



FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH

September 2026

Cross Cultural Worker

Freda Tong 0431 876 328

Pastoral Care Leader

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Minister Rev. Sanghyeon Nam

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Our Mission

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

FROM SANGHYEON'S DESK

"Being Consistent"

In 2010, at a branch of the American hamburger chain White Castle, a nervous new employee named Dave began working the night shift at the drive-through. As it was his first time doing the job, Dave made mistake after mistake. Yet Joe Brown, an experienced employee working alongside him, patiently showed him what to do. Even during the busiest periods, when orders were pouring in, Joe never once frowned or became irritated. He always greeted customers with a warm and friendly voice.



After their shift, Dave asked him how he managed to remain so consistently kind and gracious. Joe answered quietly: "I have a son who is blind. He experiences the world through my voice, so I have always wanted him to hear only beautiful and encouraging words from me. Over time, that became a habit, and I suppose I now carry that same attitude into my workplace as well."

A few days later, Joe received a call from the company's head office. There, he discovered something he could hardly believe. Dave, the inexperienced new employee who had struggled alongside him to make burgers, was in fact the CEO of White Castle.

Having personally witnessed Joe Brown's sincerity and unwavering character on the shop floor, the CEO gave him a special promotion to manager and even provided financial assistance for his visually impaired son.

The faithfulness we maintain even when no one is watching, and the kindness we refuse to lose even in the most difficult moments, are never wasted. The sincerity we quietly build up in unseen places may one day return to us like an unexpected gift, transforming our lives in ways that feel almost miraculous.

Perhaps this is also how our fathers have lived for us. **Dad, thank you.**

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 leave

The church office opens Tuesday to Saturday (Not Wed - Day-off) from 9.00am to 1.00pm. And he will be taking annual leave in Korea from 22nd September to 7th October to celebrate his parents' 70th birthdays. While he is on leave, please contact Freda regarding any pastoral matters.

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

Growing in Compassion: Reflecting on Our Dementia Ministry Journey

On Saturday, 8th August, we were delighted to host our *Discussing Dementia* workshop, which was a wonderful success with over 20 people in attendance. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for this important time of learning and connection.

This workshop is part of a growing focus in our church to develop an ongoing ministry for people living with dementia, their families, and carers. Following an earlier information session, our leadership identified the immense value of continuing this program, moving beyond simply sharing information towards a more practical and pastoral approach.



The Saturday workshop was led by Rev. Frank van der Korput, who travelled from the Central Coast to provide us with valuable, practical tools. The focus continued into our Sunday service, where we were

blessed by a message from Hugh Murphy, a practitioner and chaplain with Uniting. Hugh beautifully addressed the deep intersections of faith, dementia, and relationships.



These developments reflect our shared understanding that dementia does not only affect the person diagnosed; it profoundly impacts spouses, children, friends, carers, and the wider faith community.

Moving forward, our aim is to continually combine practical information, pastoral support, and Christian reflection. By doing so, we hope to equip our entire church family to respond to the realities of dementia with greater understanding, confidence, and compassion. Thank you for walking this journey of care with us.

P.S. From Hugh Murphy - "In case anyone asks, the book I referred to on Sunday is by Pauline Boss called *Loving Someone Who Has Dementia: How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief*. Available through Amazon, many other book sellers, in many public

libraries and the Dementia Australia library. For theological thinking about dementia, I find John Swinton's book, *Dementia: Living in the Memories of God*, very helpful. The second half is quite practical."

Art and Fellowship: A Great Day Out at the Archibald

It was a joy to see 23 members from 3F and ESL classes head into the city for a wonderful excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW for the Archibald Prize exhibition this month.



Organised in conjunction with our English Conversation group as part of our 2026 program, the day was about much more than just admiring Australia's most famous portraits. It was a beautiful opportunity for fellowship, bringing together the newer faces in our community with our longer-term congregation members.

Sharing our thoughts on the diverse artworks provided a relaxed setting for informal learning, cultural exchange, and genuine connection.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a blessed time together!

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

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

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday, **6th September**, in church, at home via Zoom or with the paper version of the Order of Service.

3F There will be no 3F activity in September due to many church members being on holiday. We will resume on 13th October with a trip to the cinema. Details to follow nearer the time.

Men's Bible Study (MBS) MBS will be paused this month and resume in October. We ask for your prayers for MBS and the participation of those interested. Contact: Rev. Nam.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) There will be no specific items for collection in September although all donations are still warmly received, or alternatively all monetary donations are welcome.

Wild Swans English Conversation Classes run Tuesdays at the church during the school term. **ESL from 10.00 am**. Contact Freda for more information. The last class for this term will be Tuesday 22nd September. Classes will resume on Tuesday 20th October.

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 9:30-11:30 am** for children (0-5 years of age) and carers. The last playgroup for this term will be Wednesday 23rd September. It will resume for the final term of 2026 on Wednesday 14th October.

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

Wild Geese With almost all of the flock heading north, we will not be having Wild Geese in September. We will regather in October.

Basic Christianity course designed for newcomers, beginners, and those preparing for baptism. The sessions run on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month, **11:00am-12:00pm**, in **English and Mandarin**, over **six sessions**. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Dates for the Diary

The Operation Christmas Child annual packing day will be held on **Saturday 24th October at 9.30am** in the church hall. All welcome to attend and help. Followed by morning tea together.

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

- Pray for Australia's economy, public safety, and the stability and wellbeing of everyday Australians.
- Pray for our congregation's members who are facing physical, mental, and spiritual struggles and those who find it difficult to meet at

- Pray for our cross-cultural & church ministries - the Tuesday ESL, Thursday's Chinese service and Different Taste, Wednesday Playgroup, 3F, Men's Bible Study, SRE, Donations - O.C.C. & Women and Children First, and our new course - Basic Christianity.
- Keep in prayer all who are travelling out of Sydney for the holidays and our students on their Term 3 break, praying for a safe and refreshing time.
- Pray for our community - Forestville. For sharing God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ through our ministries and services.

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