



Good News



Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ

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"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

Our Final Year Together

I officially started my ministry as your pastor on August 1, 2005, twenty years ago! After two decades of service, a transition period begins. My pastorate with you will conclude at the end of July 2026, after 21 years together as pastor and congregation. This is a time for reflecting on the journey and looking forward with hope to what God has planned for each individual and the church's future.

As we look back, we will surely recount much change, laughter, and tears that has been shared. Lives have been transformed by God's Word. So many baptisms, dedications, and prayers have been celebrated. Losses have been mourned and comfort has been offered during times of sorrow. Through it all, God's faithfulness has remained constant and God's presence has provided strength and guidance.

Remembering this journey, the words of the Apostle Paul can be echoed: "I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus". It has been a privilege to witness the unwavering faith and dedication to Christ.

While change can bring uncertainty and a sense of loss, it also encourages growth and new beginnings. Isaiah 43:19 reminds: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland". God is

always working, even during transitions, creating opportunities, and renewing purpose.

From this point forward, we only get one more of each annual event that celebrate: one more birthday, one more rummage sale, one more blessing of animals, one more day at Pilgrim Pines, one more Halloween party, one more Thanksgiving, one more Advent and Christmas, one more Mochitsuki, one more Ash Wednesday (from the parking lot!), one more Holy Week and Easter, one more PAAM Sunday, one more Bazaar, one more PAAM Convocation, and one more Summer Exploration, which actually was a big factor in my accepting your call in the first place.

My prayer for each person during this time is to continue to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight". The "why" behind every transition may not always be understood, but rest assured in God's plan and timing.

Let this final year be filled with intention and love. Continue to gather, worship, serve, and "Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." Continue building on the established foundation of faith, knowing that labor in the Lord is never in vain.

It is exciting to share this final chapter and to see how God continues to shape and guide our MPCC family in the coming years.

Continuing with much love and gratitude,

Pastor Mitchell



Pastor Mitchell at the UCC General Synod PAAM/COREM booth with some young UCC friends excited about Nitaya's many clergy stoles

Worship Schedule

August 3

Holy Communion
 Rally Sunday/School Supplies Drive
 "Rich Toward God"
 Luke 12:13-21

August 10

"Dressed for Action"
 Luke 12:32-40

August 17

"Cast Fire"
 Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Guest Preacher Veronica Ota
 "On the Sabbath"
 Luke 13:10-17

August 31

"Places of Honor"
 Luke 14:1,7-14

A Message from our Moderator...

Lori Katayama

The church council did not meet in July since there were many activities on Sundays and some of our members were out of town. We meet again this month to discuss not only the various activities going on but also how we can improve on all aspects of our church life and property.

We would like to get some feedback from the congregation on what you would like to see happen at MPCC in the future. A survey will be available in the middle of August that includes some of the ideas council has been discussing but if you have some ideas of your own, please feel free to add your ideas to the list. You may give your ideas in written form or via email to myself or either member-at-large, Ron Yamasaki or Evelyn Yoshimi.

Let's all work together to Be the Church!

A Message from our Treasurer...

Bien Reyes

Financial Summary - June 2025

	Month	YTD
Total Income:	\$27,958.58	\$141,275.82
Total Expenses:	\$22,046.53	\$128,185.50
Surplus/(Deficit):	\$5,912.05	\$13,090.32



Christian Education Board

Steven Woo, chairperson

Hello everyone,
Thank you to those who came to our Summer Ex Sunday and church picnic and provided food. We have a couple events coming up in August. On August 3rd, we will have our Rally Sunday to kick off the

Sunday school year. Bring your kids and grandkids to enroll them into Sunday school. We will also have school supplies for the new school year. We may have just had our church "picnic", but we missed going out to the park for a picnic. So on Saturday, August 9th from 10 AM - 1 PM (or later), we will have a family outing to Acuna Park in Montebello for a picnic. The CE board will provide lunch and games to play. Feel free to bring family and friends to enjoy a nice day at the park! See you there!

Diaconate Board

Lynne Hanamoto

On Sunday July 13, we thanked Ida for planning and leading our worship service. Our laity participants who shared their journeys to MPCC following the Good Samaritan reading were Mac, Maria, Maria Teresa, Jan, Kiku, Frank, Suzy and Terry, and Chris L. It was a memorable service as we heard about their life journeys.

On July 20, we enjoyed this special Summer Exploration Sunday Service directed by our Summer Ex Director Sandra L., with Ms. Eileen as Music Director, and assisted by Ms. B.J. The Summer Ex staff and Youth performed a fabulous musical program for our Sunday Service. Former Summer Ex staff and Summer Ex participants were called up to join in singing in the finale.

Wednesday Group

Art Hanamoto

6/25/2025 Suzy H., Terry H., Ed Y., Alice H., Ernie A., June Y., Kiku K., Jean K., Lynne H., Beverly Y., Pastor Mitchell, Christine K., and Nitaya Y. folded and labeled the Good News for mailing. Christine K., Ernie A., and Nitaya Y. 1) trimmed the trees in the Greenwood parking lot, 2) swept the Greenwood and Los Angeles parking lots, and 3) watered the plants in both the Los Angeles and Angel parking lots.

7/2/2025 Christine K., Alice H., Art H., and Nitaya Y. 1) swept and watered the plants in the Los Angeles parking lot, 2) weed-wacked and mowed the parsonage yard and 10th Street parkway, 3) removed weeds from Angel lot, 4) swept and weed-wacked the Greenwood parking lot and parkway, and 5) cleaned up food in the church kitchen for composting. Pastor Mitchell air layer calamansi plants.

7/9/2025 Ernie A., Christine K., Lynne H., Art H., and Nitaya Y. 1) swept and watered the plants in the Greenwood parking lot and parkway, 2) cleaned up behind the shipping container, 3) trimmed trees and bushes in the Los Angeles parking lot and, 4) swept

and watered the plants in the Los Angeles and Angel parking lots.

7/16/2025 Alice H., Christine K., Ernie A., Art H., and Nitaya Y. 1) swept, mowed, and watered the Greenwood parking lot and parkway, 2) cleaned up the alley next to the church office, 3) swept and watered the plants in the Los Angeles parking lot and footpath, 4) pulled weeds and watered Angel lot, and 5) readjusted the electrical outlet in order to put a cover on the socket in the conference room.



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

Chun, Chris	In Celebration of Austin's H.S. Graduation
Hino, Terry & Suzy	Summer Ex
Kawahara, Elizabeth	Summer Ex
Katayama, Dave & Lori	Summer Ex
Kiku, Kobashigawa	Summer Ex & In Memory of Steven Woo's Grandmother
Kobata, Jean	In Memory of Mits Murakami
Masuda, Jane	Youth Ministry
Shima, Les & Judy	In Memory of Juanita
Wada, Mari	In Memory of Carol Koshi
Watanabe, Carolyn	In Memory of Henry Watanabe
Yano-Bender Family	School Supplies
Yoshida, Beverly	For Garden's Expense and In Memory of Mits Murakami & Henry Watanabe
Yoshimi, Evelyn	Family Fund and Celebration of Suzy's Birthday
Yoshimura, Dan & Eileen	In Memory of Mits Murakami



**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.*

Prayers of the People

With deepest sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Kiku K. requested sympathy prayers for the family of friend Carol K. who passed. Especially for her husband Harry and son David. Also, for Mari L. who lost her uncle.
- Karen P. requested prayers of comfort for the family of Motomi A. who passed away.
- Mike and Yvonne P. requested prayers of comfort and support for the family of Genevieve C. who passed peacefully in her sleep at the age of 93.
- Frank M. requested prayers of sympathy for friend Tom who lost his wife Marie due to cancer. Also, prayers for all the families who lost loved ones due to a flood in the state of Texas.

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.
- Ron and Michi T. Ron will be transferred to a nursing home. We continue to pray for Ron's health and strength. Also, Michi asks for prayers of healing for friends Renee and Brian as he recovers from surgery. Finally, Michi asks for blessings for all Montebello church families.
- The Tuesday Bible study class requested prayers for Bob M. for his procedure to control bleeding from his prostate. We also ask for God to care for Chris C. who has been along Bob's side to care for him.
- Yvonne and Mike P. asked for prayers of healing for their almost 97-year neighbor Melvin M. who fell and fractured his pelvis. For son David and Joelle P. as they continue their search for a new home after the Palisades fire. Also, for grandson Kunta as he continues his work for NASCAR as a photographer.
- Lori K. requested prayers of healing for neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Harada. Mrs. Harada is at Kei-Ai in Gardena and husband is at home alone.
- Maria M. requested healing prayers for Neizan L. since his appendix burst. He's at the Children's hospital.
- Sandra and Chris L. requested prayers for daughter Ally who had a brief shocking incident and went to the E.R. but she's fine and resting afterwards. Also, son Davy who was off for a week at Scout Camp in San Diego.
- Jan F. requested prayers of healing for Sharon H. a college friend who recently was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- Christine K. requested prayers for Dianne M. as she will have the first of two surgeries. Prayers for Yolanda V. as she awaits test results.

Traveling Mercies for:

- Carolyn W. asks for travel mercy for son Keith and co-workers as they fly to Arizona for work.
- Michi T. also asks for travel mercy for her friend Heather and two sons Aiden and Nathan as they travel through Italy and back home. Also, for Michi's friend Toni as she travels to and from Vegas.
- Mac and Bien R. requested travel mercy prayers as they travel to NorCal to attend the wedding for Mac's sister Menchie on July 5th.
- Yvonne and Mike P. also requested prayers as they take a quick trip to Vancouver, Canada to celebrate their friend's Kathy M.'s 90th Birthday.
- Joe P. requested travel mercy prayers to guide them safely to and back from Vegas with the whole Palacios family.
- Lori K. requested travel mercy prayers for Pastor Mitchell Y. who will be traveling to Kansas City.
- Sandra L. requested travel mercy for Lisa M. and family who will be traveling.

Thanksgiving:

- Kiku K. lift up a thanksgiving prayer for the family Leal who found a place to live. Also, for sister Reiko who became a great-great-grandmother. The baby's name is Aerith Kairi.

**August
Birthday
Celebrations**

1	Dirk Matsuda
2	Andrew Kobata
5	Carol Asakura
6	Rosa Romero
8	Taylor Yoshitake
11	Marisol Leal
11	Rhys Yamasaki
13	Trent Hata
14	Christine Kizuka
15	Ron Yamasaki
16	Melissa Reyes
17	Ernie Agcaoli
17	Mitchell Young
18	Troy Kawaharada
25	Shoichi Hashizume
25	Yvonne Phillips
25	Brandon Shimahara
25	Ryan Yasukochi
27	Kaito Katsura
27	Edith Sakamoto
30	Bernalyd Alimboyao
31	Raquelrae Moreno
31	Miki Stevens

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 August 24: Veronica Ota

Veronica Toyomi Ota, J.K. Fukushima Scholarship recipient in 2023, is originally from Pasadena, CA and is a candidate for ministry with San Gabriel Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA). She received her Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2024, with a concentration in Theology, Ecology, and Faith Formation. Upon graduating, Veronica was awarded the Graduate Fellowship for Parish Ministry award, which allowed her to travel to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Colombia, Peru, Japan, and Nepal over the past year in order to explore how people around the world understand the intersections of spirituality and sustainability. Veronica is passionate about education and waste reduction, and hopes to work with a church or interfaith organization to help bring people together around shared sustainability initiatives and goals. She is also a singer, musician, and avid composer!



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

Summer Exploration 2025
July 7-20, 2025



Summer Ex
Sunday and Church
Picnic
July 20, 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Choir Practice @10am
3 Holy Communion Rally Sunday/ School Supplies Drive	4	5 Bible Study @10am	6 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	7	8	9 Choir Practice @10am Family Outing @Acuna Park
10 C.E./Trustees/ Diaconate Board Meeting @11:30am	11	12 Bible Study @10am	13 Wednesday Group @8am	14	15	16 Choir Practice @10am
17 Goodnews Deadline	18	19 Bible Study @10am	20 Goodnews Mailing @9am *Dance Class @7pm	21	22	23 Choir Practice @10am CWS Packing Party @10am
24 Guest Speaker Veronica Ota	25	26 Bible Study @10am	27 Wednesday Group @8am *Dance Class @7pm	28	29	30 Choir Practice @10am
31	<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
September
2025**

7
14
28

Guest Speaker Gillian Garcia
Guest Speaker Krysten Bruan
Board's Budgets Due

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

