

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

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." **1 Peter 1:3**

Death Before Life; Darkness Before Light

We are now in the second half of the season of Lent, the 40-day period of penitence and preparation for Easter in the Christian liturgical year.

I've mentioned before that the word "Lent" originates from the Old English word "lencfen," meaning "springtime" or "lengthening of the days," referring to the increasing daylight hours that characterize the spring season. That is to say that originally, "Lent" had no religious connotation and simply referred to the season of spring. As Christianity developed, the period of Lent, a 40-day period of preparation for Easter, was named after the secular term "Lent", which was associated with the spring season.

As Easter approaches, we in the Northern hemisphere find ourselves surrounded by the signs of spring—trees budding, flowers blooming, and the world awakening from the grip of winter. This transformation in nature is a reflection of the deeper renewal we celebrate in Christ's resurrection. Just as spring brings new life, Easter proclaims the greatest renewal of all: the victory of life over death through Jesus Christ.

In the final week of Lent, which we observe as Holy Week, we especially look forward to welcoming

new members into the Montebello Plymouth family through the sacrament of baptism as well as affirmation of previous baptism, on the triumphant first day of Holy Week known as Palm/Passion Sunday (this year, April 13) as we commemorate the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry. During that week we also join with our sister church San Marino Congregational Church for joint Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday, April 17 at San Marino Congregational for 6 pm soup supper (They will provide!) and service at 7 pm; then Good Friday, April 18 at MPCC Fukushima Chapel for service at 7 pm.

Then on Easter morning, our Lenten journey through darkness ends with the celebration of Christ's resurrection to new life, the very meaning of the Easter mystery in our Resurrection Day celebration on Sunday, April 20 in the 10 am worship service.

Our broken world needs Easter more than ever. The Apostle Paul tells us that "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. (1 Cor. 15:14). Our observance of the Resurrection at Easter is not just a mere recollection of the central events of Christianity—it is a life-giving sign of hope that is realized in our lives each and every year.

Each year we also are invited to renew that same miracle in our lives, as we journey with Christ in his passion, death, and resurrection. We are given the perseverance and grace we need for the true goal of our lives—to journey to Eternal Life.

April 2025
 Volume XLIV No. IV

Journeying with you to New Life,

Pastor Mitchell

Worship Schedule

April 6

Holy Communion
 "Reclining"
 John 12:1-8

April 13

Palm Sunday/Baptism and
 New Church Membership
 "Sent"
 Luke 19:28-40

April 17

Maundy Thursday Service
 at San Marino UCC
 "Loved"
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18

Good Friday Service
 "Standing"
 John 18:1-19:42

April 20

Easter Sunday/Easter Egg
 Hunt
 "At Early Dawn"
 Luke 24:1-12

April 27

"Locked Doors"
 John 20:19-31

A Message from our Treasurer...

Bien Reyes

Financial Summary - February 2025

	Month	YTD	%
<i>Total Income:</i>	\$21,082.72	54,173.98	21%
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	\$19,472.69	38,852.25	15%
<i>Surplus/(Deficit):</i>	\$1,610.03	15,321.73	

This month we will still be collecting for the Child Support offering for the Jesus Reigns Victoriously Church in the Philippines and along with our Easter Sunday Offering. Thank you for your support.

Proverbs 11:24

"There is one who is free in giving, and yet he grows richer. And there is one who keeps what he should give, but he ends up needing more."

Christian Education Board

Steven Woo, chairperson

Easter is approaching and we have some great things planned! We haven't done Easter egg dyeing for a few years, but we're bringing it back this year! On April 13th, we will be dyeing plastic eggs so kids will be able to keep their craft forever. We are also having our Easter egg hunt after worship on Easter Sunday. Bring all your kids and grandkids. We have A LOT of eggs to find and a special golden egg to find for a prize. See you there!

Diaconate Board

Lynne Hanamoto

Thank you to all who donated to Strengthen the Church Ministries which supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within our wider church ministries.

Let us pray and continue to find ways to support Altadena Congregational Church, after their loss of their church from the Altadena fires.



It was nice to have our Inochi/ PAC Reunion on Saturday, March 22. Kahu Rennie Mau, Inochi/ PAC members and some parents of members joined us to talk story. We enjoyed special hula performed by Aleina and Emma visiting from Hawaii and Wendy Franson's

daughter sang a beautiful song.

If you have Palm leaves, bring them early on Palm Sunday, April 13.

We will be joining San Marino Congregational Church at their Church for soup and our joint worship service for Maundy Thursday. San Marino Congregational Church members will be joining us here for Good Friday at 7pm.

Bazaar 2025

Steven Woo & Roger Ng, Co-chair

Hello Everyone!

Our 66th annual Bazaar will be on June 7th, 2025! We are making some changes this year, mainly selling a Bento box in place of our chicken plate. This bento box is pre-order only so please see the attached flyer to send your orders online through the QR code or physically to the church. We will have some extra for walk-ins etc., but it is first come first serve and not guaranteed. Feel free to send the flyer to all your family and friends. We will have other items to sell such as drinks, spam musubi, produce, and more. A full list of items will be announced at a later date. We will have entertainment throughout the event from various hula groups. We hope to see you there!

Wednesday Group

Bob Miwa

2/19/25 Jean K., Beverly Y., Ernie A., Sets S. and her caregiver, Sharon I., Mari W., Marlow, Terry H., Kiku K., Alice H., Christine K., Maria M., and Christine C. folded and labeled the Good News. Ernie and Pastor Mitchell went to Los Angeles to pick-up three trees (tangerine, Mexican lime, and kumquat) for the Angel parking lot. Maria M., Christine K., and Nitaya Y. cleaned the craft room. Afterwards, they pulled weeds on Angel lot and weed whacked the Greenwood parkway and parsonage yard.

2/26/25 Grace S., Ernie A., Christine K., Alice H., Maria M., and Pastor Mitchell and Nitaya Y. cleaned the Greenwood and Angel parking lots and parkway, moved the toilet paper holder in the women's handicap restroom in the S.S. wing, decluttered, organized, threw away, and given away unusable items from the craft room, and lastly, trimmed two trees on the Greenwood parking lot.

3/7/25 Alice H., Christine K., Maria M., Ernie A., Art H., and Nitaya Y. weed whacked the parson-

age yard and 10th St. parkway, swept the Greenwood parking lot, arranged the mug cabinet, and cleaned the drawer handles in the kitchen. They sanded two wooden stools and switched the inoperative kitchen refrigerator with another one in Mori Hall.

3/12/25 Art H., Pastor Mitchell, and Nitaya Y. cleaned the stainless steel frames of the glass door in Mori Hall and two stainless frame signs. They also painted the kitchen base boards in the kitchen, weed whacked and swept the Greenwood parkway and parking lot. Afterwards, pulled weeds in the Angel lot, relocated one tree and planted 2 trees, cleaned the office room in the Sunday school wing, painted two wooden stools, and fixed the urinal in the men's restroom in the Sunday school wing.

3/19/25 Ernie A., Alice H., Christine K., Art H., and Pastor Mitchell and Nitaya Y. mowed the lawn on the Greenwood parkway and the parsonage yard, put 2 "Audio Video Recording" warning signs in the sanctuary, and organized and labeled the file cabinets in the small office room in the Sunday school wing. Afterwards, they weeded the Angel lot, and continued cleaning the glass doors track. Some printed bookmarks for the Bible class crafts.

How We Grow

MPCC's General Fund

The General Fund takes care of the basic day-to-day operations of our church as well as furthering the mission of our church as a whole. Annual pledges (tithes) help the trustees estimate how to distribute and budget our expenses on a monthly and yearly basis. Weekly offerings and special offerings also contribute to the General Fund unless otherwise indicated. Please contact the trustees if you wish to receive a pre-printed box set of offering envelopes.

Building Fund

MPCC's Building Fund is separate from the church's General Fund. Contributions to the fund must be indicated on your offering envelope or in the check memo area. If you have any questions about your pledge please contact Mac Reyes.

Church Family Fund

The Church Family Fund assists families known to our church who are in dire need of assistance. Funds are allocated by committee. If you are able, please donate to the fund.

Special Offerings and Gifts

Hanamoto, Art & Lynne	In Memory of Howard Sakamoto
Iwata, Janet	Music Ministry
Kobashigawa, Kiku	Family Fund
Kizuka, Christine	In Memory of Nitaya's Mother, Howard Sakamoto, & Mits Murakami
Masuda, Jane	BJ's Restaurant Fundraiser for Youth Outing
Miwa, Bob	In Memory of Howard Sakamoto
Shima, Les & Judy	In Memory of Nitaya's Mother
Takahashi, Patricia	J. K. Fukushima Scholarship
Watanabe, Carolyn	In Memory of Nitaya's Mother
Yano, Lorran	BJ's Restaurant Fundraiser for Youth Outing
Yasuda, Ed	In Memory of Howard Sakamoto & Nitaya's Mother
Yoshida, Beverly	In Celebration of Lynn Shimasaki's 90th Birthday
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of Howard Sakamoto

Youth Mission Fund & Summer Ex Fund

Donations to the Youth Mission Fund will be used to send our youth on trips to serve abroad and locally. The Summer Ex Fund provides scholarships for families who are not able to cover the registration fees. Both are separate from MPCC's General Fund and checks should be written separate from your regular offering.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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

- Pastor Mitchell Y. - prayers of sympathy and comfort for Nitaya's mother, Chom. Chom passed away on February 8th, at the age of 89 years old in Thailand.
- Christine K. - prayers for Katie M.'s father, John, who passed away. Katie is Christine's granddaughters Maya and Hana's former preschool teacher.
- Jay F. - prayers for her cousin Takeshi N. on the passing of his wife Mitsuko.
- MPCC lift up comfort and strength prayers for Edith S. and children in the passing of Howard, her husband and their father. Also for Irene M. and her family in the passing of Mits.

Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Blessing for:

- We continue to lift up prayers for strength for our sons and daughters: Warren H., Bryan H., and Natasha Y.
- Ryan Y. - prayers for his cousin on his dad's side, a brilliant person, who will lose his job as a result of the Executive Order rollbacks on the U.S. Agency for International Development.
- Kiku K. - prayers for Kenzo K.'s wife, Mari, who was in the hospital being treated for pneumonia. Also prayers for Mari L. and her family, that they may find a house. Healing prayers for Stewart C. who had a heart attack and for friend Linda who is recovering from bronchitis.
- Jay F. - prayers for Dan N. who has been hospitalized for seizures and for Barbara S. who is in the hospital after having a stroke.
- Pastor Mitchell Y. had a chance to see Jane K. in the hospital. We pray for God's healing for Jane, for body and spirit.
- The Hanamoto's requested prayers for their friend Denise J. who is starting her cancer treatment. Additional prayers for Lynne H. and her mother Jane. Jane has heart issues and her cardiologist is considering a pacemaker, but Jane needs to heal from infections first.
- Lori K. - prayers for cousin's husband Mark U. who is receiving chemo and radiation treatment for an inoperable brain tumor.
- Christine K. - prayers of healing for Pope Francis. I know it doesn't look "good" but miracles do happen.
- Ivonne P. - prayers of healing for brother in-law, Carolis, who is in the hospital with kidney infection. Also, for good friend, Dorothy S., who was diagnosed with a cancerous eyelid.
- Please pray for Jim Y. and wife Haru. Haru had a stroke and is now at the hospital.
- Steven W. - prayers for grandmother, Yip Sang W., who has RSV and kidney failure.
- Bien R. - prayers for The United American Indian Involvement, non-profit company who lost federal fundings.
- Julie T. - prayers for grandmother Rosalba who slipped and fell and hurt her arm and leg from the rain.
- Melody T. - prayers for her sister-in-law's sister, Sheyla, who was diagnosed with breast and bone cancer.

Traveling Mercies for:

- Carolyn W. - prayers for her granddaughter, Ashley, as she flies home for spring break.
- Eileen M. - prayers for sister Lori K., Lori's husband Dave, and their cousins who will be traveling to Japan for two weeks.

Thanksgiving:

- We continue to remember Mari K. with thanksgiving that she is now at home.
- Melody T. is grateful, safe and unharmed after experiencing her car ran into debris on the freeway.
- Kenzo K. gives thanksgiving for his wife Mari. Mari is feeling better and will go back to work. Also, their dog Mocha was really sick with Addison's disease. Mocha was in the emergency animal hospital for two days. She's home now and feeling much better.
- Kiko K. is thankful for the successful neck surgery for Evelyn H.

**April
Birthday
Celebrations**

1	Rumi Kwon
2	Grant Kawaharada
3	Jocelyn Yamasaki
4	Kurt Sakamoto
5	Masao Sato
6	James Yoshitake
7	Gemma Iwata
9	Tom Fujita
9	Todd Yoshitake
12	Jesse Endo
13	David Tran
15	Jan Fukushima
17	Kuni Kanegae
17	Susie Pham
22	Kelsie Reger
23	Jack Kaneoka
23	Kisa Sato
25	Steven Woo
27	June Fujita
30	Liane Petersen

NOTE:

For prayer requests in the month of April e-mail Pastor Mitchell at 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"

The medium size priority postal box has been filled with all your used stamps! Forms will be filled and the box will be sent out on March 26th.



I Appreciate the time and effort you spent to save these stamps. It took several years but it is for a good cause. When I am at the post office I will get another box so keep saving used stamps.

Thank you for your help. - Evelyn Yoshimi

Easter Flowers

Our Deacons are looking for 25-30 donors at \$25 per plant to adorn the Chapel but also be shared with persons and families in our community who could use some Resurrection joy in this Spring. Checks may be made payable to Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church with a memo: "Easter Flowers".

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, 2025. Please contact Ms. BJ Woo for an application bwoo@montebelloucc.org.



HOLY WEEK

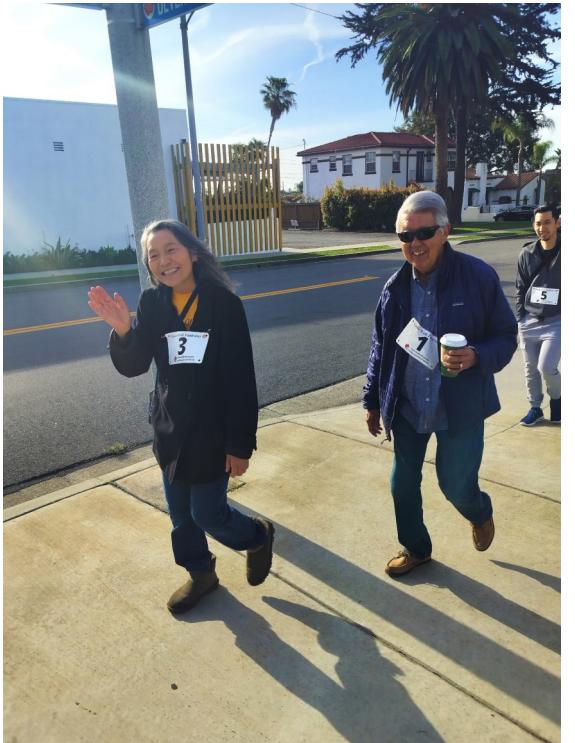
April 17 Maundy Thursday at San Marino UCC

April 18 Good Friday at MPCC



Altar Flowers Donations 2025

Sign-up sheets for Altar Flower donations for 2025 now available. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an event in the life of your family, please sign up in Mori Hall or call the church office to check on available dates. We ask for a \$40 donation to cover the cost of the arrangement prepared by our local florist. Thank you for beautifying our worship space!



3k Cookie Walk Fundraiser March 16, 2025
MHS Interact Club volunteered at our event.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Bible Study @10am	2 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	3 Spring Exploration	4	5 Choir Practice @10am
6 Holy Communion C.E. Board Meeting @11:30am	7 *Japanese Class @2pm	8 Bible Study @10am	9 Wednesday Group @8am	10	11	12 Choir Practice @10am
13 Palm Sunday/ Baptism Easter Egg Dyeing Diaconate/Trustees Meeting @11:30am	14 *Japanese Class @2pm	15 Bible Study @10am	16 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	17 Maundy Thursday Service @San Marino UCC	18 Good Friday Service @MPCC	19 Choir Practice @10am
20 Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt Goodnews Due	21 Sunday School Outing @11am *Japanese Class @2pm	22 Bible Study @10am	23 Goodnews Mailing @9am *Dance Class @7pm	24	25	26 Choir Practice @10am
27 Council Meeting @11:30am	28 *Japanese Class @2pm	29 Bible Study @10am	30 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm			

NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.

**Coming in
May
2025**

4	PAAM Sunday Potluck/AAPI Heritage Month
11	Mother's Day Breakfast
18	PAAM Pulpit Exchange & Potluck
25	Memorial Sunday

See our updated online calendar at:

<http://Montebellouucc.org>

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

