



10 AUGUST, 2025

Welcome

Welcome to worship this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

A special welcome to David Toogood from Uniting Mission and Education who will be leading our service and discussions on the Growing Young program and how we might use it within our congregation.

Communion for August

We will be celebrating Holy Communion next Sunday 17 August as Rev Gail will be on leave from 24th to 31st August.

Lectionary Readings

This week 10 August, 2025

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Next week 17 August, 2025

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Book Craft and Doll Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Craft, Doll and Book Sale to raise funds for Hands & Feet and their ministry, your support is appreciated.

Prayer Dinner Reminder

Just a reminder that the Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner is coming up on Tuesday 26 August, from 7-9.30pm at Merrylands RSL Club, 8 Miller Street, Merrylands.

The Guest Speaker will be *Caleb Campion* – Graduate Lawyer and finalist on *LEGO Masters Australia*

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased from:

<https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/2025-cumberland-community-prayer-dinner>

or Cumberland Churches website, www.cumberlandchurches.org.au or via the QR code on the flyer on the back notice board. RSVP by 12 August.

Save The Date

We are planning several special events in the next few months so save the date for:

Trivia Night—20 September 6pm
Bake Off Luncheon - 22 November 1pm
Christmas Lunch - December 6 1pm



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The Ministry Team (Adrian, Ayesha, Julie, Karen S, Lola and Yvonne Mc) and I began *The Growing Young Journey* way back in May 2024. This Sunday David Toogood will lead our service and invite us to think about what it would mean for our church to grow young.

The team and I began the journey by defining reality. We as a church are aging physically, a fact of life that we cannot change. We as a church are shrinking in number due to inevitable natural decline. Looking beyond ourselves, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022) shows that Religious Affiliation is also declining with a 40% drop in the number of people identifying themselves as Christian. The Uniting Church as a denomination has shrunk by nearly 200,000 people between the 2016 and 2021 census. All these statistics may be our reality but they do not need to be our defining narrative. Young people, 15-30 are most likely to be open to spiritual conversations. This perhaps is a result of the meaningless dribble and confusing, sometimes dangerous messages so prevalent on social media.

Here's the good news about growing young; we do not need to be large in number, in the perfect location, already have young people, be a popular denomination, be 'cool', have a modern building, a big budget, contemporary worship, watered down teaching or be hyper entertaining. What do we need? The Growing Young Journey revealed six core commitments that churches who are successfully growing young foster.

Keychain Leadership: Leaders share the keys (roles, tasks, etc) sharing power with the right people at the right time. Power in this style of leadership is not power over but power with. It is open to investing in other people's gifts and talents and leaders offer support and mentorship along the way.

Empathy: to grow young we need to listen intentionally to young people, seeking to understand them.

Jesus Message: It's all about Jesus at the end of the day. Knowing how to share our own story of faith, our testimony, can inspire faith in the lives of young people.

Warm Relationships: is all about church being like a warm, accepting family where all people feel as if they belong. Church is home.

Prioritise Young People and Families Everywhere: Creating a church environment where young people and families are prioritised.

Be the Best Neighbours: is all about Living the Gospel. Jesus taught us what it means to be a good neighbour and what it means to be his disciples. Old and young alike we can all grow in discipleship. Knowing who we are and what we are called to be and do helps all of us and particularly young people thrive in this complex world.

The Ministry Team did a wonderful job explaining all the six core commitments last week in worship. I have compiled their insights into a document and I invite you to read this prior to worship this Sunday if possible. Grace and Peace, Gail.