



# 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

July 2026

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*"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*  
**Philippians 1:3-5**

### A Season of Gratitude: My Final Letter as Your Pastor

Dear Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church Family,

Well, the countdown reaches its conclusion as we enter in my final month as your pastor:

On July 31, 2026, my time as your pastor will officially come to an end. It is hard to believe that I have served as your pastor for a for full **21 years**.

How long is 21 years? It is long enough to raise a child from birth to legal adulthood. We have grown together, faced challenges, and shared countless holy moments. This July, our nation also celebrates a massive milestone: the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. While 21 years is only 8.4% of our country's history, it represents a deeply significant chapter in the life of our congregation. I feel a profound sense of gratitude and blessing for the ministry we have shared. You have blessed my life more than words can say.

### Profound Gratitude for Our Ministry Together

I want to express my deepest thanks for our shared ministry. We have walked together through seasons of joy and sorrow. We have prayed, laughed, and grown in faith as a community. I feel a profound

sense of gratitude and blessing for every moment we have shared.

The Apostle Paul wrote words that perfectly capture my feelings for you:

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*  
– **Philippians 1:3-5**

### Healthy Boundaries for a New Beginning

As you look to the future, it is important to talk about what comes next. For the rest of our time together, as well as in the months, perhaps even years ahead, you will likely grow tired of hearing how important appropriate boundaries are between a congregation and their former pastor. You will hear it from our UCC Conference office and ministers, and I trust you will hear it emphasized earnestly and steadfastly by the MPCC Church Council as well as your pastoral search committee. And perhaps most pointedly, you will hear about the importance of clear and appropriate boundaries from me. Please do not interpret my insistence on appropriate boundaries as me not caring for you anymore. On the contrary, it is precisely because I care deeply for you and the future of the Montebello Plymouth Church family, that these boundaries must come into play. Once I retire, I will no longer be available for pastoral duties. This includes weddings, funerals, baptisms, or private pastoral counseling in order to give your next pastor the space to lead.

While our bond of love remains, these boundaries ensure that Montebello Plymouth can fully embrace its next exciting chapter. I ask that you support me—and your future leadership—by respecting these new roles.

Thank you for 21 beautiful years. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

With love and blessings,

**Rev. Mitchell Young**  
Pastor, Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church UCC

### Worship Schedule

#### July 5

Holy Communion  
"Finding Rest"  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

#### July 12

"Scattering Good Seed"  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

#### July 19

Summer Ex Sunday  
"Wheat, Weeds,  
and Wonder"  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

#### July 26

Pastor's Final Sunday  
Potluck after service  
"Worth Everything"  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

What a fabulous spread we had on Father's Day! Thank you to everyone who pitched in with food, decorations, set up and clean up.

I know everyone is doing their utmost to make these last weeks special with the Young family. It's a beautiful testament to how our faith community that comes together and gives so selflessly.

I do, however, want to give everyone a bit of advice for the months ahead. Within our community each of us fills an important role. It will become essential for everyone to continue contributing and perhaps even do a little extra as we work together to fill a void left by the departure of the Young family.

If you're not able to do heavy lifting or bring food for coffee hour or light altar candles, please know that your presence alone has great impact. We wouldn't be a church or a faith community without each and every one of you. If you would like to know how you can help please ask.

As it says in Colossians 3:23-24:

<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* <sup>24</sup> *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

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

	Month	YTD
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$18,275.87	\$105,369.49
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$23,242.43	\$116,673.20
<b>Surplus/(Deficit):</b>	(\$4,966.56)	(\$11,303.71)

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

I like to listen to the song 'Time to Say Goodbye' especially the version sung by Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli. Hearing it evokes deep emotions of sadness of time passing and of joys of beautiful memories. This is how I feel about Pastor Mitchell and the Young family leaving MPCC. The changes are inevitable but it does not make it easier. Perhaps looking forward to the adventures on which we are about to embark will bring some excitement and optimism. The idea that we, all of us, have the ability and responsibility to shape the future of our church seem both exciting and daunting. But we know that God is still with us, so with His guidance, let's take up the mantle and get to work. Let's challenge ourselves to create an

even more welcoming place, a blessed community in which everyone will want to be a part of.

As difficult as it is to endure the emotional aspects of Pastor Mitchell's retirement, the numerous tasks ahead for the church leadership will be even more arduous. The logistics of finding weekly guest preachers and the maintenance and updating of the parsonage are the priorities. Then comes the task of finding a new pastor. The latter will require everyone's input.

The church trustees are responsible for the financial aspects of all the upcoming changes. We have budgeted for certain expenses but many are still unknown and some may require congregational approval, especially in regards to updating the parsonage to bring things up to code and to meet ADA safety standards.

It is my hope that the church will come together to meet the challenges rather than be torn apart by disagreements on how to move forward. Please voice your opinions if you feel things do not sit right with you. There are too many cases where folks just leave quietly and never heard from again due to some minor disagreements that can be easily addressed. I implore everyone to join in the effort to make MPCC the best it can be.

Love and blessings to all.

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

Father's day just happened and I would like to thank everyone that helped put together a great Father's day breakfast. It was delicious!

Coming up on Saturday, July 11th, we will have our church picnic. We tried it last year at Henry Acuna Park and it went well, so we'll be doing it again from 10AM - 1PM. We will have a Taco man serving tacos and some games set up to play. There is also a playground and a dog park area if you would like to bring your dog. We hope to see you there!

**Wednesday Group***Art Hanamoto*

**5/20/2026** Terry H., Suzy H., Kiku K., Alice H., Ernie A., Jean K., June Y., Jesse E., Margaret E., Lynne H., and Pastor Mitchell folded, labeled, and mailed the Good News publication.

Additionally, Mike Y., Christine K., Nitaya Y., and Art H. 1) trimmed trees near the Greenwood parking lot, 2) repaired two sprinkler heads and watered plants along the Greenwood parkway, 3) removed dead plants outside the Mori Hall restroom, 4) changed the sanctuary paraments and banners for Pentecost Sunday, and 5) sorted items in the Sunday School nurse-

ry room for disposal or donation.

**6/10/2026** Pastor Mitchell, Nitaya Y., Jesse E., Margaret E., Alice H., Ernie A., Mike Y., Christine K., Evelyn Y., Lynne H., and Art H. helped prepare for the Bazaar by 1) potting plants for sale, 2) cleaning trash cans, ice chests, and bins, 3) cleaning four refrigerators and two freezers, 4) repairing a table in the youth room of the Sunday School wing, 5) sharpening kitchen knives, 6) organizing items on the giveaway and information tables in Mori Hall, 7) cleaning out and discarding a quarter of the items from the parsonage garage, and 8) cleaning out and discarding some items from the church attic.

**6/15/2026** Nitaya and Art cleaned up the parsonage garage and put the rubbish in the Bazaar dumpster bin.

**6/17/2026** Ernie A., Jesse E., Margaret E., Nitaya Y., Christine K., Alice H., June Y., Lynne H., and Art H. 1) lined the sidewalk outside of the Sunday School with concrete blocks, 2) pulled weeds, removed the broken persimmon tree and trimmed the tea leaf plants and orange tree in Angel Lot, 3) watered the grass and plants in the Greenwood parkway and Los Angeles parking lot, 4) arranged items in the kitchen cabinets, 5) organized the Bachan Closet items remaining from the Bazaar, 6) hosed down the lanai and the entrance to the sanctuary, and 7) organized items on the giveaway table.

**Annual Bazaar Report**  
*Lynne Hanamoto*

MPCC's 67th Annual Bazaar was held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Our Bazaar earnings was \$12,072.44. Thank you to all MPCC members and friends who helped prepare during bazaar week, worked at the event, and assisted with cleanup. We also appreciate the support of JETTS, MHS Interact Club, and Asian Youth Collective.

Entertainment was provided by Hikari Taiko, Halau Hula Moani'a'ala Anuhea, La Hula I Ke Akua, and Ryujiin Taiko.

This year Bazaar tickets (\$1/\$5) were only accepted in our booths. Bazaar tickets were available for purchase at the Ticket booth. Raffle tickets for \$1 & Grand prize of \$250.

**Chairpersons for 2026:**

Bento Orders: Christine Kizuka; Bento Pick Up: Roger Ng; Chinese Chicken Salad: Denise Wada; Drinks: Joan Pablico; Games: Glenn Hino; Spam

**Special Offerings and Gifts**

Bender, Denise	Bazaar Supplies
Castanares, Mario & Anna Marie	Special Offering
Gosney, Kimiko	Appreciation for Pastor Mitchell
Hino, Terry & Suzy	In Memory of Jean Furukawa
Katayama, Dave & Lori	In Memory of those we lost
Kawahara, Elizabeth	Summer Ex
Low, Milton & Lynn	Summer Ex and In Memory of Jean Furukawa
Shannon, Jeanne	In Memory of Helen & Mas Munekiyo
Tanimoto, Michi	Mission Fund
Tsunekawa, Jean	Summer Ex
Wada, Mari	Special Offering
Watanabe, Carolyn	Granddaughters Emi & Ashley's Graduation
Yoshida, Beverly	In Memory of brother Kiyoshi & Ray, Bazaar, Special Offering, & Father's Day
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of those we lost, Special offering, June Birthdays & Father's Day
Young, Mitchell & Nitaya	Family Fund

Musubi: Denise Wada; Aprons and Shirts: B.J. Woo; Baked Goods: Tricia Tao; Won Ton: Karen Peterson and Lonin Lew; Hot Dogs and Chili Rice: Scott Kinoshita; Raffle Prizes: Mac Reyes; Sound System: Steven Woo; Somen: Nitaya Young; Supplies: Lori Katayama; Bachan's Closet: Naomi Furogawa.

We also thank our security guards, David Furogawa and David Tapia.

With heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make our 2026 Bazaar a success.

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

- Toni M. lift up prayers of comfort for the family of Lucia G. who passed away.
- Melody T. for the family of her cousin Rowena who passed away.

**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.
- Rosa R. for her healing and as she continues physical and speech therapy.
- Barbara H. has moved to Washington State to be closer to family. Let us pray for Barbara as she transitions her life in Washington.
- Christine K.'s prayers for safety for those who live in Garden Grove and surrounding area as a result of the 34,000-gallon tank at an aerospace facility.
- Prayers for the Los Angeles area. A construction crew installing fiber optic lines in East Los Angeles ruptured an underground pipeline and spilling at least 2,400 gallons of crude oil.
- Jan F.'s friend Cindy F. had to be evacuated. Prayers that she and thousands of others can return home soon.
- Lynne H.'s prayers for friend Vera whose house burned down and is now completely destroyed.
- Maria Teresa M.'s continued prayers for mom, sisters, and brothers. Also prayers for her sister Karla Vianey C. on her birthday.
- Lori K.'s prayers for sister Eileen M. for healing on an infection on her leg.
- Maria M.'s prayers for father Raul M. who had a stroke and lost his voice but it slowly coming back.
- Frank M.'s granddaughter Cassandra who will be having her baby in the next two weeks. Praying for a smooth delivery for her.
- Glenn H.'s daughter Grace who injured her knee playing basketball.
- Melody T.'s father who slipped, but fortunately he's not injured and prayers for son Justin who worked 48 hours and needs to rest.
- Collective prayers from the Peppermint Ridge Community- Prayers for dad, friend Cristal in heaven, mom in heaven, grandma and grandpa in heaven, boyfriend Rudy in heaven, family and Jaslin, and Jennifer in the Philippines.

**July  
Birthday  
Celebrations**

- 4 Robert Haynes
- 5 Carol Iwata
- 7 Grant Mikuriya
- 8 Mitsie Miya
- 8 Ryan Togioka
- 9 Kiku Kobashigawa
- 10 Patrick Fukushima
- 10 Bryce Hanamoto
- 11 Andrew Chao
- 12 Damian Camberos
- 12 Suzy Hino
- 12 Michio Oyakawa
- 13 Les Shima
- 15 Ramon Corrales
- 17 Maria Martinez
- 19 Ann Shimizu
- 21 Yuuka Kinoshita
- 24 Justin Akiyoshi
- 24 Megan Matsuda
- 26 Yuna Yamada
- 26 Toni Martinez
- 28 Joyce Khowdee
- 28 Elinor Sakado
- 31 James Yoshitake

**Traveling Mercies:**

- Carolyn W. for son Keith, daughter-in-law, Loreen, and granddaughters, Ashley and Emi, and friends as they fly to Japan.
- Terry and Suzy H. for 3 grandsons who are traveling to Japan for a 10-day trip.
- Michi T. for Christine and family as they travel to Japan, Tony will travel to Italy, and Peter and Lori as they return from Oji.

**Thanksgiving:**

- Toni M.'s prayers for daughter Drina who received her diploma from Pomona Adult School. For her visit with her mom in Mexicali. Also, for a safe transition for granddaughter Samantha as she moves to Colorado with boyfriend Mauricio who is stationed there with the army.
- Edith S. for a new great-granddaughter Leah Grace.
- Maria M.'s prayers for daughter Alexandra M. who graduated from Montebello High School and is planning to continue her education at a local college.
- Ida G. for the church's successful Bazaar and for everyone who helped.
- Lisa M. for son Kai who graduated from Montebello High School and daughter Raquelrae graduated from college.

**NOTE:**

**For prayer requests in the month of July 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*



**Summer Exploration 2026**

**"In the Right Place"**

**July 28**

**Dates: July 6-19**

**July 19 Summer Ex Sunday**

**"If you love to sing or play any musical instruments then join our team"**

**1. MPCC CHOIR**

**2. PRAISE TEAM**

**3. SPECIAL MUSIC**

***Love to hear from you...***

***Ida***



**Bazaar Pastries Booth**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Pasty booth!! From a variety cookies, breads, dorayaki, tapioca, mochi, Rice Krispie treats, mixes, to bars, we had a large variety of goodies. Thank you for making our booth a big success!!



**Pastor Mitchell's  
Last Preaching Day Sunday July 26, 2026  
Potluck after service**



**June 6, 2026 Annual Bazaar**



**June 14, 2026 Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers with Rev. Erin Beardemphl**



**June 21, 2026 Father's Day Breakfast & Youth-led service**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.</p>			<p><b>1</b>  <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b>                      *Dance Class @7pm</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
			<p>Summer Ex Staff Training →</p>			
<p><b>5</b>                      Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>Summer Ex Begins!</b></p>	<p><b>7</b>                      Bible Study @10am</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b>                      *Jetts/Jets Meeting @7pm</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>                      Family Picnic @Henry Acuna Park in Montebello</p>
<p><b>12</b>                      RSVP for Pastor Mitchell's retirement celebration</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b>                      Bible Study @10am</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b>                      *Dance Class @7pm</p>	<p><b>16</b>                      Summer Ex Outing to Knott's Berry Farm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b>  <b>Summer Ex Sunday</b>                      Goodnews deadline</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b>                      Bible Study @10am</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>Goodnews Mailing @9am</b>                      *Dance Class @7pm</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>Pastor's Last Sunday Potluck Celebration</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b>                      Bible Study @10am</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b>                      *Dance Class @7pm</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b>                      Pastor Mitchell's last day as Pastor at MPCC</p>	

<p><b>Coming in August 2026</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>9</b> <b>23</b> <b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Pastor's Farewell Service &amp; Celebration of Retirement</b>  <b>School Supplies Drive/Teacher Dedication</b>  <b>MPCC Founder's Day</b>  <b>HS/College Fellowship</b></p>	<p><b>See our updated online calendar at:</b>  <a href="http://Montebelloucc.org">http://Montebelloucc.org</a></p>
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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

