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on **29<sup>th</sup> March** and continuing through to Good Friday. Our Good Friday service will be held at the church on **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, at 9:00 am**. We encourage everyone to attend this service with a prayerful and reverent heart as we meditate on the way of the Cross and our Lord's sacrifice.

**Easter Sunday Service** Experience the profound joy of the Resurrection this **Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, at 9:00 am**. We warmly encourage you to invite family and friends to join our congregation as we celebrate Christ's triumphant victory and the enduring hope He provides.

**Church Council Meeting** on **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March** at 7pm at the church.

**3F** Due to the inclement weather of late we have decided to offer an alternative activity for April's 3F get together. Everyone is welcome to join us on **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April** at 2pm in the church hall. Please bring an object or a photo that has a special meaning for you, and talk to the group about it for a few minutes.

**Men's Bible Study (MBS)** MBS will be held on **Monday, 13<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.15 am at the church hall and 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 at the church during the school term. Bible Study from 9.30am followed by ESL from 11.00am will resume **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April**. Contact Freda for more information.

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

**Play Group** Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am for children (0-5 years of age) and carers. The last playgroup for Term One is on 1<sup>st</sup> April and we will resume on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April for Term 2.

**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.

Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:00am at the church chapel.

**Wild Geese** will not be held in April as it coincides with the Anzac Day holiday weekend. We will resume in May, details in next month's newsletter.

**Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** We will continue our support of Operation Christmas Child collecting the following donations each month, but also please feel free to shop for any of the items and give to the appropriate collection person - Remembering items must share space in a shoe box so need to be small

**April** - Deirdre - *Education* i.e. coloured and lead pencils, sharpeners, rubbers, stickers and small puzzles

**May** - Margrit and Lorraine - *Hygiene* i.e. toothbrushes, combs, face washers

**June** - Marion - *Something to Love* i.e. small cuddly toys, knitted animals

**July** - Victoria - *Something to Wear* i.e. underwear, t-shirts, shorts

**August** - Robyn Jacobs - *Something to play with* i.e. - marbles, skipping ropes, puzzles, balls

Packing day will be advised nearer the time but following on from last year will be a Saturday in October. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please give directly to Robyn Jacobs or Deirdre and they will bulk shop for you.

**Sharing Hope Globally: Operation Christmas Child** Join us on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, as we welcome Rick George, Regional Ministry Leader from Samaritan's Purse. He will share the profound impact of Operation Christmas Child, inspiring our continued stewardship. We warmly invite your prayers and renewed support for this vital mission to bless children globally through our collective generosity.

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

- All Christians around the world celebrating the central story and season of our faith this year, at Easter. May we know God's resurrection grace and love which nothing can break or end, not even death.
- The world around us, marred by anxiety and division. God, help us to live as people of Jesus' resurrection, embodying his peace, hope and love in all we do and share.
- 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 - Alex Norquay, Mary Eggl and Robert Dundas.
- Pray for our church leaders and seek volunteers for our church ministries.
- Pray for our cross-cultural ministry, worker Freda Tong and Tuesday programs - Bible Study, ESL & Thursday Chinese service.

- Pray for our church ministries - Tuesday English classes, Wednesday Playgroup, Friday Prayer meeting, 3F and Men's Bible Study, SRE.
- Pray for our student minister Jermaine Yan - his candidate journey with us this year and his family.
- 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.
- Pray for our school children & students to have a safe and meaningful school holidays.

## ROSTERS

Date	Flowers	Readers	Int. Prayer	Sunday School	Stewards	Morning Tea
5 April	Ruth Seymour	Joan & Kevin Andrew	Helen & Nick Gill		Robyn Cohen	Joan & Kevin Andrews
<b>Easter Day Acts 10:34-43 Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-18</b>						
12 April	Lilly Tavita & Moa Lopati	Mizi Mei Li Shi	Robyn & Greg Jacobs		Freda Tong	Lilly Tavita & Moa Lopati
<b>Easter 2 Acts 2:14a,22-32 Ps 16 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31</b>						
19 April	Robyn Cohen	Alan Mann	Keith Robards		Alan Mann	Lena Chen & Elizabeth Ng
<b>Easter 3 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 116:1-4,12-19 1 Pt 1 :17-23 Lk 24:13-35</b>						
26 April	Mei Bao	Robyn Cohen	Robyn Cohen	Robyn Jacobs	Mei Bao	Mark & Victoria Brownlee
<b>Easter 4 Acts 2:42-47 Ps 23 1 Pt 2:19-25 Jn 10: 1-10</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>						