



Good News



Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ

Sr. Pastor Rev. Mitchell Young
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October 2025

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"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" Psalm 150:6

Blessing of Animals Live!

As the leaves begin to turn and the autumn air cools, we approach the cherished feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th. This day is a powerful reminder of our call to be stewards of God's creation, a vocation perfectly exemplified by Francis, our brother in Christ. His deep and tender love for all living things—birds, animals, and the earth itself—inspires us to recognize and celebrate the divine spark present in every creature.

This celebration also calls us to deeper reflection on our role as human beings. God entrusted us with the care of creation, and we are called to a relationship with all living things based on mercy and stewardship, not cruelty and exploitation. The gentle presence of our pets in our homes helps us understand this responsibility in a personal way, mirroring the faithfulness that God offers to us. Through this blessing, we can pray for a more compassionate heart—for our pets and for all creatures, especially those that are suffering or neglected. We pray to become better advocates for the defenseless and to grow in our appreciation for the rich diversity of life God has created.

It is in this spirit that we continue our tradition of holding a special Blessing of Animals. Since this will be my final time sharing this special ritual with you (as I retire at the end of July 2026), I would like to take moderator Lori's suggestion to have this year's animal blessing with an open invitation to bring ani-

mal friends onto our church campus for in-person blessing, as opposed to how we have been doing it in the past with simply with pictures and/or names, to be sensitive to our worshippers who may have animal dander or hair allergies. Nevertheless, we will still keep sending in pictures and option if it is too difficult for you to bring your animal friend in-person or your pet gets anxious in crowds of people. In this case, please send me the pictures along with the names of your animal friends to my email address myoung@montebelloucc.org by Wednesday, October 1.

Therefore, we joyfully invite you to bring your beloved animal companions—dogs, cats, birds, and any other creature God has placed in your care—to receive a special blessing as we gather for this beautiful act of worship and gratitude: What: Blessing of Animals and World Communion Sunday
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Location: J.K. Fukushima Memorial Chapel
(Immediately following the Blessing of Animals, we will also celebrate World Communion Sunday in unity with Christians worldwide on the First Sunday of October.)

To ensure the safety and peace of all creatures and their humans, we ask that all animals be properly restrained—dogs on leashes and smaller pets in carriers. We will also remember and give thanks for our beloved companions who have passed on. And let's plan to make Mori Hall available as a "barking room" for worshippers whose pets may not be able to endure a whole hour in the chapel.

Come with joyful hearts, ready to witness the beautiful tapestry of life that God has woven. Let us praise our Creator, as Francis did, through Brother Wind and Sister Water, through Brother Fire and Sister Earth, and through all our animal kin. May God, who created the animals of this earth as a help to us, continue to protect and sustain us with God's grace.

With prayerful best wishes in Christ,
Pastor Mitchell

Worship Schedule

October 7

Holy Communion
Blessing of the Animals
"Increase Our Faith"
Luke 17:5-10

October 14

"Return to Give Glory"
Luke 17:11-19

October 19

"Not to Lose Heart"
Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Fall Clean-Up
"Humbled or Exalted"
Luke 18:9-14

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

As we enter our last quarter of the year I would like to encourage everyone to keep up the good work here at church and participate in the many activities that our boards have scheduled throughout the fall.

I hope you have signed up to attend Apple Pie Day at Pilgrim Pines on October 11th. We'll be hiring a bus for the day and it would be nice to fill it.

Our Nominating Committee is looking to fill positions for the 2026-2027 board positions. Please consider saying "Yes!" when asked. The members and people of our church will be so blessed to have you take on an active role in the coming years.

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

	Month	YTD
Total Income:	\$26,678.58	\$183,712.16
Total Expenses:	\$22,742.92	\$172,475.63
Surplus/(Deficit):	\$3,935.66	\$11,236.53

Board of Trustees*Annie Yamasaki, chairperson*

Greetings from Trustees!

Trustees apologize for the delayed pronouncement of recipients of two scholarships administered by the board. The Fukushima Scholarship recipients were Kory Sterns of Nashotah House Theological Seminary and Pacific School of Religion (in honor of the late Rev. Fukushima). The Akira Mori Scholarship recipients were Joshua Teruo Hino and Akemi Adams. Congratulations to them and best wishes for their continued success.

The last quarter of the year will be a busy time for the board of trustees. There are the budget meeting and approval, the stewardship drive, rummage sale, church cleanup, and miscellaneous church maintenance projects.

One such project is to swap out all the pad locks around the church campus and to reign in and document all individuals who currently have a set of church keys. If anyone reading this has keys to the church that's no longer needed, please return them or if they have been misplaced or lost but you no longer need access to the church, just let us know. Keys held by board chairs should be passed on to new chairs as needed. Trustees will be contacting folks who is on a

10- year-old key holder list to verify current status.

Another project for trustees to undertake by years end is to do an inventory of high value items, especially musical instruments and the new AV equipment in the sanctuary. It will be useful for insurance purposes. Trustees would like to add this task to the church cleanup list.

Also, on top of mind is Pastor Mitchell's farewell celebration. In preparation, trustees will budget for this event. Currently, representatives from church council are part of the planning committee. They will be reaching out for help and ideas. Hope you will be open to assist.

As of July 2025, all church events will be Pastor Mitchell's last one with us. I hope we can show our appreciation by making each event memorable for him as well as those who have been at MPCC at any time during the last twenty plus years of his pastoral tenure.

The year end stewardship drive for trustees is a difficult but necessary task. Normally, asking for generosity is not easy, but our congregation is inherently generous, so we know everyone does their best, so thank you in advance.

I hope you will all enjoy a healthy, delicious, and peaceful upcoming holiday season.

Christian Education Board*Steven Woo, chairperson*

October is a fun filled month for people of all ages. We will be going to Pilgrim Pines for Apple Pie Day on October 11th. We will be taking a bus since a lot of people require transportation so please let me know or sign up on the sign up sheet in Mori Hall. We are asking for \$20 for adults and will cover the registration fee and bus (lunch is provided by the camp). Any children and students will be free. BJ Woo will be collecting the payments and address the check to Montebello Plymouth Church with a memo Pilgrim Pines camp.

We plan to leave the church at 8:30 AM and come back by 5:00 PM. We will spend the day doing fun camp activities, warm fellowship with other churches, and lunch with homemade apple pie!

Later in the month, we will be having our Halloween party on October 25th at 5:30 PM. Come and enjoy a potluck dinner and dress in your favorite costume. Bring your children and grandchildren to play games, do crafts, and go trick-or-treating through our Sunday School hall. See you there!

Wednesday Group
Art Hanamoto

8/20/2025 Terry H., Suzy H., Kiku K., June Y., Ernie A., Jean K., Beverly Y., Ed Y., Alice H., and Lynne H. together folded and labeled the Good News publication in preparation for mailing. Additionally, Christine K., Ernie A., Nitaya Y., Alice H., Lynne H., and Art H. 1) swept and watered the plants in the Greenwood parking lot and parkway, 2) watered the plants and pulled weeds in both the Los Angeles and Angel parking lots, 3) hosed down the alley outside of the Sunday School, 4) laundered and folded the green table cloths, 5) glued felt cut-outs to the Christmas banner and 6) put away school supplies, games, and an E-Z up in preparation for the funeral on Saturday.

9/3/2025 Christine K. swept and watered the plants on the Greenwood parking lot side. In addition, the parking lot was swept and the area behind the storage shed was cleaned.

9/17/2025 Christine K., Ernie A., Lynne H., and Art H. 1) sorted items and took them to the recycling center, 2) swept and watered the plants located in the Greenwood parking lot and along the parkway, 2) watered the plants located in the Los Angeles parking lot and at the parsonage, and 3) performed maintenance on sprinklers located in the Angel parking lot to reduce water runoff.

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

Special Offerings and Gifts

Chun, Chris	In Memory of Alyce F.
Hino, Glenn	In Memory of Lorraine W.
Hino, Terry & Suzy	In Memory of Alyce F. & Nancy M.
Jets/Jetts	In Memory of Mits M.
Kobashigawa, Kiku	In Memory of Nancy M., Melody T.'s mother, & Lisa M.'s mother
Kobata, Jean	In Memory of Alyce F., Carol K., & Nancy M.
Kawamoto, Kiko	In Memory of Carol Koshi
Martinez, Toni	Special Offering
Masuda, Jane	In Memory of Nancy M.
Miwa, Bob	In Memory of Alyce F.
Okada, Andy	In Celebration of Mutsuko Ikari Comada's 100th Birthday
Petersen, Karen	In Memory of Howard S. & June Matsuno
Takahashi, Patricia	J.K. Fukushima Scholarship
Tsunekawa, Jean	In Memory of Alyce F., Carol K., & Mits M. CWS
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of Nancy M. Family Fund & Peace Day

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.

Prayers of the People

With deepest sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Yolanda Moreno, Lisa M.'s mother who passed on July 27th.
- Sets Shinto, who passed on September 14th. We give thanksgiving that Sets was surrounded by love and family when she passed.
- Stewart C., Kiko's friend.
- Jay V., who passed from cancer at the age of 56. Please keep Jay's family in our prayers.

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.
- Toni M. who lifts up prayers for everyone.
- Maria M.'s neighbors, Helen and her husband, were praying for California. Maria also wanted to lift up much needed prayers for all the negative things happening in California. She also requested guidance prayers for the Martinez-Lopes family.
- Pastor Tom F. requested prayers for his daughter Penny who fell in the gym and broke both wrists. Penny is recovering well.
- Yvonne P. requested prayers for granddaughter Zora as she returns to school in North Carolina and also prayers for friend Jerome who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Continued prayers for Bob M. and Ron T. for all their medical issues they may be facing. Bob M. is back in the ER due to heavy bleeding from cardiac ablation procedure. We pray for Bob's blood pressure to rise to stable levels, and for Chris C. that she may find strength and encourages Bob.
- Carolyn W. asks for prayers for sister, Sachi S., for a successful knee surgery and for a fast and smooth recovery. Also, recovery, healing and strength prayers for neighbor Ernie P. who has Parkinson's disease and for his wife Kathy who is caring for him. She also requested prayers for protection, personal growth, and academic success for students starting their fall semester.
- Gillian G.'s (guest preacher) 12yr old niece who is going through some mental health challenges.
- Jan F.'s. prayers for healing for friend Robin C. Robin had a heart attack and then had a medical procedure to help with recovery.
- Lori K. requested healing prayers for brother Dennis who had a quadruple bypass surgery and is now in recovery.

Traveling Mercies for:

- Carolyn W. requested travel mercy for son Keith as he drives his daughter, Ashley, back to school for the new year, and then driving back home next day.
- For Pastor Mitchell, Nitaya, and Natasha Y. as they travel to Nitaya's country.

Thanksgiving:

- Keila Kiyomi D. born August 4th is healthy and the family is adjusting well. Congratulations to Lani, Jayson, and big brother Kyler!
- Kiku K. shared a text message from Minako O. from our sister church in Fukushima, Japan: Dear Kiku and Ryan, I have now successfully completed my surgery. Thank you for the prayers.
- Pastor Mitchell lifts up prayers of thanksgiving for the lovely and touching birthday celebration with the MPCC family.
- Sandra L. shared that a tree behind the neighbor's house was on fire and by chance son, Davy, happened to be there and noticed the smoke and alerted the neighbor. Davy and neighbor were able to put the fire out. Also oldest son, Daniel, has been on the ship for months and now he's back in Japan with wife Regina.
- Lori K. gives thanksgiving for sister Eileen on her 70th birthday.
- Maria T. M. gives thanksgiving after recuperating from Covid and also for brother Nicolas who is out of the hospital.

October Birthday Celebrations

- 4 Julie Tapia
- 5 Czarina Alimboyao
- 6 Julianna Okamoto
- 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 Oc-
tober e-mail the
church office at
mpcc@montebellou
cc.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




RUMMAGE SALE

October 4

Contact Church office before dropping items

Halloween Party

Join us for our Annual Halloween Party on Saturday. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm and activities at 6:00pm. There will be games, crafts, face painting, and more.

Sign-up for our potluck and the C.E. board will provide the main dish. Invite your friends and family for a fun and ghoulish night.



BOO!

HALLOWEEN PARTY

25 OCT

5:30PM - 9:00PM

144 S GREENWOOD AVE.
MONTEBELLO, CA 90640

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

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.

Emergency Packing Party with CWS on August 23, 2025



Guest Speaker Veronica Ota on August 24, 2025



Tuesday Bible Study Women helped put origami cranes together for International Peace Day on Sept. 21. Sunday School children performed "Thousand Cranes" on Peace Day.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.</div>			1 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	2	3 Rummage Sale Sorting	4 Rummage Sale @8am Choir Practice @10am
5 Holy Communion Blessings of the Animals C.E. Board Meeting @11:30am	6 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	7 Bible Study @10am	8 Wednesday Group @8am *Jets/Jetts Meeting @7pm	9	10	11 Pilgrim Pines Apple Pie Day @8:30am
12 Trustees/Diaconate Board Meeting @11:30am	13 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	14 Bible Study @10am	15 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	16	17	18 Choir Practice @10am
19 Council Meeting @11:30am Goodnews Due	20 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	21 Bible Study @10am	22 Goodnews Mailing @9am *Dance Class @7pm	23	24	25 Halloween Party @5:30pm
26 Fall Clean-up H.S./College Fellowship	27 *Beg. Japanese Class @1:30pm *Japanese Class @2:30pm	28 Bible Study @10am	29 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	30	31	

Coming in 9 **Stewardship Sunday**
November 16 **Holiday Food Drive**
 23 **Pastor's 5th Sunday**
2025 30 **Thanksgiving Sunday**
 Budget Hearing
 Congregational Meeting

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

