



Good News



Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church

A United Church of Christ

Sr. Pastor Rev. Mitchell Young

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"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." **Mark 9:35**

Servant GOATs

A historically Japanese-American church in Los Angeles, such as ours here in Montebello Plymouth, would of course have no shortage of LA Dodgers fans. It was after I preached about Jesus' disciples arguing about which of them was the greatest, that I found out that I missed a great sermon illustration opportunity. You see, I spent the good portion of the introduction of the sermon talking about the idea of being the "greatest": the disciples may have argued about it back in Jesus' time, but even in our own time and culture, we have to contend with arguments about who is the greatest.

In recent decades we have even come up with a term used to describe something or someone considered the best in a certain category. We might say Greatest Of All Time, frequently abbreviated G.O.A.T. or GOAT in popular lists of superlatives. An example of a purely subjective list is any ranking the G.O.A.T. at anything, from inventors and generals, to Presidents and athletes, and singers and rap artists. Similar subjective lists include such topics as "Best and Worst Dressed", "Most Beautiful Women of Hollywood", and "Sexiest Man Alive" (on which I have never been listed), named by People magazine annually since 1985.

It wasn't until after that service that I noticed several of our church members wearing Dodger fan clothing. As it turns out, three days earlier, baseball phenom Shohei Ohtani just did something that no other professional baseball player had ever done. During Thursday's Los Angeles Dodgers game versus the Miami Marlins, Ohtani became the first player to ever reach the elusive "50/50" milestone, which translates to hitting 50 home runs and stealing 50



As soon as I realized why they were wearing Dodgers outfits, I knew I needed to quickly change into my Dodger themed clergy stole (which I hadn't worn since our dear Dodger fan Chico Iguchi's memorial service) and take a picture with these fans. Unfortunately, Dodgers jersey-wearing Denise Wada got away before I could take the picture. However, I was still able to grab Glenn Hino and Ron Nitta. If had I worn the stole during the sermon and referred to Ohtani as a GOAT, I'm sure it would have driven the point home (base) very effectively with a chapel full of (mostly) Dodger fans. [I should have seen this coming last December when our Christmas Carolers sang the interpolated version of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" with new lyrics; since we don't want to sing "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, you'll go down in history (like Columbus)" anymore, they suggested changing it to "You'll go down in history (like Shohei!)"].

However, the point of the sermon message is that true greatness, according to Jesus, never puts itself in a position of superiority over another. It is not about me; my nation, my tribe, my people, my religion, my politics, my bank account, my house, my job, my reputation, my status, or my accomplishments—even dare I say, hitting 50 home runs or stealing 50 bases. Our greatness is revealed in our service and care of others regardless of their

ability or willingness to pay, repay, or return the favor. Greatness is found in the role of the servant of all, a role that is not forced upon you, but is willingly and humbly taken on oneself.

Perhaps this is a very timely reminder as we enter this election-cycle that even our own government leaders are called to serve others and not self. After all, we refer to all government workers and elected officials as public servants.

Even as music director Ida is reminded of Fred Roger's "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" song when we sing "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?", let us also be neighbor and servant to all, for we are all created in God's own image.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Mitchell

Worship Schedule

October 6

Holy Communion
Blessings of the Animals
"Hardness of Heart"
Mark 10:2-16

October 13

"Eye of a Needle"
Mark 10:17-31

October 20

"Ransom for Many"
Mark 10:35-45

October 27

"Take Heart"
Mark 10:46-52

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

In last month's Good News, I wrote about volunteering to serve on the many boards and committees of the church and I'm grateful that many of you stepped up to serve. We could still use a few more people, including the council clerk, so if you are willing to take minutes for the next year please let Ron Nitta know.

As we near the final, major, touches on the parking lot and wait for the city to complete our permits, I would like to say thank you to everyone who pitched in. Contributions to the building fund were crucial to the project. But also, time and energy in those who coordinated the entire process.

Looking forward to 2025, I would like to encourage everyone to join in the next phase of our vision plan by inviting family and friends to attend worship services and events at MPCC. We now have our parking lot, a more accessible ramp and other various improvements. Now, let's fill every seat.

Lastly, I hope you all took the time to complete the surveys which were distributed in September. The deadline to submit them is October 13th. If you didn't receive one please contact the church office and we can email one to you.

Enjoy this fall, the cooler weather it brings, and the season of joy and thanksgiving. Oh, and don't forget to vote.

Diaconate Board*Ron Nitta, chairperson*

This past month has been a very busy time for our Diaconate Board Members. Besides our normal duties, we have been active in the following ministry work. Nitaya has been busy with Bible Study classes every Tuesday morning (10:00am), except when we have "Food for the Soul". Nitaya is also busy with the Wednesday group tasks, were they clean and repair things in our church campus.

Pastor Mitchell has been active with visitations, plus, Zoom visitations with Ron and Mitchi Tanimoto. Pastor Mitchell along with his wife, Nitaya, visited Toni Martinez and her family in San Bernardino.

On Sunday, August 25th, our Church celebrated our 111th anniversary. We also had a triple dedica-

tion of our new Parking Lot area (Peace Pole, donated by Julianna and Nelson Chang, Angel's Lot, parking area in honor of our longtime neighbor, Angel Chavez, and Willetta Way drive-through connecting our main campus to south 10th Street, in honor of beloved interim minister, Rev. Willetta Helene).

Currently our board is preparing for World Communion, Blessing of Pets for Feast of Saint Francis, and collection of "Neighbors in Need" offering, on Sunday, October 6th.

Our board along with Council is also in preparation of our Southern California/Nevada United Church of Christ Conference Minister, Rev. Rachael Pryor's installation, which will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church.

Finally, I wish to express my deepest gratitude and thanks for all the prayers and "Get Well" cards I received during my surgery and recovery. Your best wishes and prayers got me through this difficult time of depression and healing. MPCC is my church family who I love dearly.

Wednesday Group*Bob Miwa*

8/21/24 Jean Kobata, Chistine Kizuka, Beverly Yoshida, Ed Yasuda, Alice Higashi, Suzy and Terry Hino, Ernie Agcaoili, Pastor Mitchell and Nitaya Young, Kiku Yamada, and Grace Sato folded and labeled the Good News for mailing. They cleaned and watered both parking lots, and swept the steps and lanai. Some took the task of making the bow for the upcoming ribbon cutting and dedication for our new parking lot on August 25.

8/28/24 Christine Kizuka, Alice Higashi, and Nitaya Young cleaned the shed by the parsonage ramp. They also swept the Greenwood parking lot to prepare it for repainting the parking space lines. Afterwards, they pulled weeds along the white fence of Angel Lot, weed whacked, and cleaned the parsonage yard and parkway.

8/29/24 Ernie Agcaoili, Grace Sato, and Nitaya Young painted the parking space lines on Greenwood parking lot. Pastor Mitchell took volunteers to lunch.

9/4/24 Ernie Agcaoili, Art and Lynne Hana-

moto, Grace Sato, Alice Higashi, Christine Kizuka, and Nitaya Young cleaned the alley way next to the Pastor's office. They also cleaned, swept, and watered the Los Angeles St. parking lot, weed whacked and cleaned 10th St. parkway, fixed plastic tables in Mori Hall, cleaned both glass doors of the sanctuary, organized kitchen cabinets and drawers, and scrubbed the kitchen counters. Thanks to Ed Yasuda for providing lunch for the volunteers.

9/11/24 Art and Lynne Hanamoto, Ernie Agcaoili, Alice Higashi, Christine Kizuka, and Nitaya Young swept and watered the Greenwood parkway and parking lot. They continued to fix the plastic tables in Mori Hall. Some covered graffiti on the black metal fences in Los Angeles parking lot. They also cleaned behind the shed in the Greenwood parking lot and organized cabinets in the kitchen.

9/18/24 Art and Lynne Hanamoto, Christine Kizuka, Ernie Agcaoili, Alice Higashi, and Nitaya Young trimmed bushes alongside of the Sunday School building, swept and cleaned Los Angeles St. parking lot and parkway, and sanded, nailed and prepared the outside door by the handicap ramp to Los Angeles St. parking lot door. They also swept the Greenwood parking lot and parkway. Afterwards, cleaned 23 plastic tables and the floor in Mori Hall.

9/20/24 Art and Nitaya covered 38 black cushion chairs in Mori Hall. They also sanded and painted the handicap door by Los Angeles st.



Art Hanamoto and Nitaya Young reupholstered all the padded chairs in Mori Hall!

Special Offerings and Gifts

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Hagihara, Yasuko | MPCC's 111th Anniversary |
| Hino, Terry & Suzy | In Memory of Chico Iguchi And Raymond Uyemura |
| Kobashigawa, Kiku | In Memory of Raymond U. and Min Higa |
| Mekata, Minnie | In Memory of Frances Tanouye |
| Sawka, Gary | In Memory of Grace Fujita Sawka |
| Wada, Mari | In Memory of Raymond Uyemura and In Celebration of Founder's Day |
| Yoshimi, Evelyn | In Memory of Shigehara Family and In Celebration of Founder's Day |
| Yoshida, Beverly | For Dil Ali's Good Health and MPCC's 111th Anniversary |



Altar Flowers

Sign-up sheets for Altar Flower donations for 2024 now available. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an event in the life of you 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. If you are paying by cash or check, please give payment to Christine Kizuka. (not the offering plate). Thank you for beautifying our worship space!

Prayers of the People

With deepest sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Christine K. and Lynne H. requested prayers for friend Wally T. and family for the passing of his wife Hideko.
- Lisa M. requested prayers for Helen F. (Ramon C.'s Great Aunt) who passed away last week.
- Lori K. requested prayers for her Aunt Aya who passed away on September 9.

Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Blessing for:

- We continue to lift up prayers for strength and health for Warren H., Bryan H., and Natasha Y.
- Gary S. asked prayers for wife Grace S. who is with the Lord. He remembered their 55th anniversary.
- Grace S. asked prayers for God's healing and recovery for Robert H. who had surgery.
- Congregation continued prayers for Carol K. who continues to be in hospice and is down to 42 pounds. Also, for Sara M. who takes care of Carol K. on weekends.
- Kiku Y. requested prayers for Janet I. for strength, health, and energy.
- Ivonne P. and Alice H. requested prayers for Natasha Y. for strength and health.
- Edith and Howard S. have sold their home after 60 years of raising their kids, and will be transitioning to independent living. They requested prayers for a smooth transition into their new living arrangements.
- Joe P. requested prayers for daughter Marlena who was hit by a truck, and now recovering at home.
- Kiku Y. requested prayers for son Ryan Y. who is battling with depression.
- The Wednesday volunteer group invites you to join them in praying for healing for Grace as she recovers from 2 sprained wrists.
- Jan F. requested healing prayers for mother of Michelle R. who is 90 years old and declining.
- Lori K. requested prayers for sister Eileen who caught a cold but is hoping to make it to her Aunt Aya's funeral.
- Ku'ulei P. requested healing prayers for grandson Hoipo B. who had his left big toe removed.
- Bob M. requested prayers for all the firefighters who were injured and have been battling all the recent wild fires.
- Frank M. requested prayers for granddaughter who is going thru difficult times with four kids.

Traveling Mercies for:

- Melody T. requested travel mercy for her three sons, JD, Justin, and Daniel.
- Mac R. requested travel Mercy for family Briones (Niece's family: Daryl, Wadi, and Nathan) going back to Canada.
- Maria M. requested travel mercy prayers for sister Gabriela and her family, who are in Hawaii for one week.

Thanksgiving:

- Sandra L. requested prayers of thanksgiving for son Daniel and wife Regina L. How the typhoon affected them, and according to Daniel. "It was actually pretty light; it was like a regular rainstorm."
- Vance S. requested prayers for father. It has been 1 year of Mitch S. being with the Lord.
- Toni M. offers prayers of thanksgiving to God for celebrating June's and upcoming birthdays, also gives thanks to Pastor and Nitaya for visiting them in San Bernardino.
- Melody T. requested thanksgiving prayers for her mother Natividad in celebration on her happy birthday.
- Lynne H. requested thanksgiving prayers for her mother Jane who turned 92nd but feels like 16th.

October Birthday Celebrations

- 4 Julie Tapia
- 5 Czarina Alimboyao
- 6 Mary Ishibashi
- 6 Julianna Chang
- 9 Kyle Tabata
- 10 Samantha Bedolla
- 10 Ben Fujita
- 10 Daniel Low
- 12 Ed Fujita
- 14 Midori Hamabe
- 16 Irene Hagihara
- 20 Tyler Yamada
- 21 Denise Bender
- 26 Helen Oyakawa
- 28 Bing Purisima
- 29 Mike Phillips
- 29 Annie Yamasaki
- 30 Michi Lew
- 31 Art Hanamoto
- 31 Carolyn Watanabe
- 31 Lori Katayama

NOTE:

For prayer requests in the month of October e-mail Pastor Mitchell at my-oung@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"

To all who have been diligently collecting "used stamps" Thank you! Since more people use email or text to communicate, stamp use is less common. Last year, I started another box to mail to Japan, but have only been able to fill 2/3 of the box. Nonprofit stamps are also collected.

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



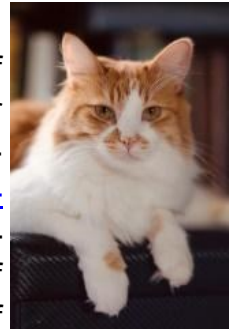
FALL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Blessing of the Animals for the Feast of St. Francis

"Chewey"

All are invited to send a picture of your furry, feathered, scaly, or shelled friends (animals, not husbands) to Pastor Mitchell at myoung@montebelloucc.org for inclusion in our annual Blessing of the Animals which will be part of our worship service and broadcast for **Sunday, October 6**. With the picture, please include name of pet and your name. (If your animal friend has passed away in this past year, we also want to include a special prayer of thanksgiving for them as well.) Please send pictures by **Wednesday, October 2**. God bless the beasts and the children!



Fall Clean-Up

Sunday, October 20, 2024

Immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service

Feel free to "dress down" for worship so we can get our hands dirty to clean our church campus. Light lunch will be served after we clean. Come join in the stewardship of our church facilities!

OBENTO FUNDRAISER

October 27

Pre-order **\$20** by Oct. 20

Obento Fundraiser October 27

Obento Fundraiser - October 27th Pre-order by **Sunday, Oct. 20th \$20 per box**. Each box includes Futomaki, Inari, Salmon, Chicken Teriyaki, Saikyo Miso, Kinpira, and desserts. Contact Christine K. at tinko5@yahoo.com or call (323) 269-2467 and leave a message. Please indicate how many orders and if you are picking up the orders or eating at Church or you can sign-in on the preorder sheet in Mori Hall.

New Parking Lot Dedication August 25



The Chavez Family joined us for our Parking lot dedication (Angel's lot).



Ribbon cutting by Mari Wada with the help of Fernando Tavares from the Tavares Construction.



Nelson and Julliana Chang donated the Peace Pole.



Sun
Mon
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri
Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------|---|------------------------------------|
| | | 1 Bible Study @10am | 2 Wednesday Group @9am *Dance Class @4pm | 3 | 4 Rummage Sale Sorting 4-7pm | 5 Rummage Sale 8-10am |
| NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information. | | | | | | |
| 6 Holy Communion Blessings of the Animals C.E. Board Meeting | 7 *Japanese Class @2pm | 8 Bible Study @10am | 9 Wednesday Group @9am *Dance Class @4pm | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting | 14 *Japanese Class @2pm | 15 Bible Study @10am | 16 Wednesday Group @9am *Dance Class @4pm | 17 | 18 | 19 Halloween Party 6-9PM |
| 20 Church Clean-Up Goodnews Due Last day to Pre-order Obento | 21 *Japanese Class @2pm | 22 Bible Study @10am | 23 Goodnews Mailing *Dance Class @4pm | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Council Meeting Obento Fundraiser | 28 *Japanese Class @2pm | 29 "Food for the Soul" Fellowship @10am | 30 Wednesday Group @9am *Dance Class @4pm | 31 | | |

**Coming in
November
2024**

**9
24**

Youth Outing to APU's "Night of Champions"
Budget Hearing
Posting Slate of Officers
Thanksgiving Sunday

See our updated online calendar at:

<http://Montebelloucc.org>

Join us for our **Virtual & In-Person Worship Service on**

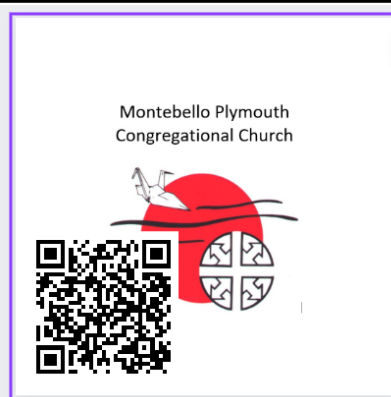
Sundays at 10 a.m. :

YouTube Livestream

Subscribe to our Youtube page to watch our
latest videos

(www.youtube.com/mpccucc)

*Contact our Church Office for more info



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