



# Good News



Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church  
A United Church of Christ

Sr. Pastor Rev. Mitchell Young  
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## November 2025

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"Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help."  
**Psalms 146:3**

### From Compact to Conscience

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we are called to reflect on gratitude, community, and our nation's complex history. This year, our reflections are set against the backdrop of recent "No Kings" protests, a vivid reminder of the enduring questions of power and authority that have echoed through our country for centuries. These events, though separated by time, resonate with themes that have long defined our collective journey.

Even our own church name Montebello Plymouth Congregational reflects that part of American history when the Pilgrims arrived on the shores of what is now Massachusetts in 1620, their circumstances forced them to confront the nature of authority. The resulting Mayflower Compact was a covenant—an agreement to create a "civil body politic" and to abide by "just and equal laws" for the "general good of the colony". This was not a charter granted by a king, but an act of self-governance, a bold pledge to each other founded on shared principles and the sovereignty of God. In this act, we see an early and powerful expression of the American idea: that legitimate power derives from the consent of the governed, not from a crown or throne. It is an understanding rooted in the deeply held conviction that all people stand equally under the authority of God.

Fast forward to the present, and we witness millions of Americans peacefully mobilizing under the banner, "No Kings" (or "No Dictators" in Hawaii). These protests, sparked by concerns over executive overreach, echo the

same spiritual foundation that guided our early civic and faith ancestors: the refusal to grant unchecked power to any single person or entity.

While some may mischaracterize these demonstrations as purely political or even anti-divine, we must look deeper. At its core, the rejection of a human king is not a rejection of divine authority. Instead, it is a faith-driven statement that no earthly ruler is absolute. It is a recognition that all human power is flawed and accountable, and that our ultimate allegiance belongs to a higher authority. For people of faith, this means that when government authority conflicts with justice, conscience, and God's call to serve the vulnerable, we are compelled to speak up and act.

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving meal, we must hold the warmth of the harvest story alongside its complex and painful history. The traditional tale of Pilgrims and Wampanoag people sharing a bountiful feast obscures the long and violent history of colonialism that followed. For many Native Americans, Thanksgiving is not a day of celebration but a National Day of Mourning, a solemn acknowledgment of the devastating impact that European settlement had on Indigenous peoples. As Christians, we are called to a truth that is bigger than any national myth. Our gratitude must be accompanied by a commitment to justice.

Let us give thanks for the heritage of self-governance, and for the courageous faith of those who sought to live according to their conscience. Let us also give thanks for the prophetic voices today who, with the same spirit, challenge authoritarianism and stand for justice. Let us commit to moving beyond the simple stories and to seeking reconciliation with

our Indigenous neighbors. Our faith is not a passive one; it is a call to action—to pursue truth, love our neighbor, and stand with the marginalized.

May our tables be places of abundant grace, and may our hearts be stirred to build a more just and equitable world for all.

Under the Reign of Christ,  
Pastor Mitchell

### Worship Schedule

#### November 2

Holy Communion  
"The Lost"  
Luke 19:1-10

#### November 9

Stewardship Sunday  
"God of the Living"  
Luke 20:27-38

#### November 16

Guest Preacher Rev.  
Jude Johnson  
"Gain Your Souls"  
Luke 21:5-19

#### November 23

Thanksgiving Sunday  
"Today"  
Luke 23:33-43

#### November 30

"Peace Be Within You"  
Psalm 122

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

Your church council members have been working hard to end this year on a good note and begin 2026 on an even better one.

Trustees have a variety of projects ongoing. Please express your thanks to the trustees for keeping our church running efficiently and financially. Soon you will see stewardship packets distributed at church by the trustees. Remember that they are doing good works because of your annual pledges.

Deacons bless our church community by making sure the spirit of God is within and among us. From the beautiful sounds of music to the most basic of church elements, they prepare each week so that we can be in worship together. Join me in giving thanks to God for their hard work.

Our members on the board of Christian Education may seem like they're here just for the fun of it but their events and activities ensure that we all continue to grow in our faith and knowledge. Take, for example, the Halloween Party: what a wonderful way to reach out to our surrounding community and give without asking for anything in return. This is Christ in action today. Thanks to our friends on the CE board for all that they do.

At MPCC we have much to be thankful for. Please come on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd to share with joy and hallelujah. God is good!

**A Message from our Treasurer...**  
**Bien Reyes****Financial Summary - September 2025**

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$21,624.03	\$205,336.19
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$22,755.32	\$195,380.95
<b>Surplus/(Deficit):</b>	(\$1,131.29)	\$9,955.24

**Board of Trustees**

*Annie Yamasaki, chairperson*

Greetings From MPCC!

After Halloween, the rest of the year becomes one big blur... preparations for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years, one big holiday. But as much as we like peace and relaxation through the holidays, there is much year-end work to be done by the church boards. Holiday celebrations, Holy Week, year-end reporting and accounting, budgeting and planning for the following year, goals met and deferred, new goals, transitioning of board members, stewardship drive, year-

end giving, and preparing to say goodbye to pastor Mitchell.

With so much going on, we hope everyone can appreciate the work that goes into running the church smoothly.

The Trustees Board wishes to convey appreciation for the support to those who are on the boards but especially all those volunteers who are just there quietly doing the work without much fanfare or recognition.

Next up from Trustees will be the stewardship drive in November, which will set the tone for next year's financial support of the church. I hope you can join us in keeping this over a century old congregation thrive for another hundred years!

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you in advance for your giving... in all ways, your time, your prayers, your work, your finances.

Blessings and good health to all.

**Christian Education Board**

*Steven Woo, chairperson*

Hi Everyone,

October was a fun filled month for the CE board. We went to Pilgrim Pines for Apple Pie day. We got a bus to take everyone there and it was a great day. We worshipped, did crafts, played games, and had tasty homemade apple pie. Hopefully we have a lot of people that would want to go next year.

We also had our Halloween party recently. Thank you to anyone that brought food for our potluck dinner. It was delicious! Thank you to our boards for decorating and providing candy for our trick-or-treating. Thank you to the Montebello High school students that also help during our events. We could not do it without them. Thank you to everyone that came to enjoy the festivities. It's always great to see such creative costumes people come up with.

**Wednesday Group**

*Art Hanamoto*

**9/24/2025** Terry H., Suzy H., Kiku K., June Y., Jean K., Beverly Y., Ed Y., Alice H., Lynne H., and Pastor Mitchell folded and labeled the Good News publication in preparation for mailing.

Additionally, Christine K., Nitaya Y., and Art H. 1) pulled weeds in the Chavez lot, 2) adjusted the outdoor security light timer at the corner of Sunday school building to lengthen the lighting period and 3) sanded the Advent candle table to prepare for refinishing.

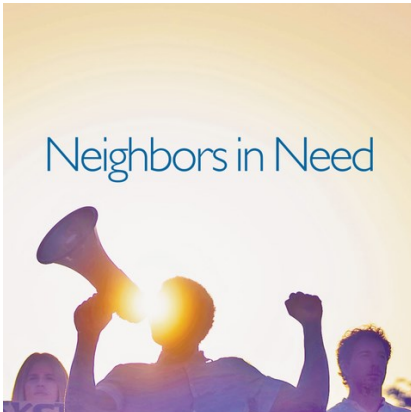
**10/1/2025** Christine K. and Nitaya Y. 1) watered the plants in all three parking lots, 2) pulled weeds in the Chavez lot, 3) removed wood stuck in the trash bin and 4) removed the rummage sale items from the Sunday School rooms in preparation for the sorting of the items on Friday.

**10/8/2025** Pastor Mitchell, Christine K., and Nitaya Y. 1) replanted the kumquat tree in Angel lot, 2) hosed down the sanctuary steps and Angel lot handicap ramp, 3) pulled weeds from both Angel and the Greenwood parking lots, 4) watered the plants in the Los Angeles and Greenwood parking lots and 5) broke down cardboard boxes to put in the blue recycle bin. After the rummage sale, some of the leftover rummage sale items were boxed to prepare them for following day pick up by the VA.

**10/17/2025** Nitaya Y., Alice H., Christine K., Frank E. (electrician), and Art H. 1) worked on the wiring to illuminate the exit sign in the sanctuary, 2) swept Mori Hall lanai, 3) swept and cleaned the Greenwood's gate track, 4) sanded the Advent candle table in preparation for refinishing, 5) organized items in the kitchen cabinets, 6) scraped, hosed, and cleaned up the shed next to the trash bin. This was done to prepare painting the shed and 7) temporarily sealed the Angel lot garden pipe draining water into the Greenwood parking lot. This was done to prevent dirt from spreading onto the Mori Hall lanai during a rainstorm.

**Special Offerings and Gifts**

Hanamoto, Lynne & Art	In Memory of Ron Tanimoto
Higashi, Alice	In Memory of Bob Miwa, Sets Shinto, & Ron T.
Katayama, Dave & Lori	Pilgrim Pines
Kawahara, E.	In Memory of Sets S. & Alyce Fujimoto
Kobashigawa, Kiku	In Memory of Sets S. & Carol Koshi
Sakamoto, Edith	In Memory of Ron T., Sets S., & Ron T.
Shima, Les & Judy	In Memory of Bob M.
Shinto, Richard	J.K. Fukushima Scholarship
Wada, Mari	In Memory of Bob Miwa
Watanabe, Carolyn	In Memory of Ron T.
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of Ron T., Bob M., & Lisa M.'s mother



**Neighbors in Need Offering**

We have been receiving your donations to support our UCC Neighbors in Need special mission offering since October. We are still receiving your contributions through November 9 (Envelope included with this newsletter issue.) Thank you for your generosity! The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

**Looking for Advent Reading Families...**

The new liturgical years begins with the First Sunday of Advent which falls on **November 30**.

Please contact Pastor Mitchell [myoung@montebelloucc.org](mailto:myoung@montebelloucc.org) or (323) 893-2672 if your family (whether by biological relation or other grouping) is willing to serve as Advent Candle Lighting Readers for any of the following services: November 30, December 7, 14, 21 or December 24 (Christmas Eve).



## Prayers of the People

### With deepest sympathy to the family/ies of:

- To the Families of Bob Miwa and Ron Tanimoto. Both of our church members who passed on Sept. 30th. Michi Tanimoto and Chris Chun thank you for surrounding Ron T. and Bob M. with your prayers.
- Lisa M.'s prayers for friend Denise in the passing of her Nino (godfather).

### 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.
- Karen P.'s prayer for healing and recovery for her friend's nephew, Daniel D., who is beginning chemotherapy for lymphoma.
- Kiku Y.'s recovery prayers for Albert L. who had a surgery for two hernias two weeks ago.
- Toni M.'s prayers for son Frank as he goes to teach at Schurr High School and prayers for everyone.
- Ivonne P.'s prayers for cousin Tony S. who is homebound and has a feeding tube.
- Maria M.'s prayers for today's youth. Prayers for God's guidance especially for her daughter Alexandra.
- Lynne H. lift up prayers for the people in the Philippines who had a large earthquake registered 6.9 near Cebu City and at least 100 people have perished.
- Christine K.'s prayers of healing for 7yrs. old Jaylen C. who has irregular heartbeat and currently doctors are running tests. Rosa C. who's diagnosed with breast cancer and for Lamar as she takes time from work to care for Rosa. Also, for Tom K. who had a stroke.
- Pastor Mitchell's prayers for all affected because of the earthquakes in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Chile.
- Sandra L.'s mother Jean F. in our prayers. Jean's condition has stabilized and the doctors are no longer concerned. She is still in hospice care.
- Lori K.'s healing prayers for Robert H. He has pancreatitis as well as other health issues and is generally not well.

### Traveling Mercies for:

- Toni and family as they travel to Mexicali to visit Toni's mom. For granddaughter Samantha as she travels to Colorado for her birthday. Also, prayers for daughter Brigitte and Juan.
- Carolyn W.'s son Keith and co-workers as they fly to Japan for work on Tuesday, Oct 21 and return on Thursday Oct. 30th.

### Thanksgiving:

- Lynne H.'s thanksgiving for the SoCal/Nevada PAAM UCC who hosted a music, dance, and talent event at the Live Oak UCC in Brea.
- Proud parents Sam and Jocelyn welcome baby Amara on September 29, 2025. Let us lift up prayers of joyful thanksgiving together with big sister Rumi, grandparents Ron and Annie, and uncle Rhys.
- Lori K.'s thanksgiving prayers for the C.E. Board who organized the trip to Pilgrim Pines "Apple Pie Day."

## November Birthday Celebrations

- 1 Frank Morales
- 1 Mitchel Yoshitake
- 4 Nitaya Young
- 5 Cory Matsuda
- 7 Ally Low
- 8 Tricia Tao
- 11 Darrell Yasukochi
- 10 Vance Sakado
- 13 Spencer Asakura
- 16 Asamiko Khowdee
- 16 Ton Kowdee
- 16 Wesley Okamoto
- 18 Melody Kinoshita
- 19 Lani Davies
- 21 Lauryn Togioka
- 21 Melody Tampoya
- 24 Kristin Fukushima
- 25 Caitlyn Kobata
- 27 Nami Kou
- 27 Mari Wada
- 28 Chelsie Yoshida
- 30 Michi Tanimoto

#### NOTE:

For prayer requests in the month of November e-mail the church office at [mpcc@montebelloucc.org](mailto:mpcc@montebelloucc.org) or call (323) 721-5568 by the Friday before the Sunday service to be included in the Pastoral Prayer.

## Save Used Stamps Update

### "Thank You"

We are trying to fill a new medium size priority postal box. Thank you to all who have been diligently collecting "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



## Brain Games for Any Age hosted by Keiro

Friday, November 7 from 10:00am-11:00am at Montebello Plymouth Church. This class will help stimulate memory skills, explore fun brain games, encourage cognitive activity, and more! This event is free for everyone. RSVP to Lynne Hanamoto [lynnekmoto@gmail.com](mailto:lynnekmoto@gmail.com)

*Keiro's Quality of Life Classes*

## Brain Games For Any Age

Discover fun and engaging ways to keep your brain sharp and healthy! This workshop will explore a variety of brain games, puzzles, and activities designed to test memory, improve focus, and enhance cognitive skills.

## Guest preacher for November 16: Rev. Jude Johnson, BCC



**Rev. Jude Johnson** (he/they) is a Board Certified Chaplain and Ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC). Jude received their Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion (Berkeley, CA), with a focus on the intersections of sexuality and religion. They served the Southern California Nevada Conference (SCNC) Board from 2021-2025, as vice-chair, and eventually as Board Chair. Jude currently serves as the Programs Manager at All-Options—a non-profit organization that provides direct service related to pregnancy, parenting, abortion, and adoption. The Talkline and Faith Aloud programs are national hotlines providing compassionate and confidential emotional and spiritual care to callers across the United States & Canada.

On October 17, 2025, the Pacific School of Religion honored Jude with a Distinguished Alumnx Award! Congratulations! We look forward to Rev. Jude sharing God's word with us!

*Last Month's Photos*




**October 1, 2025**  
**Visited the new location for Rafu Shimpo in Montebello**

**October 4, 2025**  
**Rummage Sale**



**October 12, 2025**  
**Pilgrim Pines "Apple Pie Day" Outing**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>NOTE:</b> Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.						<b>1</b> Celebration of Life Carol Koshi's @11am Sets Shinto's @2:30pm
<b>2</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> C.E. Board Meeting @11:30am <b>Holiday Food Drive</b>	<b>3</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>4</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>5</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Dance Class @7pm-9pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Choir Practice @10am
<b>9</b> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> Trustees/Diaconate Board Meeting	<b>10</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>11</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>12</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Choir Practice @10am
<b>16</b> <b>Guest Preacher Rev. Jude Johnson</b> Goodnews Due	<b>17</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm <b>Zoom Council Mtg @7:00pm</b>	<b>18</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>19</b> <b>Goodnews Mailing @9am</b> *Dance Class @7pm-9pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Choir Practice @10am
<b>23</b> HS/College Fellowship	<b>24</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>25</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>26</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Dance Class @7pm-9pm	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 1st Sunday of Advent						

<b>Coming in December 2025</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Election of Officers &amp; New Board Members</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Final Collection of Holiday Food Drive</b>
		<b>Christmas Pageant</b>
		<b>Pledge Dedication</b>
		<b>Annual Reports due</b>
	<b>24</b>	<b>Christmas Caroling</b>
	<b>26</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b>
	<b>29-31</b>	<b>Winter Ex Staff training</b>
		<b>Winter Exploration</b>

See our updated online calendar at:

<http://Montebelloucc.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](http://www.youtube.com/mpccucc)

\*Contact our Church Office for more info

