

# Good News

September 2020

MONTEBELLO PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume XXXIX No. IX

SR. PASTOR, REV. MITCHELL YOUNG  
144 S GREENWOOD AVENUE, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640  
OFFICE TEL (323) 721-5568 WEBSITE MONTEBELLOUCC.ORG

*"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* **Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)**

## Back to School?

Seeing Halloween decorations in our shops and stores at the end of July can only mean one thing: It's back-to-school time! By the time this newsletter is assembled in mid-August, many of our children will be back in school. And by back in school, we mean for the most part, distance learning via electronic media.

There is profound anxiety all around us as we start this school year. Parents, students, faculty and staff are making decisions about what the academic process in the weeks and months ahead. Some are anxious about health. Some are anxious about their careers. Some are anxious about what their school year will be like, most especially if they are seniors, like my own daughter. Some are anxious about whether there will be activities such as football, basketball, track, choir, band. Some are anxiously wondering what will happen when students and staff test positive for COVID-19. Will they get sick? Will they infect their families? Could classroom instruction be cancelled for the rest of the year?

Amid the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, the vast majority of classes in our California schools and colleges are being held remotely online. We can be thankful for our governmental leaders who are trying to put the health and well-being of student, teachers, and staff on the forefront.

We are hopeful for the guidelines set by State health officials as to how and when schools and colleges may open safely. And yet, we feel the stress of our children not having the level of peer social interaction they would have otherwise: we worry about their physical and emotional health.

What does that mean in a time like this? What does this mean in the midst of a pandemic at the beginning of the school year? Certainly we must take precautions. School districts both near and far have been diligently planning and preparing all summer. Social distancing, hand hygiene, masks, class sizes, seating arrangements, distance learning are all reasonable precautions and plans.

Nevertheless, with all our conscientious safeguards in place we are still bound to feel fear and anxiety. In times like these, it is important to remember what the Apostle Paul calls us to do in his letters to churches struggling with fear and anxiety in the midst of hardship. He calls his audience to prayer and petition, calling followers of the Way to trust in God.

Granted, the hardship the early church experienced was amid a secular government's desire to shut down the church entirely whereas our government today encourages the gathering of the church and people of faith through avenues available through technology and creative social-distancing. (No physical or social distance inhibits the movement of the Spirit!) Yet, we still experience the anxiety of being feeling %shut down+ in our homes, in our schools, in our businesses.

So, as we send our children off for the day, whether to their electronic tablet at

home or the school gate itself, let us do so with prayer and petition to God. Let us include school staff and all children and parents too. Let us also remember international students who are threatened by not attending in-person classes. We cannot protect our children from every threat in life, but we can entrust them to God. When we entrust them to God, I believe God will grant us the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which transcends all understanding, which will then guard our hearts and minds thus freeing you and I from paralyzing fear and anxiety.

Have a great and glorious school year!

Your Student in Christ,  
Pastor Mitchell

## Worship at MPCC

### September 6

Facebook Livestream  
Virtual Holy Communion  
Matthew 18:15-20

### September 13

Facebook Livestream  
Matthew 18:21-35

### September 20

Facebook Livestream  
Matthew 20:1-16

### September 27

Facebook Livestream  
Blessings of the Animals  
Matthew 21:23-32

**Message from our Moderator...**

*Carolyn Barragan*

I hope you are all keeping busy and staying healthy! The church Council is getting creative in our meetings with a combo of in person and virtual meetings to get as many of our members engaged as possible.

As you might have heard in Pastor Mitchell's announcements on Sunday, August 16th, our resourceful Bazaar Chairperson, Lynne Hanamoto is organizing a Drive-thru Plate Lunch. We look forward to seeing the turn out and hope we can do something we can continue each month. If you are interested in helping to cook, please let Lynne know!

I wanted to give a huge shout out to Rhys Yamasaki for working on updating the MPCC website. If you haven't had a chance, please check it out. There is even an option to sign up to receive an emailed copy of the Good News. Thank you Rhys for the great work! We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to help keep the website updated, so if you are interested, please let me know.

Be well friends!

**Board of Trustees**

*Mitch Sakado*

Hello all and hope all is well. Unfortunately due to the coronavirus pandemic, which appears not to be getting better soon, caused a huge interruption of our church calendar. With that said, the fall rummage sale which was scheduled for Oct. 3 and the fall cleanup scheduled for Oct 25 has been put on hold until further notice. The bazaar which we all know was to take place in June was canceled but there is still some thoughts that maybe a smaller version of a "bazaar-food fair" will take place later in the year to supplement some funding that was lost due to the cancellation of the bazaar.

The cleanup of the church campus continues, thanks to a small group who comes out every other Saturday to maintain the grounds. Mowing, edging, trimming bushes and trees, watering, sweeping, raking, cleaning, doing minor repair work. There is still room for others to take part in this endeavor.

In the August issue of the Good News there were short bios and responses from the recipients of the Fukushima Scholarship. There were 8 applicants in all and 5 were selected to receive the scholarships. Each will be awarded a \$5000 scholarship. In addition the committee recommended \$1000 to be donated to the Pacific

School of Religion.

Eagle scout candidate and church attendee of MPCC, Trent Hata requested to work with MPCC on his Eagle Scout Project to build 3-4 planter box benches for the lanai area. The project is scheduled to be completed around November 2020.

Speaking about funding, as you know MPCC's largest budget items are Adm. and Operation Expenses. This expenses continues on for the most part even though the church is "shut down" during this pandemic crisis so please continue to send in your pledges and support for your church.

Take care all, stay safe and healthy.

**Message from Our Treasurer...**

*Terry Hino*

Thank you for your financial support. Strengthen the Church offering is now \$960.00.

	<b>July</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$16,153.00	\$134,388.33
<b>Total Expense:</b>	\$17,504.67	\$138,315.72
<b>(Deficit):</b>	(\$1351.67)	(\$3927.39)

Building Fund as of 6/30/20 is **\$303,394.68**

**Men's Group**

*Bob Miwa*

**7/15/20** Nitaya cleaned and watered the front, lanai and back yard. We filled more of the asphalt front parking lot.

**7/16/20** Nitaya and Pastor Mitchell Young, Christine Chun, Terry Hino folded and labeled the Good News for mailing.

**7/25/20** Ryan Yamada, Roger Ng, Bien Reyes, Nitaya Young mowed, edged, weed whacked and watered the front, lanai and back yard. Chico Iguchi brought donut holes for our break. We removed the vines on the fence between the storage bin and the neighbor's yard.

**7/29/20** Nitaya and I cleaned the front yard and she watered the back and lanai as I watered the front yard. Chico Iguchi brought donut holes for our break.

**8/5/20** We cleaned the front yard and Nitaya watered the lanai and the back yard as I watered the front

News from our Boards

***Special Offerings and Gifts***

**8/8/20** Ryan Yamada, Roger Ng, Chico Iguchi, Steven Woo, Bien Reyes, Nitaya Young mowed, edged and cleaned the yard. Roger trimmed the hedges in the back yard and the one hedge in the front yard. Bien Reyes weed whacked the back yard as Steven, Chico, Nitaya and Ryan cleaned the yard. Nitaya watered the back and lanai as Ryan trimmed the vines on the fence south of Mori Hall and the neighbor. The donut lady brought donut holes for our break.

**8/12/20** Nitaya and I cleaned the front yard and she cleaned the lanai and the back yard. I watered the front yard and replaced washers on two hoses since they were leaking.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING NEWSPAPER FOR RECYCLING TO CHURCH. RECYCLERS NO LONGER PROCESS NEWSPAPER.

Gosney, Keith & Kimiko	J.K. Fukushima Scholarship and Church Family Fund
Hino, Terry & Suzy	Summer Ex
Iguchi, Chico	In Memory of Mas Nakamura & Shinobu Iguchi
Kizuka, Christine	Plate Lunch Expenses
Kobashigawa, Kiku	Summer Ex
Martinez, Raul & Maria	Summer Ex
Peterson, Dean & Karen	In Memory of Donna Akiyoshi
Tanimoto, Ron & Michi	In Memory of Taohi & Kay Kawaguchi
Yoshida, Beverly	In Memory of Ray's Birthday on August 6th
Yoshimi, Evelyn	In Memory of Derek Ayabe & Fernando Quing
	Oven Stove/Refrigerator Project



**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.

**Prayers of the People**

**With Deepest Sympathy to the family/ies of:**

- Nicholas, his wife and two toddler sons, who were killed in a tragic auto accident. Nicholas was the nephew of Julie Gustafson, a high school classmate of Jan Fukushima.
- Jose Luis Pineda Ramirez, stepfather of Maria Teresa Macias and her siblings Mayeli Pineda, Sandra Pineda and Jose Luis Ramirez.
- Martha Montanez, who passed away in Mexico. She was the mother of Oscar Montanez, brother-in-law of Maria Teresa Macias..
- Robert Trump, younger brother of President Donald Trump.
- Julia, Rosa Romero's mother-in-law and grandmother of Ana Julia Ferrer-Jenkins, who is named after her.
- Nine Marine servicemen who lost their lives in a training accident when their landing craft sank off the coast of CA, by Maria Martinez.

**Prayers of healing, comfort and blessing for:**

- Billy Martinez, Desiree Martinez's stepbrother, who is in intensive care with Covid-19 in Las Vegas.
- Tammy and her husband Eric, who is hospitalized with LHL, an immune disorder of the blood. Tammy and Eric are friends of Michi Tanimoto.
- Heather, Michi Tanimoto's friend, who is going through a divorce. Pray for understanding for Heather, her husband and their two sons.
- Rev. Mike Olsen, who was an associate pastor at MPCC, is in hospice care. Pray for his comfort.
- Reuben, Rosa Romero's brother, who had a heart attack.
- the Montebello school district's staff and students, along with schools throughout the state, re-opening online this month.

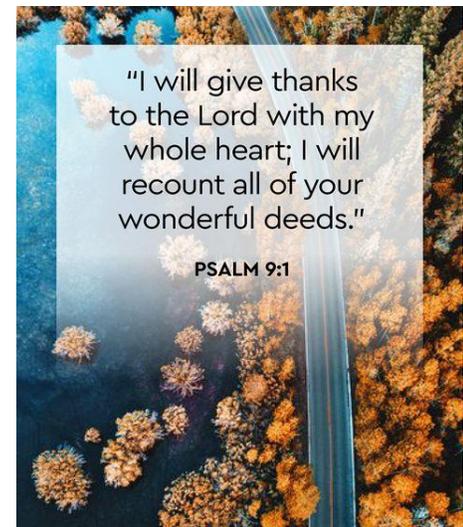
**Thanksgiving:**

- for Steven Woo's recovery from his illness. He tested negative for Covid-19.
- by Toni Martinez, for a wonderful birthday celebration with her family and best wishes from friends. She also offered birthday blessing to her good friend, Kiku Kobashigawa.
- by Alice Higashi that she did not have a tire problem. The noise she heard was caused by a pebble. She was also grateful to a young neighborhood man who also heard the noise and found the pebble.

**September Birthday Celebrations**

4	Kayla Reger
7	Wendy Correa
7	Ned Tsunekawa
8	Eileen Mitsueda
10	Jerry Fujita
13	Kenzo Khowdee
15	Thomas Togioka
16	Danielle Kou
17	Grace Mai Hino
17	Carol Koshi
18	Jane Kubota
20	David Low
20	Janice Rodan
21	Christine Chun
23	Harold Iwata
23	Sydney Sakamoto
25	James Kimo Endo
26	Brenton Inouye
27	Evelyn Hashizume
28	Krystyna Matsuda

*The majority of the prayer requests were concerns and celebrations of the congregation lifted up during the Pastoral Prayers each Sunday. If you have additional prayer requests please contact the church office.*





**Save Used Stamps**

Used Stamps Project continues! Please help us by continuing to save your used stamps. Our contributions help Japan overseas. The partnership provides health care and assistance to people by selling the used stamps to collectors.

Collect used stamps and bring them to church. Please leave at least 1/8-1/4+around the stamp and if it is multiple stamps cut it together. For more information call Evelyn Yoshimi.

**VIRTUAL CHAIR  
YOGA**

**WITH JOCELYN YAMASAKI**

**WEDNESDAYS @7:30AM**

**VIA ZOOM**



**Plate Lunch Fundraisers!**

The second event will be the **Japanese Plate Lunch** scheduled for **Saturday, September 26**. Other ideas still in the works: Filipino Plate, Mexican Plate, Chinese Plate, and Thai Plate.

Call us to let us know that you can volunteer to be an **at-home chef** (Church will reimburse cost of ingredients). On campus distribution volunteers must be under age 65 and follow social distancing protocols.

Lynne Hanamoto and Suzy Hino will be calling around the church family to try to get a general head count so we know how much food to prepare or you can either contact Lynne or Suzy or call the church office to let us know how many plates you want us to prepare for you. Let us know if you can pick up the plates in our **drive-thru** or whether you would like the plates delivered to you by volunteers. We have a suggested donation of \$10 but we graciously accept whatever you can offer to support the mission and ministries of your Montebello Plymouth Church.



**Kumi Kyodai Event "Keiro no Hi Festival"**

Kumi Kyodai fellowship group usually has social gatherings and events. Our Fall event will be participating in Virtual **Keiro no Hi Festival** on September 12. Free to participate and includes interactive activities, entertainment, arts gallery and a hosted bento lunch for pickup.

Registration: Attendees 60 and older must register in order to receive a hosted lunch and special birthday gift, which can be picked up at designated community locations.



Registration is not required for the livestream viewing.

**Three ways to register:**

1. Visit website: [keiro.org](http://keiro.org),
2. Email [programs@keiro.org](mailto:programs@keiro.org), or
3. Call 213.873.5708.

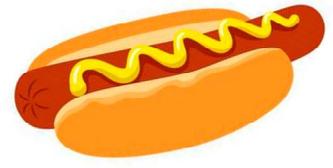
**Registration Deadline: Friday, August 28, 2020.**

*Fellowship*



**Drive-thru Church Picnic  
July 12, 2020**

**Volunteers seen above:  
Roger passing the good-  
ies, Lani directing traf-  
fic, and Ron and Bien grill-  
ing hotdogs.**



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		<b>1</b> *Virtual Bible Study @ 10am	<b>2</b> *Virtual Chair Yoga @ 7:30am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Men's Group @ 8am
<b>6</b> *Virtual Holy Communion CE Meeting Virtual Coffee Hour	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b> *Virtual Bible Study @ 10am	<b>9</b> *Virtual Chair Yoga @ 7:30am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Kumi Kyodai Event
<b>13</b> Goodnews Deadline Virtual Coffee Hour	<b>14</b> *Virtual Dance Class @ 5pm	<b>15</b> *Virtual Bible Study @ 10am	<b>16</b> *Virtual Chair Yoga @ 7:30am Goodnews Mailing	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Men's Group @ 8am Youth Fellowship @ 3pm
<b>20</b> Council Meeting Virtual Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> *Virtual Dance Class @ 5pm	<b>22</b> *Virtual Bible Study @ 10am	<b>23</b> *Virtual Chair Yoga @ 7:30am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Plate Lunch Fund-raiser
<b>27</b> Board's Budget Due Blessing of the Animals Virtual Coffee Hour	<b>28</b> *Virtual Dance Class @ 5pm	<b>29</b> *Virtual Bible Study @ 10am	<b>30</b> *Virtual Chair Yoga @ 7:30am			

**NOTE:** Events marked with an asterisk (\*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more informa@on.

<b>Coming in October 2020:</b>	4	World Communion Sunday/Neighbors in Need Offering
	TBA	Virtual Sunday School
	TBA	Halloween Party

Join us for our **Virtual Worship Service on Sundays at 10 a.m. :**

Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/mpccucc](http://www.facebook.com/mpccucc)) or  
Subscribe to our Youtube page to watch our latest videos  
([www.youtube.com/mpccucc](http://www.youtube.com/mpccucc))

\*Contact our Church Office for more info  
(323) 721-5568 [mpccucc@gmail.com](mailto:mpccucc@gmail.com)

**Listen in to our Live Worship Service**

1. Call: 1(669)900-9128
2. After the prompt, type in the meeting ID: 9474557406#
3. A second prompt will ask you to type in your participant ID or push #
4. Push #
5. You should be connected and will hear the audio on your phone