



FULLERTON ENGLISH

- Welcome to Combined Missions Sunday Service!** Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ! We are glad that you have joined us for our Missions Sunday, as we kick off a month dedicated to mission. This year, our focus is on missions locally, in our daily lives and in our community; *"think globally, act locally."* Today is also the first Sunday of Lent, a time for reflection, meditation and ultimately renewal. During this Lenten season, let us return to God. Fast in some way, if you so feel led. Let us pour our hearts out to the One who abounds in steadfast love. Let us commit to the Lord today. If you have any prayer requests or concerns, please see Pastor David.
- "Deepening Your Friendship with God" Day Retreat, Saturday, April 12:** this day retreat will be on the beautiful campus of Mary & Joseph Retreat Center (Rancho Palos Verdes). Early bird registration is \$30 (3/23). Please use the QR code to register. 
- Griffith Observatory Loop Trail Hike, Saturday, March 29, 8:30AM:** join us for some exercise and fellowship as we enjoy the great outdoors. This is a moderate 5-mile hike, which should take about 3 hours. We are meeting at the parking lot off of Western Canyon Road. For more information, see Guang Chao 
- Love Fullerton Volunteer Day, April 26, 8:00AM to 1:30PM:** save the date for our next city-wide volunteer day. This is a great way for us to connect, participate, give and serve our community. If you plan to participate, please sign up with your fellowship with your name and email address. For more information, please see Pastor David.
- Lent, March 5 - April 17:** The Lenten season is a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service for the next several weeks. Prayer during Lent focuses on repenting from our sins and our need for God's forgiveness, mercy, and love. Fasting, or giving something up, is also common during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that is a regular part of life (such as dessert, social media, or TV) as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. Fasting also allows us more time to connect with God. For more information, please see Pastor Adam or Pastor David.
- Prayer Requests:** (1) for us to reflect on and respond to Jesus' sacrifice of us as we enter the season of Lent; (2) for us to deepen our friendship with God through the "Draw Near" Day Retreat; (3) for a speedy and full recovery those who are dealing with injuries or illnesses; (4) for a part-time youth director to minister to our young people. **For Our World:** (a) for an end to hostilities, for the protection of innocent lives, and for the restoration of peace for the people of **Gaza** and **Israel**, even as the ceasefire expired; (b) for calm to prevail, the safety of all citizens, and the restoration of order in Serbia, where political unrest has led to chaos within the parliamentary halls; (c) for healing and protection as a measles outbreak is spreading quickly in **Texas** and **New Mexico**; (d) for Pope Francis who has been hospitalized for bronchitis and pneumonia three weeks ago; (e) for **Bahia Blanca, Argentina** one of Argentina's biggest cities, as it has been hit by severe flooding after suffering the equivalent of more than four months' rainfall in just four hours. The city is under a state of emergency and the authorities have opened several evacuation centers in different parts of the city.

Missions Sunday Worship Service

March 9, 2025 10:00 A.M.

Worship in Song

Congregation

Worship in Prayer/Giving

Pastor Adam Tai

Worship in Fellowship

Welcome and Announcement

Worship in Word

Pastor Edward Song

" A Missional Church on Mission with God"

1 Peter 2:9-12

Benediction

Pastor Adam Tai

FECC FAMILY NEWS

March 9, 2025

1. Welcome to Combined Missions Sunday Service! Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ! We are glad that you have joined us for our Missions Sunday, as we kick off a month dedicated to mission. This year, our focus is on missions locally, in our daily lives and in our community; *“think globally, act locally.”* Today is also the first Sun-day of Lent, a time for reflection, meditation and ultimately renewal. During this Lenten season, let us return to God. Fast in some way, if you so feel led. Let us pour our hearts out to the One who abounds in steadfast love. Let us commit to the Lord today. If you are looking for a spiritual home, or have any prayer requests or concerns, please see your Congregational Pastor.

2. “Deepening Your Friendship with God” Day Retreat, Saturday, April 12: this day retreat will be on the beautiful campus of Mary & Joseph Retreat Center (Rancho Palos Verdes). Early bird registration is \$30 (3/23). Please use the QR code to register.



3. Lent, March 5 – April 17: The Lenten season is a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service for the next several weeks. Prayer during Lent focuses on repenting from our sins and our need for God’s forgiveness, mercy, and love. Fasting, or giving something up, is also common during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that is a regular part of life (such as dessert, social media, or TV) as a reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice. Fasting also allows us more time to connect with God.

4. Attendance for March 1-2, 2025

	Cerritos	Fullerton	Oakland	E. Lansing
Mandarin	135	61	26	20
Cantonese	76			
English	33	52		
Kairos/Youth	70		8	
Children	34	5	5	2

5. Financial Update: Thank you for your faithful giving!

	As of 9/30/2024 (preliminary)				
	Actual Receipt	Budget	Variance	Actual Dis-bursed	+/-
Gen. Fund	\$1,059,561*	\$1,471,698	-\$412,137	\$1,508,393 ¹	-\$448,832

* Not including reimbursements and fees from church facilities use, which is not recorded in General Fund.

¹ \$836,729 (**Administration**); \$579,575 (**Occupancy**); \$92,090 (**Others**)

Oakland Campus News

1. Beloved Children's Academy is now accepting students! The preschool Academy is open to children from 2.5 to 5 years old. With our newly renovated learning environment, large activity space, and rich and diverse curriculum, we welcome families with children in the community to register! For registration and fee details, please contact the Academy Director, Lisi Yu, at (248)635-0722.

East Lansing Campus News

1. In-person services have resumed on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am at Faith Church! Come join us for a time of worship and fellowship! All safety and health precautions will continue to be observed. Services will continue to be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

English News

1. Saturday's morning prayer meeting will be at 7am at DTC chapel. All members of FECC are encouraged to come to commune with God in worship, in the Word and in prayer.

2. Sunday School: the following classes meet from 11:30 am-12:30 pm Women's Study in room D111, PE's Living Life Bible Study in room D107, and Brother Wes's study on Hermeneutics in D103.

Youth (Poimea) News

1. We have resumed in-person fellowship. Weekly activities:

- Friday: 8:00 pm – Fellowship
- Sunday: 10:00 am - Sunday School
- Wednesday: 4:00 pm – Prayer Meeting (on Zoom)

Kairos News

1. Kairos fellowships have resumed! Please join a group for mutual encouragement! • College // Friday nights // Meets at church. • Phileo // Thursdays (last Thursday of the month off), 7:30 pm // Meets at the Tan residence • Ohana // First and third Fridays of the month, 7:30 pm // Meets at church.

Mandarin News

1. Let us humble ourselves before the Lord and seek His face for our nation, our church, and our families. Come join us on Wednesday nights, at 7:30 pm, for prayer meeting. For more details, please email txu@fecc.us).

Cantonese News

1. Any Cantonese-speaking person who would like to join our fellowships or worship service, please contact Pastor Mable Ho at mho@fecc.us.



A DEVOTION FOR LENT

- PSALM 103:11-18

Pastor David Tsai

Ash Wednesday (3/5) is the first day of Lent. The ritual in an Ash Wednesday worship service is the imposition of ashes. The person who imposes the ashes repeats a paraphrase of Genesis 3:19, something like "You are dust, and to dust shall return." The ashes represent the dustiness of mortal and sinful human life. They are a visual reminder that we will die someday.

Psalm 103 expresses wonderfully the profound truth of Ash Wednesday. V. 11 affirms "so great is His [God's] love for those who fear Him." V. 12 adds that the Lord "removed our transgressions from us," as far as the East is from the West. Verse 13 reveals that "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him" All of this is good news, for sure, the good news that is fully revealed in Christ.

Then, v. 14 adds, "For He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust." How are we dust? In the first place, we are dust because God formed us "from the dust of the ground," into which God breathed "the breath of life" (Gen 2:7). Human beings were "dusty" before they sinned. But after the first humans sinned, they brought death upon themselves and all who would descend from them, including us. God says in Genesis 3:19, "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Now our dustiness signifies, not only our createdness but also our fallenness and ultimate mortality.

When Psalm 103 says that God has compassion on us because "He remembers that we are dust," both senses of dust are in play here. God knows how we were once created by God's hand. This is the good part of being dust. And God also knows how our sin has corrupted us and, in a sense, killed us. This is the bad part of being dust. Yet it's a part we mustn't overlook or deny.

God knows that, because of our sin-induced mortality, our days are "like grass" (v. 15). We will wither and die, just like the flower of the field. How different is the love of God! As verse 17 affirms, "But from everlasting to everlasting [is] the Lord's love." God's love remains even after we sin. God's love prevails over sin and its

consequences. As it says in the New Testament letter to the Romans, nothing in all creation "will be able to separate us from the love of God" (Romans 8:39).

On Ash Wednesday, we focus on our dustiness, mortality, and sinfulness. But we do so not to grovel or sulk. Rather, by remembering that we are dust, we prepare for the good news of Jesus' bodily resurrection and, indeed, our bodily resurrection. God, through the Spirit, will one day "give life to your mortal bodies" (Romans 8:11).

On that day, when our perishable body puts on imperishability and our mortal body puts on immortality, we will rejoice in the victory of God over sin and death (1 Cor 15:53-57). But on Ash Wednesday, even knowing the good news that is coming, we pay attention to the bad news. We confess our sinfulness. We remember our mortality. We realize once again how much we need God and God's grace. Yes, we know that this grace is coming. But today we focus more on our needs than the glory of God's coming grace in Jesus Christ. We will celebrate God's grace in Christ Jesus more fully in the future.

Gracious God, during Lent, we're reminded of the bad news of our sin and the mortality it brings.

Yes, we are dust and to dust we shall return.

May I walk closely with You, Lord Jesus, in this season of Lent. As I do by Your grace, may prepare myself for a deeper and truer understanding of Your sacrifice on the cross, and for a more joyful and transforming celebration of Your resurrection.