



*“All who believed were together and had all things in common.” Acts 2:44*

**A Season of New Beginnings and Gratitude**

Dear Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church Family,

As we gather the red streamers and other Spirit symbols from our joyous Pentecost celebrations and we step into the bright, warm days of June (likely with a touch of SoCal “June Gloom”), our hearts are naturally drawn to new beginnings. This is a special season in the life of our church where we honor both our graduates taking their next steps into the future and the fathers and father figures who have guided us with wisdom and love.

But this June brings an especially profound milestone for us to reflect upon. As you may know, I am currently navigating my final two months as your senior pastor. Looking out at this beautiful, multiracial, and multicultural congregation here in Montebello, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to God for the past 21 years we have spent together in ministry.

We have walked through life's joys and sorrows hand-in-hand. We have worshipped, laughed, cried, and served our wider community together. While my tenure here in Southern California is coming to a close, our time together remains an enduring testament to God's love and the power of unity.

As we celebrated the Holy Spirit rushing through the early Church at Pentecost, let us remember that the body of Christ is not defined by one building or one pastor. It spans the globe, connecting us all in one unending chain of grace. Our local church family—rooted right here on Greenwood Avenue—has always been a brilliant reflection of this global connection, welcoming everyone with open arms.

Let us carry the fire of the Holy Spirit with us as we look toward the future. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, the bonds we have forged will continue to stretch across the body of Christ worldwide.

With Abundant Love and Blessings,  
Pastor Mitchell

**Worship Schedule**

**June 7**

Holy Communion  
“Still Calling the Unlikely”  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 14**

Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers  
and  
Guest speaker Rev. Erin Beardemphl  
“The Harvest is Plentiful”  
Matthew 9:35-10:8

**June 21**

Father's Day Breakfast and  
Youth-led Service  
“Counted and Courageous”  
Matthew 10:24-39

**June 28**

Summer Ex Staff Dedication  
“A Cup of Cold Water”  
Matthew 10:40-42

**A Message from our Moderator...**

*Lori Katayama*

In this June 2026 issue of the Good News, you will find an invitation to Pastor Mitchell's farewell activities set for August 2nd. I wish to clarify a few things and hopefully answer some of your questions.

Firstly, Pastor Mitchell's last day preaching and sharing his ministry with our congregation will be on Sunday, July 26th. We invite you to attend worship that day and also join in a potluck luncheon immediately following the worship service. A sign up sheet for potluck items will be in Mori Hall.

Sunday August 2nd is a two-part event. Worship and communion will begin at 10am with Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young officiating. She will be the first of many guest speakers to fill our pulpit as we begin our search for a new senior pastor. A coffee hour fellowship will immediately follow the service as usual, however, we ask for your help to prepare Mori Hall for the Celebration of Ministry that will begin at 3pm in the J.K. Fukushima Chapel. The celebration will be catered and the meal will begin at 4pm. Volunteers who wish to bring desserts may sign up in Mori Hall. We will also need some help with cleanup afterwards.

Lastly, I wish to thank everyone who participated in the "Grateful in All Things" Tea for our special guest of honor Nitaya Young. A special word of gratitude to all the hostesses who made it a beautiful and tasty event: Mac Reyes, BJ Woo, Eileen Mitsueda, Edith Sakamoto, Kiko Kawamoto, Kiku Yamada and Suzy Hino, Denise Wada, Ann Mori-Shimizu, and Annie Yamasaki. Thanks also to: our AV person Steven Woo, additional sweets brought by Mac Reyes and Kiku Yamada, music by Eileen Mitsueda, and video creator BJ Woo.

**A Message from our Treasurer...**

*Bien Reyes*

**Financial Summary - April 2026**

	Month	YTD
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$18,074.00	\$87,093.62
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$20,811.41	\$93,430.77
<b>Surplus/(Deficit):</b>	(\$2,737.41)	(\$6,337.15)

**Christian Education Board**

*Steven Woo, chairperson*

We hope all the mothers and women enjoyed their Mother's day breakfast. Thank you to the church men for cooking and the youth for leading worship service.

We will have a Father's day breakfast on June 21st so fathers, please come and enjoy!

Congratulations again to our graduates this year. We hope you enjoy your summer and good luck on your future endeavors! Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, especially Nitaya who will be leaving before the school year starts in the fall. Thank you to our music director, Ida, and Pastor Mitchell for leading bible study.

**Diaconate Board**

*Lynne Hanamoto*

Thank you for supporting the UCC Special Offering Strengthen the Church which reflects our shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to raise funds to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ, our participation helps our connections with the wider church, and creates possibilities for the church of tomorrow.

As we go into the summer months, we hope you will continue to join us in worship and invite our neighbors and friends to our church.

**Members-At-Large**

*Evelyn Yoshimi & Ron Yamasaki*

Again, we'd like to remind people to silence their phones and any other devices (like smart watches) during service.

We've been asked to remind people using microphones to turn away from it when coughing or clearing your throat and to not tap or scratch the head of the microphone.

Update to the women's restroom in the Sunday School wing, the smaller stall's door has been changed to allow easier access.

**Wednesday Group**

*Art Hanamoto*

**4/22/2026** Terry H., Suzy H., Kiku K., Alice H., Ernie A., Jean K., June Y., Lynne H., and Pastor Mitchell folded, labeled, and mailed the Good News publication.

Additionally, Mike Y., Christine K., and Nitaya Y. 1) trimmed two trees near the Greenwood parking lot, 2) cleaned the lanai and sanctuary steps, and 3) watered plants in the Greenwood parkway and outside the Mori Hall restrooms.

**4/29/2026** Christine K., Nitaya Y., Ernie A., and Mike Y. 1) installed two new handles on the women's restroom stall doors in the Sunday School wing, 2) made covers for the sanctuary piano and the large screen monitor in Mori Hall, 3) returned the partition to the nursery room, 4) trimmed three trees along the Greenwood parking lot, and 5) cleaned the electric saw.

**5/6/2026** Christine K., Nitaya Y., Ernie A., Mike Y., Lynne H., and Art H. 1) trimmed trees along the Greenwood parking lot, 2) pulled weeds in the Angel parking lot, and 3) organized items in the kitchen cabinets and drawers.

**5/13/2026** Alice H., Nitaya Y., Christine K., Lynne H., and Art H. 1) organized the Sunday School and nursery rooms, 2) placed bricks along the walkway outside the Sunday School rooms to keep dirt from spilling onto the sidewalk, 3) removed two succulents in the Los Angeles parking lot, and 4) trimmed trees in the Los Angeles parking lot.

**Join us for Special Worship Service on June 14**

**The Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers** are an enthusiastic group of singers who love not only to learn new songs, but to share those songs with whoever has ears to hear. Peppermint Ridge serves about 100



adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities who live in a community of 11 houses, ensuring that all who live here are able to be happy, healthy, safe, and fulfilled. They have traveled all over Southern California, performing for UCC churches and sharing their gifts.



Rev. Erin Beardemphl is a liturgical artist and Honorary Minister for Arts and Worship at Redlands United Church of Christ. She is a regular contributor to the Living Psalms Project of the United Church of Christ, and was a featured artist of the "52 Project" at

**Special Offerings and Gifts**

Kobashigawa, Kiku	In Memory of Frank M.'s sister and Lori K.'s cousin
Murakami, Irene	In Memory of Bob M.
Tsunekawa, Jean & Glenn	In Celebration of Mari's 101st birthday & In Memory of Meg Hamabe
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Celebration of Mari M., Kuni K., and Yoshi K.'s birthday, Mother's day, & Pastor's retirement

the Riverside Art Museum in 2019. Her ministries change and evolve over time, but her first love is teaching others how to find their own spirituality in artistic and creative experiments. Currently, Pastor Erin also serves as Spiritual Support Counselor for the Peppermint Ridge community.

**Pastor Mitchell's Farewell**

Please save these important dates leading up to Pastor Mitchell and family's departure.

**June 6 (Saturday)** - Pastor Mitchell's last Bazaar at MPCC. Join us for a fun day of food and entertainment. Please contact Lynne Hanamoto to pre-order food.

**July 11 (Saturday)** - MPCC's Annual Church Picnic will feature one of Pastor Mitchell's favorites - the taco man. More details to follow.

**July 26** - Pastor Mitchell's last day preaching from the pulpit. A potluck luncheon will follow immediately following worship.

**August 2** - Pastor Mitchell's Farewell Party will begin at 3pm with a special service in the Fukushima Chapel followed by a catered meal. RSVP is required. More info to follow.

***\*We only have 8 Sundays left with Pastor Mitchell\****



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

- Mike and Ivonne P.'s prayers of comfort and consolation for the Revs. William and Stephanie Growder's family whose 21-year old son Sollomon, expected to graduate from Howard University, was found deceased after being reported missing on April, 28.
- Maria Teresa M.'s prayers of comfort for the family of her sister, Sandra, who passed away in Mexico Wednesday morning.
- Ann M.'s prayers for Adam, father of two young children who lost his battle to cancer at 40 years old.

**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.
- Maria Teresa M.'s prayers for her son's co-worker, Sarai, who slipped and hit her head.
- Ron N.'s prayers for Rev. Ernie R.'s brother who suffered a heart attack. He just finished having foot amputated. Ernie will be traveling to the Philippines.
- The White house correspondence dinner that was cancelled after an active shooter. We pray for peace and for all who were involved in the trauma.
- We continue to pray for Rosa M. as she transitions to the rehab center for physical and occupational therapy.
- Lori K.'s prayers of healing for sister Eileen. Eileen has a leg wound that isn't healing properly.
- Jay and Jan F.'s prayers for friend Emmet who will be entering a procedure to replace dialysis port.
- Ida G.'s prayers for her family and herself.

**Traveling Mercies:**

- For Carolyn W.'s son, Keith and family as he drives up north to attend his daughter's graduation on May 20. Also, for Carolyn's daughter-in-law Loreen and Carolyn's granddaughter Emi as they fly back.
- Beverly Y.'s prayers for Kay and Paul S. as they fly to Rhode Island on May 22 to attend their grandson's graduation from Brown University and return on May 25.
- Joe P.'s prayers for Rose as she travels to Colorado to be with her dad.

**Thanksgiving:**

- Maria M.'s thanksgiving for a wonderful tea party on April 25, to honor Nitaya Y. Also, thanksgiving to our MPCC congregation for praying for her and her sister's family.
- Mike and Yvonne P.'s prayer of thanksgiving on behalf of their grandson, Neranti, as he graduates summa cum laude in Computer Sciences from Howard University.
- Lynne H.'s thanksgiving and joy prayers for Julie and David for their new baby boy Xaven, who was born on May 5th.
- Christine K.'s prayers of thanksgiving for Yoshi K. who is turning 105 years old today, May 17.
- Ann M.'s prayers for mother, Mari, who turned 101. Thanksgiving for her good health.

**June  
Birthday  
Celebrations**

<b>2</b>	Noah Leal
<b>3</b>	Xander Tapia
<b>4</b>	Kassidy Hata
<b>4</b>	Harry Koshi
<b>5</b>	Avery Hino
<b>7</b>	Aaron Katayama
<b>7</b>	Ramon Pablico
<b>8</b>	Everett Iwata
<b>9</b>	Maggie Mada
<b>13</b>	Cary Tanaka
<b>14</b>	Lynn Higa
<b>14</b>	June Togioka
<b>18</b>	Dori Kaneoka
<b>20</b>	Albert Leal
<b>23</b>	Jose Bedolla
<b>24</b>	Jim Tanouye
<b>24</b>	Xavier Tapia
<b>30</b>	Sachi Fujita

**NOTE:**

**For prayer requests in the month of June 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



**FATHER'S DAY Breakfast**

**June 21, 2026**

**@8:30am**

*Retirement and Farewell Celebration  
for Reverend Mitchell Young*

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026  
10:00am Worship and Communion Service  
with Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young officiating**



**3:00pm Celebration of Ministry**

**Reception immediately following**

**Sign up in Mori Hall or**

**Email your RSVP directly to**

**[moderator@montbelloucc.org](mailto:moderator@montbelloucc.org)**

**Kindly respond by July 5, 2026**

Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Convocation

**Josiah Generation:  
Going Deeper In Faith**

**Irvine UCC, CA**

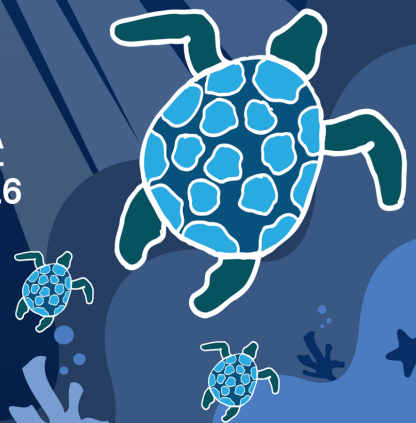
**June 24-27, 2026**



Official Website



Facebook page



**Summer Exploration 2026 "In the Right Place"**

**Registration deadline June 7**

**Summer Ex Staff Dedication Sunday, June 28**

**Dates: July 6-19**

**July 19 Summer Ex Sunday**



**May 3 PAAM Sunday**



**May 10 Mother's Day Youth-led service**



**May 16 SoCal Youth/YA meet-up at Huntington beach (MPCC, MOUCC, LAFUCC, & Faith Community Church)**

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	<b>1</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>2</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>3</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Dance Class @7pm	<b>4</b> Wonton Prep @10am	<b>5</b> Bazaar Prep @10am Setup @4pm	<b>6</b> Annual Bazaar
<b>7</b> Holy Communion	<b>8</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>9</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>10</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Jetts/Jets Meeting @7pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers & Guest speaker Rev. Erin Beardemphl	<b>15</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>16</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>17</b> <b>Wednesday Group @8am</b> *Dance Class @7pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Father's Day Breakfast &amp; Youth-led Worship</b> Goodnews deadline	<b>22</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>23</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>24</b> <b>Goodnews Mailing @9am</b> *Dance Class @7pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Summer Ex Staff dedication	<b>29</b> *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	<b>30</b> Bible Study @10am	<b>PAAM Convocation @Irvine UCC</b> 			
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <small>NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.</small> </div>			

<b>Coming in</b>	<b>June 29-3</b>	<b>Summer Ex Staff Training</b>	
	<b>6</b>	<b>Summer Ex begins</b>	<b>See our updated online calendar at:</b>  <a href="http://Montebelloucc.org">http://Montebelloucc.org</a>
<b>July</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Church Family Picnic</b>	
	<b>19</b>	<b>Summer Ex Sunday</b>	
<b>2026</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Pastor Mitchell's last day of preaching</b>	
		<b>Potluck</b>	

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

