

Good News

August 2020

MONTEBELLO PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume XXXIX No. VIII

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"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."

Romans 12:12 (NRSV)

Thank You for Your Patience!

It seems that no one may have received the July 2020 edition of the Good News by mail. There seems to be a delay in the post office. We also had issue in trying to get it posted to the church website. That means that only very few of you actually saw the July newsletter. I sincerely hope that this early August edition is distributed in a timely fashion! Sorry for the inconvenience.

Moreover, our Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church has not been gathering for in-person worship since mid-March: that's nearly 4 months. However, our church has continued to gather each Sunday online via Facebook livestream and YouTube. Our congregation has joined together each week, making real time comments and sharing words of encouragement for one another. Some in our congregation have even participated in worship by submitting pictures or videos. We have been having church meetings, Bible studies, Sunday School, and Summer Exploration, and youth activities through Zoom and YouTube. Many of you have been calling and checking in with each other by telephone. Thank you for continuing to be the church. That has been a powerful reminder that the church is not closed, even

when the doors are.

And just a few weeks ago, another creative way our community gathered was our annual church picnic, but this year as a drive-thru to-go picnic in keeping with safe social distancing practice. Thank you to all of you who drove through the church parking lot to say hello to the church family. Thank you also to our volunteers who made it all happen! We had a great time!

One very significant item that was announced in the last newsletter was our plans to re-open for limited in-person Sunday morning worship services. However, in the weeks leading up to July 19, our country, and especially Los Angeles, saw a very sharp increase in COVID-19 cases, so our church leadership prayerfully decided to postpone our plans to re-open for in person worship to a later date to be determined. Therefore, in person Sunday morning worship services will NOT resume July 19 as previously announced. Thank you for your patience. I really miss seeing you all in person!

Nevertheless, even with the variety of online and electronic ways to worship and reach out to one another, let's remember to keep in touch with other in our church family who do not use electronic media. Give them a phone call to say hi! Write an encouraging note.

I am so proud of all of you, faithful and hopeful. Let's continue to be Christ's family, even when we can't see each other in person.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Mitchell

Worship at MPCC

August 2

Facebook Livestream
Virtual Holy Communion
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

Facebook Livestream
Matthew 14:22-33
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

August 16

Facebook Livestream
Guest Preacher Kiana Hertogh

August 23

Facebook Livestream
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Facebook Livestream
Matthew 16:21-28

With Our Church Family

Prayers of the People:

With Deepest Sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Loved ones who have died from the corona virus disease. Comfort to the families who haven't had closure in saying goodbye to their loved ones due to the isolation order, by Kiko Kawamoto.
- Vanessa Guileen, a Fort Hood, Texas Latina soldier, whose remains were found last month May she rest in peace and may her family find comfort and strength, by Maria Martinez.

Prayers of healing, comfort and blessings for:

- Albert Kamigaki, who is recovering at home. According to his wife Jean, he is resting a lot but can respond in conversation. For Everyone, that Covid-19 calms down so that we can go back to worshipping together in person, by Kuni Kanegae
- Protection and hope during this time, by Kiko Kawamoto.
- Jimmy and Dani Kou's co-workers (in Texas), who have tested positive for Covid-19 prayers that they remain healthy.
- Michiko Morales, husband Steve and 11-year-old son Seth, who have tested positive for Covid-19, but have few symptoms except for feeling weak and sleeping a lot, as they quarantine at home. Michiko is the daughter of Frank Morales and the niece of Grace Sato.
- Doris Hasegawa, Chico Igawa's niece, began her chemotherapy treatments.
- The Summer Exploration staff - Miss BJ, Miss Eileen, Miss Kassiyd, and Miss Christina - and the children and their parents, as they grow in Jesus's love.
- The ministry of the Jesus Reigns Victoriously Church in the PhilippinesL they are preparing food packets to the three churches, started small fellowship groups, and are praying for MPCC. They are praying for Edmund Laysico, who works in Kuwait and is being treated for Covid-19 in a hospital. No one in the three churches in the Philippines has contracted the disease, although one church is in a "hot" spot.

Congratulations:

- To the West Hollywood UCC for calling its new pastor, Rev. Janice Steele, who will start on October 1.

Thanksgiving:

- By the Leal family, for one-year-old Legend Leal's receiving his first set of leg braces. Prayers for strength are requested.
- For the Christian Education Board and all the persons who helped with the great drive-by church picnic on July 12.

August Birthday Celebrations

1	Dirk Matsuda
5	Carol Asakura
5	Stephanie Pham
6	Rosa Romero
8	Taylor Yoshitake
11	Marisol Leal
11	Rhys Yamasaki
13	Trent Hata
14	Chris ² ne Kizuka
15	Ron Yamasaki
16	Melissa Reyes
17	Ernest Agcaoili
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

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.

A Message from our Moderator...

Carolyn Barragan

Today, as I write this, is July 12th. I say that because we've heard that many of our members are not receiving the Good News in a timely manner. So I am writing this article, not even half way into the month of July, in hopes it can be sent out earlier. But at the speed at which our world is changing, this will be old news by tomorrow.

That was certainly the case when the Council met in June, coming off the news that COVID 19 rates were stabilizing, stores were opening, restaurants were serving diners, and churches were opening their doors. But before the month was over the hope of opening the doors to the Fukushima Chapel were gone. And as school boards and other governing bodies begin to finalize their plans for the coming months, the reality has set in that %Safer at Home+ isn't this short period of time that we need to make it through, this is our new normal for the foreseeable future.

Even with that sobering reality, I saw a shining ray of light this morning as my car rolled through the MPCC Drive-Thru Picnic. What an amazing group of people we are privileged to know that work tirelessly to bring us together and remind us of what fellowship is. On behalf of the entire MPCC family I thank the Christian Education Board, staff, and volunteers who helped coordinate and braved the sweltering heat to grill some hot dogs and share a friendly mask-covered smile.

While we will not be holding Sunday Services for the time being, our campus doors are open for those who wish to be in fellowship. We continue to ask all to inform the church office before you make plans to meet and strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines we have in place.

Our church family is full of dedicated individuals and as we enter the month of August I know the members of our Nominating Committee have a challenging task ahead of them. I ask that each and everyone one of you search deep within your heart and ask yourself how you can help serve our fellow church family members. We are in an unprecedented time that we will make it through if we continue to support each other, our church and our faith in God.

Christian Board of Education

Steven Woo, Secretary

Hope you all are enjoying your summer, given the circumstances. We had our annual church picnic on July 12th, although completely different than what we usually

do. We had a drive thru pick up of hot dogs, chili, and other food and a craft to plant sunflowers or corn. We cooked for over 100 people and over 30 cars came by to pick up their food. Virtual Summer Ex this year went well with 24 kids attending through Zoom. They played games, did crafts, learned lessons, and sang songs together three days a week for four weeks

Wednesday/Saturday Group

Bob Miwa

6/24/20 Nitaya cleaned and watered the front yard. Lynne Hanamoto, Terry Hino, Pastor Mitchell, Nitaya Young, Christine Chun folded and labeled the Good News.

6/27/20 Roger Ng, Ryan Yamada, Bien Reyes, Steven Woo, Nitaya Young mowed, edged, weed whacked the front and back yard. Then they watered the front and back yard. Trimmed the vines on the fence south of Mori Hall and the neighbor's property. They installed a canopy from Pastor's Home to the garage to provide shade over Natasha's bedroom window.

7/1/20 Nitaya cleaned and watered the front and back yard. Repaired 2 sprinkler heads. We put asphalt sealer on the cracks on half of the parking lot.

7/8/20 Nitaya cleaned and watered the front, lanai and back yard. Cleaned two sprinkler heads. We continued to seal the rest of the cracks in the parking lot but we ran out of sealer.

7/11/20 Ryan Yamada, Roger Ng, Steven Woo, Nitaya Young mowed, edged, weed whacked the front yard, lanai and back yard. We watered the front, lanai and back yards. Replaced one sprinkler head. Trustees had a meeting with Trent Hata, who presented a boy scout project to build four planter boxes with benches.

From Our Treasurer...

Terry Hino

Thank you for your financial support. Strengthen the Church offering was \$660.00.

	June	Year to Date
Total Income:	\$14,230.00	\$118,235.33
Total Expense:	\$20,538.51	\$120811.05
(Deficit):	(\$6,308.51)	(\$2,575.72)

Building Fund as of 5/31/20 is \$301,170.39
Setsuko Hagihara Fund, 5/31/20 is \$51928.66.
(We will receive \$530.00 interest in July.)

Special Offerings and Gifts

Gosney, Keith & Kimiko	In Memory of David & Sachiko Fukushima
Hangai, Barbara	In Memory of Nob Hangai
Iguchi, Chico	In Memory of Mas Nakamura & Saino Bulguchi
Kobashigawa, Kiku	In Memory of Roy Kobashigawa
Murukami, Irene	Family Fund
Phillips, Mike & Yvonne	Youth Fund
Wada, Mariko	Donations for our Chair Yoga
Watanabe, Henry & Carolyn	Henry's 84th Birthday
Yoshimi, Evelyn	Youth Fund

For Prayers:

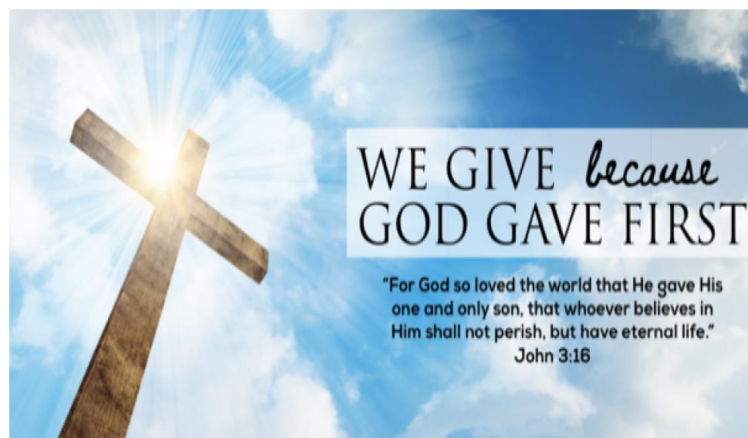
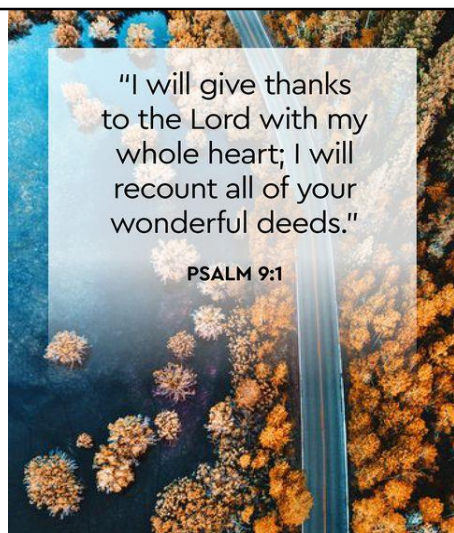
Send any prayer requests to Pastor Mitchell at mpccucc@yahoo.com or call (323) 893-2672 by the Friday prior to service.

For Offerings:

Please mail your offerings to the church office addressed to:

**Board of Trustees
Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church
144 S. Greenwood Ave.
Montebello, CA 90640**

**If mailing in checks please use only black/blue pen and addressed to Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church*



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

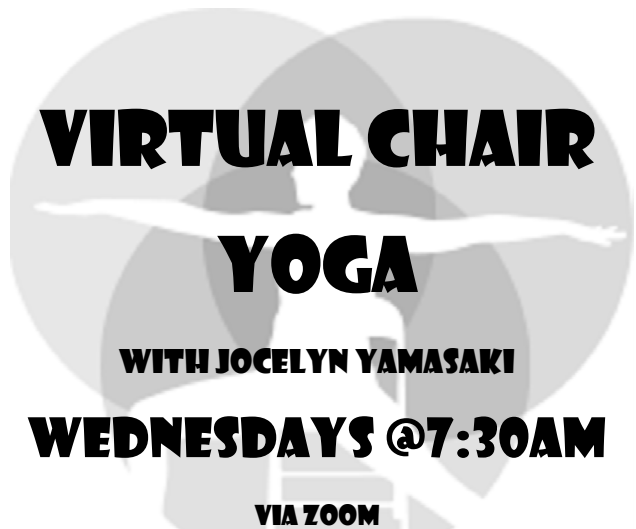
MPCC's Building Fund is separate from the church's General Fund. Contributions to the fund must be indicated on your offering envelope or in the check memo area. If you have any questions about your pledge please contact Mac Reyes.

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

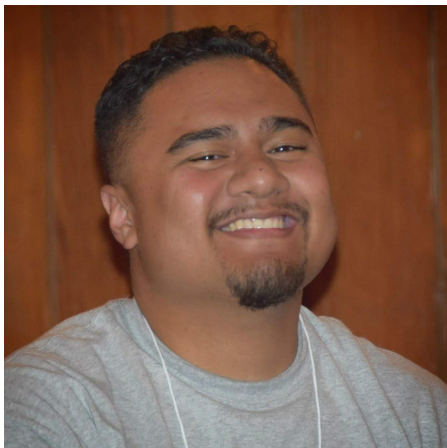
Donations to the Youth Mission Fund will be used to send our youth on trips to serve abroad and locally. The Summer Ex Fund provides scholarships for families who are not able to cover the registration fees. Both are separate from MPCC's General Fund and checks should be written separate from your regular offering.



Volunteers needed to upkeep our Church grounds! Every other Saturday



Rev. J.K. Fukushima Memorial Scholarship 2020 Recipients



My name is Taulau Nicolas Tupua. I am currently a 3rd year graduate seminary student at Claremont School of Theology. I am pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree with an emphasis on Ministerial Leadership and Education. I am currently a member at Downey Memorial Christian Church Disciples of Christ. I am also in the early stages of ordination with the Disciples of Christ denomination here in Southern California. My dream is to one day become the first Samoan-Filipino-Niuean-American Dean of Religious Life at a private university in the U.S., so that I may open avenues for future scholars of color in religion, education, or any higher education pursuits.



Greetings! My name is Kift Hyun-jae Lee who is a recipient of Fukushima Scholarship. In Claremont School of Theology, I am learning theology for following the will and heart of God. For two years since I came to America, I consider not only study, but also cost of living for the life of studying abroad. As a studying abroad student, this is always difficult issue. Especially, during the Covid-19, There was not much I could do.

Through Fukushima Scholarship, however, I feel hope even if I am spending the period of pandemic. Based on this hope, I want to keep challenge for my vision. my vision is, through theology, I want to recover the will and heart of God. I hope to revive the Kingdom of God in this world. As much as I got grace from the ministry of Fukushima Scholarship, I want to do my best from this reward.

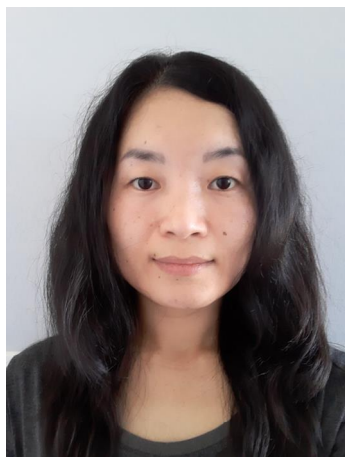
Thanks for your grace again! I really appreciate your warm heart! I pray for your health and peace. Be safe from the Coronavirus!

Hi I'm Seonyeong Jeong and attending Claremont School of Theology from last semester. Before I came to the State, I had served my church in Korea for about 10 years.

While I worked for education ministry as a manager, I saw many students' meaningful transformations. As God saved me from an endless dark tunnel and gave me a new breath, I hope to become a vessel to others, too. Thanks for your grace in this difficult crisis.



Nu Ra Aung is a M.T.S student in Theological Studies at Claremont School of Theology (CST). She comes from Myanmar. She belongs to Kachin ethnic group in Myanmar. She holds a M.Div degree from Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) in Yangon. After she graduated from MIT, she served as a leader of Christian Education at a church, Eden Baptist Church, for three years. From her ministerial experiences at the church, she wants to explore what Christian spirituality is and how we understand and practice it. She is interested in exploring theology and Christian spiritual formation in a broader sense of understanding. Since she has just started her program at CST, she wants to expand her theological interests.



My name is Zicong Li, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Reverend J.K. Fukushima Memorial Scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

I am currently majoring in Dual-degree program (Master of Theological Studies in Hebrew Bible study and Master of Divinity) in Claremont School of Theology. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for the ministry and studying.



Sun
Mon
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri
Sat

						1 Men's Group
2 Virtual Holy Com- munion	3	4 Virtual Bible Study	5 Virtual Chair Yoga	6	7	8
9 Virtual Sunday School	10	11 Virtual Bible Study	12 Virtual Chair Yoga	13	14	15 Men's Group
16 Guest Speaker Goodnews Due	17	18 Virtual Bible Study	19 Goodnews Mailing Virtual Chair Yoga	20	21	22
23 MPCC Founder's Day Virtual Sunday School	24	25 Virtual Bible Study	26 Virtual Chair Yoga	27	28	29 Men's Group
30	31					

Coming in	8/9 & 8/23	Virtual Sunday School
September	8/23	MPCC Founder's Day
2020:		

Join us for our **Virtual Worship Service on Sun-
days at 10 a.m. :**

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

*Contact our Church Office for more info
(323) 721-5568 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 par-
ticipant ID or push #
4. Push #
5. You should be connected and will hear the audio
on your phone

***The Good News* is the
monthly newsletter of
Montebello Plymouth
Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ**

Sr. Pastor - Mitchell Young

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Get Youth to It *insert*

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144 S. Greenwood Ave.
Montebello, CA 90640

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Church Contacts

Pastor - Mitchell Young
Moderator – Carolyn Barragan
Vice Moderator - Justin Iwata
Clerk - Ron Tanimoto
Treasurer – Terry Hino
Historian – (unfilled)
Members-at-large - Alice Higashi,
Evelyn Yoshimi
Music Director - Eileen Mitsueda
Youth Min. Dir. – BJ Reyes
Good News Editor - BJ Reyes

Please submit Good News articles by
Sunday, August 16, 2020, @8pm
via email to
mpccucc@gmail.com

website: montebelloucc.org
e-mail: mpccucc@gmail.com
Office Hours:
M-TH: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm,
F: 10:00am – 1:00 pm



*Join us for
Sunday Worship Services at 10am
Via Facebook Live*