



# Good News



**Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church**  
**A United Church of Christ**  
 Sr. Pastor Rev. Mitchell Young  
 144 S. Greenwood Ave. Montebello, CA 90640  
 (323) 721-5568 MontebelloUCC.org

**May 2026**  
*Volume XLV No. V*



*“While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.” **Luke 24:51***

**Moving Up in May**

Dear Beloved Family of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church, As we enter the fragrant month of May 2026, I am struck by the profound transition of the season—both in our calendar and in our life together. This is a time of "moving up," marked by the blossoming of flowers, the joy of graduations, and the promise of a new dawn. It is also a sacred moment for me personally, as we enter these final three months of my ministry among you before my retirement.

**A Season of Celebration and Heritage**

We begin by celebrating May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Our church is blessed by a diverse tapestry of stories, resilience, and faith. On PAAM Sunday (May 3), we participate in the 9-church pulpit exchange, welcoming guest voices into our pulpits to remind us that we are part of a wider, vibrant UCC connection. Just as Lei Day (May 1) reminds us that the mana (spirit) of the Creator is woven into the lei, we recognize that our individual contributions are woven together to create a beautiful community of aloha. We will also host the monthly gathering of the Nikkei Interfaith Fellowship in Mori Hall on May 21, joining leaders of Japanese churches and temples in the Los Angeles area in a spirit of unity and mutual understanding.

**Labor, Love, and Leadership**

As we honor International Workers' Day (May 1), we give thanks for the

"many hands" that tend to the needs of this world. This spirit of service extends to the nurturing love we celebrate on Mother's Day (May 10), honoring the matriarchs who have fostered growth within our families and our church.

**Ascension, Pentecost, and New Beginnings**

As I prepare for retirement, I am comforted by the theme of Ascension Day (May 14). Jesus ascended so that the Spirit could empower us, moving us forward, not backward. As we approach Pentecost Sunday (May 24), we look forward to a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, allowing us to "move up to the next level" of our calling as an empowered, bold church.

**Moving Forward Together**

As we turn toward Memorial Sunday (May 24), we remember our loved ones who have moved on to the next level this past year as well as those who paved the way, allowing us to enjoy the freedoms we have today. This month, we also look forward to the Annual Gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference UCC (May 28-30), where we will gather to realign our purpose and sharpen our mission. Then we celebrate our students and teachers during graduation season on Trinity Sunday as our Graduates and Teachers Sunday (May 31), encouraging them to step into their own new levels of potential with our final guest preacher during my pastorate with you, Rev. Camille Pederson, while I share God's word with our Samoan sisters and brothers in Congregational Christian UCC in Hacienda Heights.

MPCC family, this is a bittersweet "moving up" for me. Over these final three months, I invite you to focus on

the work ahead. Do not see this time as a time of closing, but as a "season of preparation" and a "time of rediscovery". Let us continue to build bridges, honor our heritage, and trust that God is doing a new thing.

My prayer is that as I prepare to lay down my role as your pastor, you are prepared to take up your ministry with greater boldness, love, and unity.

In abiding love and gratitude,  
 Pastor Mitchell

**Worship Schedule**

**May 3**

PAAM Sunday Pulpit Exchange  
 "Do the Works"  
 John 14:1-14

**May 10**

Mother's Day Youth-led Service  
 "Coming to You"  
 John 14:15-21

**May 17**

"In the World"  
 John 17:1-11

**May 24**

Pentecost/Memorial Sunday  
 "Who Is Thirsty"  
 John 7:37-39

**May 31**

Graduate/Teachers Appreciation & Guest Preacher Rev. Camille Pederson  
 "This Is Good"  
 Genesis 1:1-2:4a

**A Message from our Moderator...***Lori Katayama*

We begin our last few months with Pastor Mitchell doing, as always, the ordinary in extraordinary ways. Over the years there may have been times when you disagreed with him or even wished he did things differently. But through it all, he has served with grace and integrity, and an unwavering faith and love for God's people of this community. Please take the time to show your appreciation.

I want to assure everyone that plans are being made to find a new pastor for our church. It will obviously take time (as well it should) in order to find the right fit. In the coming weeks, a survey will be taken to help the search committee know what your vision is for the future leadership of MPCC. Steps are being made to make sure we have guest preachers to fill the pulpit as well as a possible interim minister or designated minister as we continue our search. If you have any concerns or suggestions please contact a council member or myself. Your opinions matter!

**A Message from our Treasurer...***Bien Reyes***Financial Summary - March 2026**

	Month	YTD
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$29,070.42	\$69,019.62
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$27,766.33	\$72,619.36
<b>Surplus/(Deficit):</b>	\$1,304.09	(\$3,599.74)

**Bazaar 2026***Lynne Hanamoto, chairperson*

This year we will have some of our food preordered. Current list of foods are on the flyer. Please contact Christine Kizuka tinko5@yahoo.com to place your order. Share with friends and family, outreach to others to preorder bentos and somen. Last day to pre order is May 24.

Volunteers sign up available in Mori Hall. If you cannot help with the set up/prep day Friday June 5 or Bazaar Day then spread the word to others to come support our bazaar. We thank you so much for your willingness to help out for this bazaar day.

Bazaar Prep/Tear Down Schedule:

**Friday June 5**

- For food prep please bring a knife and cutting board if possible
- Bazaar Booth Set Up

**Saturday June 6**

- 8:30am Set Up
- Bazaar booth tear down and clean up

**Board of Trustees***Annie Yamasaki, chairperson*

Greetings from the Board of Trustees. I am writing this on a beautiful day. It's Springtime and I am experiencing a fit of Spring fever. The temperature is in the mild 70s, the sun is out and the birds are chirping outside my window. On such a day, it's difficult to watch the news and see all the people suffering at home and abroad. Are the sufferings even real?

Within our own community, we have folks having been swept off to detention centers during ICE raids and those whose homes burned down and lost everything. Only after actually speaking to those involved did it become a reality for me.

Sorry for digressing from trustees' business. I just have this feeling of overwhelming helplessness. I am glad the church is able to help a little by providing space for the Asian Youth Collective to champion their activism in helping those in ICE detention. I hope some of us can assist in their efforts.

Trustees had a busy year just maintaining the church. The buildings are old and various things are falling apart. We just finished repairing the AC unit and our handyman, Arturo, just discovered leaky and rusted drainage pipes under the Sunday school wing. We are not yet sure the extent of the problem. It could be costly and might require congregational approval for the expensive repair.

The parsonage needs much upgrading. So far, we only made repairs that were necessary for safety or environmental concerns like broken screen doors and drippy faucets. Later this year, after the Youngs move out, we will need to make sure the property is secured to prevent intruders and squatters. Also, much repair is needed to render the house usable.

On a happier note, I am looking forward to our Gratitude Tea to celebrate Nitaya. Hope to see everyone there. She is really deserving of recognition and praise for all that she does. I will miss her dearly when she leaves.

I hope everyone will enjoy this beautiful Spring weather before the heat of summer arrives. Blessings to all

**Christian Education Board***Steven Woo, chairperson*

We had a great Easter celebration. Thank you to our youth for helping set up and parents for bringing their children. We hope you enjoyed the treats in the eggs.

Upcoming, we have our Mother's day breakfast pro-

vided by our church men. Please come and enjoy a lovely meal to appreciate you. Also please let us know of anyone graduating this year so we can include it in our 2026 Graduate recognition on May 31st.

**Diaconate Board***Lynne Hanamoto*

We had about 100 people attend our Easter Service. What a Wonderful Joyous Occasion! Thank you to everyone who provided food and special thanks to Lynn Shimasaki who provided food for her birthday celebration.

Thank you to our Easter Lilies donors: Evelyn Y., Nitaya Y., Carolyn W., Annie Y., Beverly Y., Lynne H., Suzy and Terry H., Christine K., Kiko K., Ed. Y., Ernie A., Lynn S., Pablico family, Kuulei P., Mamie O., Maria M., Mari W., and Glenn T.

Lynne, Kiku, Pastor Mitchell and Nitaya visited people and took the Easter Lilies to be given to them.

The month of May is the collection of "Strengthen the Church" UCC Offering, which supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your Support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

May 3 PAAM Sunday and PAAM Pulpit Exchange. Pastor Tino Cordova, Diamond Bar UCC's Preacher will be our Guest Preacher. We hope you can come and dress in your Cultural Heritage attire on PAAM Sunday and if you can bring a Potluck dish to share. Invite friends to come for PAAM Sunday, and if they are unable to come then, have your friends come to another Sunday Worship Service, and stay for Fellowship.

**Members-At-Large***Evelyn Yoshimi & Ron Yamasaki*

Please heed the following are concerns/issues have come up recently.

- Silence your mobile phones before service. It is disrupting while service is in progress.
- Refrain from talking during service. If you have questions for someone in the audience, approach them after the service.
- For anyone using the microphone, turn away microphone when clearing your throat or coughing.
- An issue with access door to the smaller stall of the women's restroom in the classroom wing is being addressed and we hope to have it resolved soon.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

**Special Offerings and Gifts**

Fujita, Tom & Sachi	In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Hamabe, Ken	In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Hino, Terry & Suzy	In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Kawamoto, Kiko	In Memory of John Franson & Meg Hamabe
Kobashigawa, Kiku	In Memory of John Franson & Meg Hamabe
Murakami, Irene	In Memory of John Franson
Phillips, Mike	Youth Mission Fund
Sakamoto, Edith	In Memory of John Franson
Shumaro, Masako	In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Wada, Mari & Denise	In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Watanabe, Carolyn	In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of Sandra Low's mother

**Wednesday Group***Art Hanamoto*

**3/25/2026** Terry H., Suzy H., Kiku K., Ed Y., Alice H., Ernie A., June Y., Lynne H. and Art H. folded, labeled and mailed the Good News publication. Afterwards, painted a second coat to the exterior bathroom door.

**4/1/2026** Nitaya Y., Christine K., Nitaya Y., and Alice H. 1) removed overgrown ice plants in Angel lot and 2) organized items in the kitchen cabinets and drawers.

**4/8/2026** Nitaya Y. and Art H. 1) cleaned up the dry leaves and weeds in Angel lot and 2) painted the wood next to the air conditioner unit.

**4/15/2026** Alice H., Christine K., Ernie A., Nitaya Y., Mike Y. and Art H. 1) drained water from the hot water heaters in the SS building, Mori Hall, and parsonage to flush out any sediment, 2) threw and gave away some of the parsonage's garden supplies (tomato cages, metal net, garden pots), 3) sorted and took plastic bottles and cans to the recycling center, 4) arranged items in the kitchen cabinets and drawers and 5) trimmed the trees in the Greenwood parking lot.

**Prayers of the People****With deepest sympathy to the family/families of:**

- For the Low family in the passing of Sandra's mother Jean.
- Elinor S.'s prayers for nephew Bob who passed away on April 4th at 4:30 in the morning.
- Maria T.'s prayers for uncle Julio who passed away on April 5th in Mexico.
- Lynne H.'s prayers for neighbor Mark whose mother Wanda passed away peacefully.

**Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Blessing for:**

- We continue to lift up prayers for strength and health for our sons and daughters: Warren H., Bryan H., and Natasha Y.
- Jim Y.'s prayer request for wife Haru who is resting at home recovering from a stroke.
- We also pray for healing and wholeness for Jean K., Evelyn H., and others in our church family who have been recently hospitalized and are now recovering at home.
- Jan F.'s prayers for friend Sharon who was diagnosed with cancer and now also with Covid.
- Karen P.'s prayers for father who fell and hit his forehead and end up in the emergency room.
- Lori K.'s prayers for everyone who is in detention camp or house.
- Pastor Mitchell Y.'s prayers for an Asian Youth Organization who are helping people who had been detained.
- Ryan Y.'s prayers for the crew of Artemis II mission as they fly around the moon and back.
- Mike P.'s prayers for grand twins who turned 21. Prayers for God's blessing and guidance as they transition to adulthood.
- Joe P.'s prayers for son Matthew who had an auto accident.
- Lynne H.'s prayers for a relative Adele who fell and hurt her head and neck.
- Rosa R.'s prayers for God's healing as she continues in the hospital for her treatment.

**Traveling Mercies:**

- Joe P.'s prayers for Vicky's son since he's nervous about flying but he needs to travel from Texas to Colorado.
- Prayers for Jan who will be traveling to Japan for 14 days.
- Kiku K.'s prayers for Roy's brother who will be traveling to the Philippines.
- Carolyn W.'s prayers for son Keith and co-workers as they fly to Japan for work and will be returning on the 29th of April.

**Thanksgiving:**

- Toni M. lifts up prayers of thanksgiving for granddaughter Samantha's safe return from Colorado, for grandson Damien being honored as student of the month, and also for daughter Drina who is completing school. Thankful for another year with the church. She remembers her first time here at MPCC was Easter Sunday in 2011.

**May  
Birthday  
Celebrations**

- 5 Anna Chu
- 6 Kai Jauregui
- 6 Kelsey Petersen
- 6 Blake Sakamoto
- 8 Kyle Matsumoto
- 9 Layla Camberos
- 9 Matthew Okamoto
- 10 Heather Iwata
- 13 Mari Mori
- 14 Judy Shima
- 16 Anna Marie Castanares
- 16 Minnie Mekata
- 16 Jeanne Tsunekawa
- 17 Yoshi Komaki
- 18 Audrey Ng
- 21 Yuuka Kinoshita
- 25 Alyssa Harada
- 26 Fred Alimboyao
- 29 Ryan Yamada

**NOTE:**

**For prayer requests in the month of May e-mail Pastor Mitchell at [myoung@montebelloucc.org](mailto:myoung@montebelloucc.org) or call (323) 893-2672 by the Friday before the Sunday service to be included in the Pastoral Prayer.**

**Save Used Stamps Update  
"Thank You"**

*SAVE those stamps (even pre-sorted stamps are accepted)!*

*I will cut them for you and please leave at least 1/8 inches on the edges.*

*Thank you to all who have diligently collected used stamps. I greatly appreciate your time and effort.*

*After Japan receives the stamps, it is sold to collectors. With that money, aides are sent to countries in need.*

*Our goal at MPCC is to help the church, community, and other nations collectively with other UCC churches collecting "used stamps", we can make a difference! - Evelyn Yoshimi*



**Pulpit Exchange Preacher for PAAM Sunday, May 3**

**Rev. Floren "Tino" Cordova** is the 11<sup>th</sup> child of 12<sup>th</sup> born and raised in rural Eastern New Mexico in a small village called Mosquero. A place where community still take care of each other's needs without question. Tino's graduating class in 1983 was ten (10).

After serving in the US Army from 1986 to 1990 as an infantry soldier, his educational journey continued with a Certificate of Information Processing Specialist from Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho (1992), BA in Religious Studies from Edgewood College, Madison, Wisconsin (2009), and a Master of Divinity and a Certificate of Sexuality & Religion from Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA (2013). He is the only sibling in his family to ever achieve a masters level degree and the only one in his family to ever attend seminary and become an ordained minister.

Tino was ordained in 2013 through the Metropolitan Community Church and received "standing" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and then transferred his standing to the Tri-Aisle Association on Maui in the Hawaii Conference UCC, and currently has dual standing with the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC and the Pacific Southwest Region of the Disciples of Christ.

Tino began his ministry as an Office Manager with the Department of Veterans Affairs – Vet Center Program in Albuquerque, NM, which is a readjustment counseling program for Vietnam and combat Veterans and their families (1992-1996). After a career change and completing seminary, he was called as the Interim Pastor of First Christian Church – Disciples of Christ in Watsonville, California (2013 to 2016). Then moved to Maui where he served as Senior Pastor at Iao United Church of Christ (2017 to 2022). Installed as the settled pastor in November 2017, with protestors before their morning worship began – what a great way to begin a ministry. Pastor Tino was installed as Senior Pastor of Diamond Bar UCC in 2023.

Welcome to MPCC, Pastor Tino!

*Get Involved*

*Join a Group*

*Lend a Hand*

## Sign-up for Bazaar Shifts

Contact the church office to sign-up or contact Lynne H. how you can help out. Thank you.



### Akira Mori Memorial Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for the Akira Mori Memorial scholarship. The scholarship was set up to honor and financially assist qualified graduating high school seniors and current college undergraduate students who are members of, or children of members of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church who intend on furthering their education in a higher institution of learning. The deadline to submit the application and transcripts is **May 31, 2026**.

### Bakers Needed For Bazaar!

Bakers Needed For Bazaar!

Cookies, Bars, Brownies, Cereal Mixes, Mochi, Pretzels, Breads. Please package items in quantities of **6 per bag/plate**. Labels to be provided.

Please email Tricia T. [ttao@aol.com](mailto:ttao@aol.com) – your item and along with a list of ingredients, quantity of labels needed, noting if nuts are included (VERY IMPORTANT – due to nut allergies!)



### 2026 Graduates and Teacher Appreciation

We will celebrate our Graduates and Sunday School Teachers May 31 during service. Please send your Grad bio that includes your school, achievements, clubs, sports, and future plans.

### Guest Preacher for May 31, 2026



**Rev. Camille Pederson** is an authorized minister of the United Church of Christ, currently serving as Director of Spiritual Services at Fredericka Manor Retirement Community in Chula Vista, California where she offers individual spiritual care sessions, grief support, leads various groups, prepares worship services, supports residents in memory care and facilitates prayer and meditation rituals. She has a passion for helping people connect with their spirituality, support system and inner strength. Pastor Camille grew up in Minnesota and Hawai'i before attending Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego where she now considers home. She graduated from Duke University with her Master of Divinity and has ministerial experience in several different Christian denominations. (By the way, a few years ago, Pastor Camille and our Pastor Mitchell worked together on the Church and Ministry Committee in the Central Association UCC.) Welcome to MPCC, Pastor Camille!

*Last Month's photos*

**March 29, 2026 Sunday  
School Easter Confetti  
Eggs activity**



**April 1-2, 2026 Joint services with San Marino UCC for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday**



**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

<p><b>NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.</b></p>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>PAAM Sunday Potluck</b> Holy Communion <b>C.E. Board Meeting @11:30am</b>	<b>4</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>5</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>6</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Dance Class @7pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Mother's Day Breakfast &amp; Youth-led Worship</b>	<b>11</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>12</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>13</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Jets/Jetts Meeting @7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>CPR Training @9am-12pm</b> Youth/YA Bonfire @Huntingon beach
<b>17</b> Council Meeting @11:30am <b>Goodnews Articles due</b>	<b>18</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>19</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>20</b> <b>Goodnews Mailing @9am</b> *Dance Class @7pm	<b>21</b> *Nikkei Interfaith Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Strengthen the Church offering <b>Memorial Sunday</b>	<b>25</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>26</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>27</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Dance Class @7pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Graduate/Teacher Appreciation</b> Guest Preacher Rev. Camille Pederson						

<b>Coming in June 2026</b>	<p><b>5 Bazaar Prep/Setup</b> <b>6 Annual Bazaar</b> <b>14 Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers</b> <b>21 Father's Day Breakfast &amp; Youth-led Worship</b> <b>24-27 PAAM Convocation</b> <b>28 Summer Ex Staff Dedication</b> <b>29 Summer Ex Staff Training</b></p>	<p><b>See our updated online calendar at:</b> <a href="http://Montebelloucc.org">http://Montebelloucc.org</a></p>
----------------------------	--	---

Join us for our **Virtual & In-Person Worship Service on Sundays at 10 a.m. :**  
 YouTube Livestream  
 Subscribe to our Youtube page to watch our latest videos  
 (www.youtube.com/mpccucc)  
 \*Contact our Church Office for more info



**BOOTH SET-UP (FRIDAY) FROM 4PM-8PM**

MANPOWER:

Need 16-20 people to set up bazaar booths, supplies, signs, and materials

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**BENTO**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
LES SHIMA	_____	_____	_____
JUDY SHIMA	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**SOMEN: NITAYA YOUNG**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**DRINKS: JOAN PABLICO**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**PASTRIES: TRICIA TAO**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
EVELYN YOSHIMI	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**CHILI HOTDOG: SCOTT KINOSHITA**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**CHINESE CHICKEN SALAD: DENISE WADA**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**BOUTIQUE/PLANTS: NAOMI FUROGAWA**

10AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-4PM	4PM-6PM CLEAN-UP
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**TSHIRT/APRON: BJ WOO**

11AM-1PM	1PM-3PM	3PM-5PM	
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**INFORMATION BOOTH:**

11AM-1PM	1PM-3PM	3PM-5PM	
ALICE HIGASHI	ALICE HIGASHI	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**SPAM MUSUBI:**

11AM-1PM	1PM-3PM	3PM-5PM	
JETS	JETS	JETS	_____
JETS	JETS	JETS	_____
JETS	JETS	JETS	_____

**BOOTH TEAR-DOWN (SATURDAY) FROM 5PM-8PM**

MANPOWER:

Need 16-20 people to tear down and store bazaar booths, supplies, and materials

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____