



Good News

March 2021

MONTEBELLO PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume XL No. III

SR. PASTOR, REV. MITCHELL YOUNG
144 S GREENWOOD AVENUE, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640
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Resurrection Light Shining at the End of the Lenten Journey

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

For the rest of February and all of March, we continue our 40-day journey through the Season of Lent. Our Lenten worship series is looking at the idea of God's covenant with our faith ancestors (and with us) through the lens of *ganbaru* (頑張る) the Japanese cultural value of perseverance or endurance. After spending nearly a year in pandemic quarantine, people around the world are undoubtedly discouraged, even feeling like it's time to give up. Yet, with the right kind of encouragement, we find that we may be able to meet the challenge to keep going.

On the First Sunday in Lent, we examined how Noah's story could be considered the first story of quarantine. In preparing for the message, I discovered that the word quarantine is derived from the Italian term *quaranta giorni*, literally "space of forty days" (i.e. period a ship suspected of carrying disease is kept in isolation). Moreover, that Italian term *quaranta giorni* is itself derived from the Latin *quadraginta* "forty" after the 40 days in which Jesus fasted in the wilderness, which we also remember on the First Sunday of Lent. Remember, Noah's time on the ark began with a quarantine of 40 days and 40 nights of rain. We might even argue that there is a literal (or should I say, etymological) connection between quarantine and Lent, both originally referring to 40-day periods of trial and testing, where it is quarantine of 40 days and nights of rain for Noah, 40 days of wilderness fasting

for Jesus and eventually the 40-day period of isolation for sea vessels suspected of carrying infectious disease.

And now as the world has lived in COVID-19 quarantine for a period longer than the 1¼ years of Noah's ark quarantine with his family and all the animals, we are finally beginning to see real hope in the development of effective vaccines. The dove has been released and is making its way back to the global ark with an olive twig, a sign of hope that the deluge is waning. And yet like Noah's story, it is still not yet time to jump out of the ark and frolic as if nothing has happened. Even after the dove returned, God commanded Noah to stay safely sheltered for months until the ground was *terra firma* once again.

I am so proud of our MPCC family who have been cautious and caring, demonstrating *gamang* throughout out this season of quarantine. I am especially proud of servants like new deacon Ryan Y. who made it his personal mission to check on all our seniors to make sure they had access to current information and help is getting vaccine appointments. I can also be proud that by the time Ryan had checked in with you, many of you already had been vaccinated or had appointments. Thank you for caring for one another!

May God's rainbow be to us as it was to Noah and all creation, a sign of hope and new life, the promise of God's love, and a reminder that even though the earth will move and change, even though our lives will be marked by joys and loss, God is in the midst of all of it as if to say *Gambatte kudasai!* Keep on going. Don't give up. Endure! For that is what my love is like: it is steadfast and endures forever. That too, is God's en-

during promise and encouragement to us no matter how long the flood waters of COVID-19 cover the face of the earth.

With the right kind of droplets in our air and the sunlight to our back, the colors of God's bow in the clouds is our encouragement to do our best, and never give up on God or each other.

With You on the Journey to Resurrection,

Pastor Mitchell



Worship at MPCC

March 7

YouTube Livestream
"You Must Do It!"

[Covenant with Moses and Israel]
Exodus 20:1-17

March 14

YouTube Livestream
"Through Hunger, Thirst, and Venom"
[Wilderness Healing]
Numbers 21:4-9

March 21

YouTube Livestream
"Enduring Relationship"
[Prophetic Promise]
Jeremiah 31:31-34

March 28

YouTube Livestream
Palm Sunday
"Jesus Endures"
[Passion of Christ]
John 12:12-16

A Message from our Moderator...

Justin I.

First, a huge thanks to Carolyn B. and last year's Council for all of their hard work, dedication and innovation during such unprecedented times. A big thanks also to Annie Y., Lynne H., Nitaya Y., Roger N., and all of the other volunteers who made our Chinese New Year drive through lunch such a success. Finally, I'd like to thank Ryan Y., Lynne H., and Annie Y. for their hard work contacting the Congregation to help them make appointments for COVID-19 vaccines.

On February 7th, we also held our Annual Congregational Meeting during which we installed new officers, approved the development of the Chavez Property, and chose our 2021 Theme . One in 41. I have no illusions about the challenges or the obstacles that we must overcome this year, but am hopeful that as one Church, one Congregation, and one body of Christ, 2021 will provide the fresh start that we all need to move forward from this difficult year. I look forward to this new start with all of you.

Christian Education Board

Lori K., Co-Chairperson

MPCC's CE Board members continue to strategize new and improved ways to reach our congregation during Covid-19 and beyond. While it may seem that the focus is on our Sunday School children, the CE board also covers fellowships, Bible studies, and other groups, young and old, that meet under the umbrella of MPCC. If you are interested in starting a fellowship, Bible study or other group please let us know so we can support you in your efforts or at least lay the groundwork to make it happen. We also encourage you to contact us or Pastor Mitchell if you would like to know more about baptism, confirmation, and membership.

Mission Moment - Remembering the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

On March 11th, 2011 at 2:46 pm Japan Time (March 10th 9:46pm Pacific Time) the Tohoku area of Japan was devastated by a massive earthquake and tsunami. We encourage you to pray for Japan as they still bear the scars of that terrible catastrophe. Just last month, the area experienced aftershocks of that quake in the 5.0 range, enough to bring up traumatic memories of that day that took 20,000 lives. The United Church of Christ in Japan was very active in responding to the needs of all those affected. We are also grateful to have some of our MPCC mission team members visit Tohoku in 2015 and 2018 as well.

On March 7th, we will offer a time of prayer during worship service. Please pray for the people of Japan as they continue to heal, pray for their leaders as they try to rebuild and make decisions about their reliance on nuclear power, and pray for our partner churches in Japan as they strive to do God's good work.

Diaconate Board

Annie Y., Chairperson

Greetings from Diaconate Board!

March is already upon us and we are still unsure of when MPCC will resume in-person services. The council will be forming a subcommittee to focus on the timing and steps to safely do so. Some of you might be contacted to determine the conditions under which you'd be ready and willing to return to attend church in person.

The Diaconate board is gathering a list of Easter lily recipients, names of church members who themselves, their families or relatives have faced some infirmity or loss since December 2020. Please contact the church office if you think someone should be on the list.

Thanks to Ryan Y. for being so generous with his time in contacting vulnerable folks on our church directory to assist them in scheduling and obtaining Covid-19 vaccines.

Easter giving envelopes should have been sent out with this March newsletter. There will be no Spring rummage sale in 2021. A suggestions was made to sell items online but the idea was turned down due to the complexity of such an endeavor.

We are thankful and grateful to all who participated at fundraising lunches, church cleanups, livestreams, virtual Sunday school and everything that keeps the our church running smoothly.

In lieu of online or in-person, the next Diaconate Board meeting will involve calls to board members before Sunday March 14, 2021.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

A Message from our Treasurer...

Terry H.

The Trustee Board would like to thank you for your financial support . The first lunch fundraiser netted \$3,092.00.

	January	Year to Date
Total Income:	\$18,986.61	\$18,986.61
Total Expense:	\$19,130.59	\$19,130.59
Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$143.98)	(\$143.98)

1/1/21 **Building Fund** \$314,051.88
Setsuko Hagihara Fund \$52,993.66

Board of Trustees

Roger N., Chairperson

The Trustees this year will have a primary focus on supporting the AV team by continually looking for ways to improve our Sunday Virtual Service for our community as we continue to stay safer at home. The first item completed was the improvement and expansion of our current WiFi signal in the office, Mori Hall, Sanctuary, and the Sunday

School Wing. The next step is upgrading the current desktop in the Sanctuary by the middle to end of March.

We are also looking into various online companies, which will allow our church to be able to accept online donations. This will provide individuals and families another option, other than cash and checks, to donate to the church, whether it is a one-time donation, special offering, general fund, or building fund. The online donation function will be included within our church website and possibly onsite.

Lastly, the Trustees will be reviewing and adding to our Short and Long terms goals that would help improve or update our church campus.

Call for “A Just World for All”

We are preparing a special “*Call to Worship*” for Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday. We invite all MPCCers and their families to send a short video clip saying the phrase “**A Just World for All**” in the language of your choice. Here are some you can choose from:

Spanish: Un mundo de justicia para todas, todos, y todes

Hawaiian: He Ao Pono No Ka Po e a Pau Loa

Samoaan: Fai Mea Tonu Mo Tagata Uma

Japanese: みんなに正しい世の中

(pronounced: minna ni tadashii yononaka)

Chinese: 一个公平的世界

(pronounced: y gè g ngpíng de shìjiè)

Korean: 모든 만물을 위한 정의로운 평화

(pronounced: Mo-deun Man-mul-eul wee-han Jeong-wee-roh-un Pyeong-hwa)

Ilocano: Justicia ti sangkalubungan

Kampampangan: Masaplalang yatu cecata-mungan

Pangasinan: Makatonongan dalin parad amin

Tagalog: Isang Makatarungang Mundo Para Sa Lahat

Indonesian: Keadilan Untuk Semua

Vietnamese: Th gi i công b ng c a b n

Thai: โลกที่ยุติธรรมสำหรับทุกคน

(pronounced: lok th yuti ham s hmr b thuk khon)

Special Offerings and Gifts

F., Ben & Carol	Family Fund
F., Steve	Youth Fund
H., Pam & Yasuko	In Memory of Mitzi (Eileen Y.’s mother), & Mochitsuki
K., Don	In Memory of Elsie K.
K., Dave & Lori	In Memory of Tak U. & Sachi U.
K., Kiku	In Memory of Alan K.
S., Eiko	Thank You
S., Grace	Lunch Donation
W., Mari	In Memory of Joanne C., Yoga Class, & Speedy recovery to Nancy M.
Y., Don & Eileen	Computer Equipment for Pastor Mitchell
Y., Evelyn	In Memory of George Y., Kiko K.’s sister, & Eileen Y.’s mother, & Mochitsuki

Don’t see your language here? Please make your own (and consult with a native speaker of that language) or ask Pastor Mitchell for more.

We want to see all your faces calling for “A Just World for All”!

Please send your video clip to BJ at <mpccucc@gmail.com> or her cell phone number by **March 30**.

Thank you! Mahalo! ありがとう
うございます! ¡Gracias!
Salamat



With Our Church Family

Prayers of the People

With Deepest Sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Alan Y., who passed away in December at a Montebello care facility. where he resided for many years.
- Joanne C., Thomas and Allison's mother/mother-in-law, passed away on January 30.
- Ana D., Toni M.'s mother's cousin, passed away in the first week of February from Covid-19 complications.

Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Blessing for:

- Nancy M., who was hospitalized for pneumonia in January, is now home and is doing well.
- Cynthia C., Maggie M.'s sister, who had a successful kidney surgery on her right kidney on February 9.
- Steve and Naomi F., who have recovered from Covid-19 after undergoing some rough times and their son, David, remained negative.
- Mary Ann D., Jan F.'s neighbor, who had back surgery on February 8.
- Sally B., Christine K.'s neighbor for almost 60 years is in hospice care. Her husband Joe and their two sons try to help care for her. Joe has health problems of his own.
- The Samoan churches in the Conference. Rev. Sepu Tanavasu reports that many churches have lost numerous members and leaders to Covid-19.
- Mari and Albert L. pray for strength and peace of mind as they and their 2 children look for a place to live.
- David K., brother-in-law of Suzy H. and Kiku K. and husband of Nori, had surgery to repair a disk in his neck and is recuperating in a convalescent home.
- Yasuko K., Kenzo K.'s mother, had a successful surgery after a trip to emergency for a low hemoglobin count.
- Carolyn B., who had to have her finger stitched with one stitch at the ER after a cut from their puppy's bite.
- Dani and Jimmy K., who live in Texas and had their power out for 1-1/2 days and still need to boil their water, but they are safe and well. Lori K. prays for the well-being of all those in Texas who experienced power break-down, burst pipes and the extreme cold that blanketed the state.

Thanksgiving:

- by Kenzo K., for the prayers for his mother Yasuko K., as she underwent surgery.
- by Steve F., for all the prayers by the church people for his family. They all tested negative as of 2/19/21.
- by Jean K., for the man who found her lost wallet and returned it to her intact and for those who prepared the Chinese plate lunch shared with others who all enjoyed the good food and favors.
- by Lori K., for the prayers for Dani and Jimmy K., living in Texas and her gratefulness for God's protection.

NOTE:

For prayer requests in the month of April e-mail Pastor Mitchell at mpccucc@yahoo.com or call (323) 893-2672 by the Friday before the Sunday service to be included in the Pastoral Prayer.

March Birthday Celebrations

1	Chris L.
1	Bien R.
3	Kaytlyn M.
3	Mike Q.
5	Katrina R.
5	Sets S.
6	Miyoko I.
8	Yasuko H.
9	Grace S.
14	Sandra L.
14	Kyle Y.
15	Nancy M.
16	Irene M.
19	Desiree M.
19	Joy Y.
20	Howard S.
21	William O.
22	Roger N.
23	Lynne H.
23	Grace S.
28	David A.
30	Edward K.
30	Jane M.
31	Pam H.
31	Chico I.

2021 Church Directory

The 2021 Church Directory is available for pick-up. Please contact the Church Office to coordinate a pick up date.

*mpccucc@gmail.com
(323) 721-5568*

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

Sacred Conversations

Especially in the climate of racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the current pandemic, we invite you to join in our live heart-to-heart conversation on race moderated by our dear friend of MPCC, the Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs, Jr. who moderated our MPCC Sacred Conversation last August.

Sacred Conversations: Racism from the Asian/Pacific Islander Perspective

Date: March 13, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Register for Zoom event at - <https://www.scncucc.org> Click on "Sacred Conversation: Racism Panel Discussion"

Southern California Nevada Pacific Islanders Asian American Ministries PAAM

Lynne Hanamoto, Moderator

Rev. Ernest Reyes, Vice Moderator

Ron Nitta, Treasurer

Rev. Mitchell Young, PAAM Ambassador

Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young, Secretary

Divya Samuel, Technical Administrator



Sacred Conversations
Racism from the Asian / Pacific Islander Perspective

Saturday, March 13th @ 10 am
Register for Zoom event at www.SCNCucc.org

Featuring

- Misi Tagaloa
- Jessea Young
- Marita Etcubañez,
- Mel Niere
- Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs—Moderator

Sponsored by the Southern California Nevada Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) through a generous grant from the United Church of Christ.

Official L.A. County vaccine locations website

Montebello Plymouth Church cares about your health of mind, body, and spirit. This website can help you make an appointment for your Covid-19 vaccination.



<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/hcwsignup/pods/>

Virtual Summer Ex 2021

DATES: July 7-30 (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) 9:30am-12pm

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 **AGES:** PRE-K TO 8TH GRADE

REGISTER ONLINE website: montebelloucc.org (limited space)

Quest for God's Light!

Join us for a virtual discovery on Adventure Island for our children to arise and shine because the light of God's love has come and is shining on them. The children will be empowered by exploring ways God's light by reflecting what they've learned.

"Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you!" Isaiah 60:1



Staff Wanted!

Applications for teachers and teacher's aides available online on our website: montebelloucc.org or email mpccucc@gmail.com. Volunteer staff will receive an honorarium at the end of the program. Applications open for high school sophomores or above. All staff members must be able to work in a team ministry situation. They must show maturity in their Christian faith and a willingness to work with children and youth. Please spread the word out. Contact BJ for more information.

Mabuhay! You Asked for It! Masarap! (Delicious!)

(Actual plate may not be as pictured.) The **Filipino Plate Fundraiser** scheduled for **Saturday, April 17**. The Reyes Family leads our menu selections. Suggested donation is \$10 per plate, but in these financially challenging times, we graciously receive whatever is offered. Call Lynne H. or Suzy H. (or the church office) to pre-order. Pre-order deadline will be **Friday, April 9**. Thank you all so much for your support!



Please note: out of compassion to our volunteer cooks and helpers we will only take orders up to 250. Please call early.



Thank you to all who supported our Chinese New Year Drive-Thru Fundraiser on Feb. 13, 2021. We especially want to thank Annie Y., as Chair for Chinese New Year Fundraiser. Contributors in addition to Annie and Ron Y., who cooked and baked were Nitaya Y., Anna C., Tricia T. and Maria M. Also who contributed to Chinese New Year Meal: Lynne H., Maggie M. and Ed Y.

-Lynne H.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *Virtual Dance Class 5pm	2 Bible Study 10am	3 *Virtual Chair Yoga 7:30am *Virtual Dance Class 3pm	4 Choir Meeting @4:30pm Small Group 8pm	5	6 Saturday Group 8am
7 Holy Communion	8 *Virtual Dance Class 5pm	9 Bible Study 10am	10 *Virtual Chair Yoga 7:30am *Virtual Dance Class 3pm	11 Choir Meeting @4:30pm	12 Youth Fellowship 5pm	13 Youth Outdoor Activity 10am
14 Trustees Meeting	15 *Virtual Dance Class 5pm	16 Bible Study 10am	17 *Virtual Chair Yoga 7:30am *Virtual Dance Class 3pm	18 Choir Meeting @4:30pm Small Group 8pm	19	20 Saturday Group 8am
21 Council Meeting Goodnews Articles Due	22 *Virtual Dance Class 5pm	23 Bible Study 10am	24 *Virtual Chair Yoga 7:30am Goodnews Mailing *Virtual Dance Class 3pm	25 Choir Meeting @4:30pm	26 Youth Fellowship 5pm	27 CE Board Meeting @10am Confirmation Class @3pm
28 Palm Sunday	29 *Virtual Dance Class 5pm	30 Bible Study 10am	31 *Virtual Chair Yoga 7:30am *Virtual Dance Class 3pm	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.</p> </div>		

<p>Coming in</p> <p>April</p> <p>2021:</p>	<p>2 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>3 Good Friday</p> <p>4 Easter Sunday</p> <p>9,23 Virtual Youth Fellowship</p> <p>17 Plate Luncheon Drive-thru</p> <p>24 Central Association Meeting</p>	<p>See our updated online calendar at:</p> <p>http://Montebelloucc.org//</p>
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Join us for our **Virtual 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
 (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 participant 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

144 So. Greenwood Avenue
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Inside This Issue

Pastor Mitchell's Message.....pg 1
News From Our Boardspg 2-3
With Our Church Familypg 4
Fellowship and Outreach.....pg 5-6
Calendarpg 7

Get Youth to It *insert*
Easter 2021 offering envelope *insert*

Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ
144 S. Greenwood Ave.
Montebello, CA 90640

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PERMIT NO. 2200

Return Service Requested

Church Contacts

Pastor - Mitchell Y.
Moderator – Justin I.
Vice Moderator - Jayson D.
Clerk - Ron T.
Treasurer – Terry H.
Historian – (unfilled)
Members-at-large - Anna F. J., Kiku K.
Music Director - Eileen M.
Youth Min. Dir. – BJ W.
Good News Editor - BJ W.

Please submit Good News articles by
Sunday, March 21 @8pm
via email to
mpcucc@gmail.com

website: montebelloucc.org
e-mail: mpcucc@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 YouTube Live*