



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

September 2025

Volume XLIV No. IX

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

Fresh Voices in the Pulpit

Although I have not widely said this to the wider MPCC family, I have been mentioning informally to a few of you as well as to our church leadership that especially in the final 2 years of my pastorate here with you in Montebello, I have been trying to take advantage of my Sundays away, whether for wider church meetings, other church business, 5th Sundays off, or vacation, to fill our MPCC pulpit with some fresh voices so that you can see that there is a lot of promising pastoral leadership out there. I've been inviting preachers from our Fukushima Scholarship recipients, next generation clergy in Southern California Nevada Conference UCC, as well as recent seminary graduates: a few of them are ordained while others are on-track toward ordination.

So far in 2025, you've heard Phifer (Feb.23), Bernard (June 22), and Veronica (Aug. 24); for the rest of 2025 you'll get to hear Gillian (Sept.7), Krystin (Sept.14), and Jude (Nov. 16). Dare I say, they all have more and varied ministry experience than I had when I was at their stage of ministry.

All of this being said, I should have anticipated hearing comments from a few of you whether you were being facetious or questioning in all seriousness: "Are these preachers auditioning to be our next pastor?" To this, I need to be clear that they are NOT auditioning! In our tradition, it would actually be unethical and not in the best interest of the congregation for the outgoing pastor to groom or choose their successor. The church is not about the pastor and their legacy, but rather about who God is calling each generation of the congregation to be.

Therefore, if through exposure to these new pastoral voices, our congregation begins asking questions of themselves about the kind of church we've been and the kind of church we're prayerfully discerning God wants us to be, then I would have felt that there is value in bringing talented voices in our Montebello pulpit. I am excited by the kind of energy these new preachers bring into the MPCC pulpit as possible in my final year with you.

For the first two Sundays in September, I will be away on vacation in Thailand with my family. (Nitaya's mother Chom passed away earlier this year and this will be our first time seeing our Thai family since then.) Thank you for your pray-

ers along the way and we look forward to seeing you mid-September!

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Mitchell

Worship Schedule

September 7

Holy Communion
Guest Speaker Gillian Colcol-Garcia
"Estimate the Cost"
Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Guest Speaker Krystin Bruan
"Joy in Heaven"
Luke 15:1-10

September 21

"An Accounting"
Luke 16:1-13

September 28

"Comfort and Agony"
Luke 16:19-31

A Message from our Moderator...

Lori Katayama

Although we experienced several hot days this summer, we managed to stay in the comfortable 80s and below. I was receiving occasional updates from family and friends across the country saying that their night time low temps were the equivalent of our daytime high temp. My sister Eileen in Arizona was thankful to be here for a good part of the summer catching up with church friends, helping at Summer Ex, and enjoying our "cool" weather. (Arizona had an average of 105+ degrees!). The nice weather helped with our many activities – Super Sunday and the Church Picnic in July, the Family Picnic and Packing Party in August to name a few.

We also enjoyed a fun and very plentiful potluck celebration for Pastor Mitchell's birthday. Thank you to everyone who cooked, decorated, cleaned up, sang and played ukulele. We wish him many more birthday celebrations to come.

Coming up on October 11th, I encourage you to sign up for the Pilgrim Pines Apple Pie Day. For those who have never been, Pilgrim Pines Camp is roughly an hour and a half away in Yucaipa. This UCC affiliated camp has been in existence since 1957 (just a year older than me!) and MPCC has had many wonderful experiences there. A sign up sheet will be in Mori Hall with more information. Transportation is being arranged. Don't miss out!

As we transition to fall, I pray that we all stay safe and connected. Come to church to retain that connectedness and worship together in the spirit of Christ.

A Message from our Treasurer...

Bien Reyes

Financial Summary - July 2025

	Month	YTD
Total Income:	\$15,757.76	\$157,033.58
Total Expenses:	\$21,697.21	\$149,732.71
Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$5,939.45)	\$7,300.87

Christian Education Board

Steven Woo, chairperson

The school year is starting and we would love to have your children in Sunday school to start the year! We distributed school supplies to the community on Rally Sunday. We had our first picnic at a park since switching it to the church a while ago. We decided to have the picnic at Acuna park in Montebello, which is a little closer to the church and has fewer hills. Parking seemed pretty good since it was in the morning

and right by our tables. It was a great turn out. We had around 25 people and provided lunch and games like badminton and corn hole. We plan to continue the picnic at a park next year. Upcoming in September, we plan to have an event, although we are not ready to announce it yet. Stay tuned!

Wednesday Group

Art Hanamoto

7/23/2025 Jean K., Alice H., June Y., Pastor Mitchell, Kiku K., Suzy H., Terry H., Ernie A., Ed Y., and Lynne H., folded and labeled the Good News for mailing.

Christine K., Nitaya Y., and Art H. 1) sorted and took items to the recycling center, 2) cleaned two barbecue grills, 3) swept and watered the plants in the Greenwood and Los Angeles parking lots, 4) removed weeds and added compost to the trees in the Angel lot, and 5) weed-wacked the parsonage yard and 10th Street parkway.

7/30/2025 Christine K., Ernie A., Alice H., Nitaya Y., Lynne H., and Art H. 1) rearranged the Sunday School class rooms, 2) cleaned up and organized items on the stage in Mori Hall for the October rummage sale, 3) repotted a plant in front of the sanctuary, 4) removed weeds around the sprinkler heads in the Greenwood parkway, 5) watered the plants in the Greenwood, Los Angeles, and Angel parking lots, 6) removed weeds from the flower bed near the Mori Hall restrooms, 7) reattached the Exit sign to the wall in the chapel, and 8) arranged the items in the kitchen draws and cabinets.

8/13/2025 Alice H., Christine K., Ernie A., Lynne H., Art H., and Nitaya Y. 1) swept and trimmed a tree in the Los Angeles parking lot, 2) swept and watered the plants in the Greenwood parking lot, 3) scrubbed the two tables located in the kitchen, 4) changed the hose connection to a garden hose reel, 5) cut out letters from felt cloth for a new Christmas craft banner, and 6) scrubbed the toilets located in the women's restroom in the chapel and the restrooms inside of Mori Hall.



**Love of Neighbor,
Love of Children,
Love of Creation**

*The United Church of Christ
has a vision of a just world
for all. In this world all are
welcomed, everyone is
loved and justice is inherent.*

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.

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.

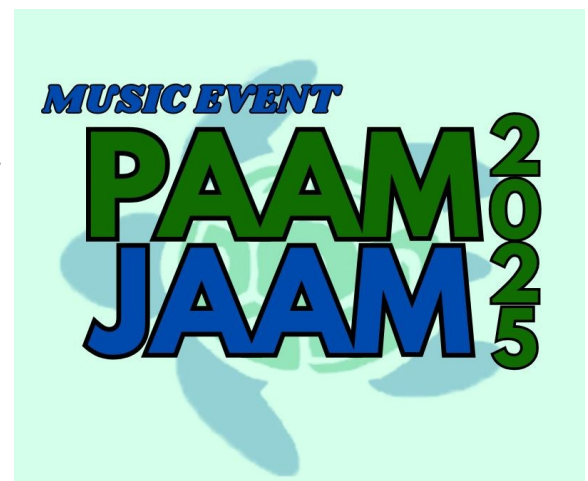
Special Offerings and Gifts

Adams, Joan	Thanksgiving for Akemi's scholarship
Hanamoto, Art & Lynne	In Memory of Mits M. & Henry W.
Iwata, Harold & Carol	In Memory of Alyce Fujimoto
Kawamoto, Kiko	In Memory of Alyce F., Nati Mata, & Nancy Matsuda
Sakamoto, Edith	In Memory of Carol Koshi & Alyce F.
Shima, Les & Judy	In Memory of Nancy M.
Yasuda, Ed	In Memory of Carol K.
Yoshida, Beverly	In Memory of Ray Y. & Hichi S.
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of Carol K., Alyce F., & Aunt T. Summer Ex
Young, Nitaya	Family Fund



Pastor Mitchell will be on vacation September 1-19. In case of pastoral care emergencies, please contact **Rev. Donald Shenk** (San Marino Congregational UCC) at (818) 726-7196.

PAAM (Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries) of SoCal Nevada Region of the UCC invites you to a music event PAAM JAAM 2025 on Saturday, September 27, at Live Oak UCC at 10:00am. Come see or join our MPCC group perform. There will be a fellowship and a small pot-luck afterwards. Donation is also collected at this event. Contact Lynne Hanamoto for details.



Prayers of the People

With deepest sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Pastor Mitchell Y. saddened to report to everyone that Alyce F. has passed away at the age of 99 years.
- Nancy M. our dear friend who passed away peacefully on July 12th at 92yrs. old.
- Natividad M. Melody's mother passed away in the Philippines on August 4th.

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.
- Carolyn W. asks for prayers for niece, Jessica E. for strength, healing, and a successful 3rd cornea transplant.
- Ron and Michi T. since last week's surgery, Ron has been discharged back to the skilled nursing facility and continues the antibiotics for the pneumonia and wound.
- Christine K. asks for continued prayers for Dianne M. as she recovers from 2nd surgery.
- Julie T. asks prayers for grandparents, Rosalba and Ramon.
- Maria M. requested concern prayers for friend Aline Marisela G. her kidneys are shrinking and she's in need of donors.
- Frank M. for feeling so tired lately.
- Christine K. requested prayers of healing for friend Brenda T.
- Kiku Y. e-mail from Minako O. from Japan. She will have another surgery for recurrence breast cancer on August 15th. Also, prayers for son Ryan who is looking for a high school teaching position.

Traveling Mercies for:

- Carolyn W. requested travel mercy prayers for son Keith and co-workers who will be traveling to Utah for work. Also, travel mercy for granddaughter, Ashley and friends as they go to Las Vegas.

Thanksgiving:

- Toni M. lifts up birthday prayers for Damian, Javier, and for herself... and of course Toni lifts up prayers for everyone.
- Melody T. lift up a thanksgiving prayer for son Daniel who moved here from the Philippines.
- Lynne H. lift up thanksgiving prayers for great excursion with the Cub Scouts and friends. Also, friend Doug turned 101 years.
- Ivonne P. lift up thanksgiving prayers for David and Joelle who found a new house in Covina.
- Mamie and Wes O. happily announced that daughter Julianna is expecting!
- Maria M. requested thanksgiving for CE Board for a great picnic outing and we enjoyed the fellowship, games, stories, and food.

September Birthday Celebrations

4	Kayla Reger
7	Wendy Correa
7	Ned Tsunekawa
8	Eileen Mitsueda
10	Jerry Fujita
11	Joe Palacios
11	Enzo Kou
11	Raul Martinez
13	Kenzo Khowdee
15	Thomas Togioka
16	Danielle Kou
17	Mai Hino
17	Carol Koshi
18	Jane Kubota
20	Davy Low
20	Janice Rodan
20	Josiah Palacios
21	Chris Chun
23	Lily Sakado
23	Harold Iwata
23	Sydney Sakamoto
25	Kimo Endo
26	Brenton Inouye
27	Evelyn Hashizume
28	Krystyna Matsuda

NOTE:

For prayer requests in the month of September e-mail the church office at 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



Guest preacher for September 7: Gillian Colcol-Garcia



Gillian Garcia (she/her/hers) graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2025 with a Master of Divinity degree. She also serves as the Program Coordinator for Fuller's Center for Asian American Theology and Ministry and a Pastoral Intern

at Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles. She lives in Azusa with her spouse Bernard, but was born and raised in the Philippines. Bernard and Gillian have been happily married for six years now.

Guest preacher for September 14: Krystin Bruan



Krystin Bruan is a second-generation Filipina-American and pursuing her M.Div. at Fuller Theological Seminary. She works with Fuller's Asian American Center, supporting the launch of the Asian American Christian History Institute, affectionately known as "AACHI". She is a third culture adult who's been shaped by life in Madrid, Shanghai, Philippines, and New York, she cares deeply about faith that's rooted and responsive to her Asian-American and Filipino culture. Before seminary, she mentored students at her alma mater, NYU, served the local church and led a network of Christian philanthropists in New York City. She was the Board Chair of a soul care ministry based in Manhattan's Chinatown which was founded and led by Asian American women. Outside of work, Krystin serves as a caretaker for her elders and collects family stories and recipes in hopes of creating a family cookbook.



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 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. Thank you for beautifying our worship space!

Last Month's Photos

**Family Outing Picnic at Acuna Park
Montebello August 9, 2025**



**Pastor Mitchell's Birthday Potluck
August 17, 2025**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Office Closed (Labor Day)</i>	2 Bible Study @10am	3 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	4	5	6 Choir Practice @10am
	Pastor Mitchell on Vacation					
7 Holy Communion Guest Speaker Gillian Garcia C.E. Board Meeting @11:30am	8 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	9 Bible Study @10am	10 Wednesday Group @8am	11	12	13 Choir Practice @10am
	Pastor Mitchell on Vacation					
14 Guest Speaker Krystin Bruan Trustees/Diaconate Board Meeting @11:30am	15 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	16 Bible Study @10am	17 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	18	19	20 Choir Practice @10am
	Pastor Mitchell on Vacation					
21 Council Meeting @11:30am Goodnews Due	22 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	23 Bible Study @10am	24 Goodnews Mailing @9am *Dance Class @7pm	25	26	27 PAAM JAAM @Live Oak UCC
28 Board Budget's Due	29	30 Bible Study @10am	<div> NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information. </div>			

**Coming in
October
2025**

**4
5
11
25**

**Fall Rummage Sale
Blessing of the Animals/Neighbors in Need Offering
Apple Pie Day @Pilgrim Pines
Halloween Party**

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

