



Why Can't We Worship God the Way We Want?

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." **Galatians 6:2**

A couple weeks ago, I had the rare opportunity to worship in-person at one of our sister churches. They have a huge sanctuary, so worshipping at 50% capacity was not an issue. Also, as much as they required face masks, amongst our pews were a few unmasked worshippers. Interestingly enough, that day's Scripture lesson involved talking about the plagues of Egypt in the time of Moses, which included a very timely observation on climate change issues.

One thing that I started to think about was the description of the cycles of plagues: Moses calls for the release of the Hebrews to worship God in the wilderness, pharaoh refuses, God sends a plague, pharaoh relents and frees the Hebrews, but his heart hardens after the affliction of over Moses returns to call for the release of the Hebrews.

In our own faith life here in Montebello Plymouth, a part of me is disappointed that we had those glimpses of worshipping God as we had longed for, that is, in-person together in our J.K. Fukushima Memorial Chapel. The health statistics were looking favorable. However, with recent developments, we have decided to return to virtual worship services only again, for safety's sake.

Now this is NOT to say that anyone in our modern context is fitting the bill of pharaoh who vacillates between mercy

and hard-heartedness. It is our changing context which affecting our month-to-month, week-to-week status with regard to returning to in-person worship in our chapel. I'm sure the Israelites would fully relate this rollercoaster ride of "Yay, freedom!" or "Aw, captivity!" They experienced rivers of blood, frogs, gnats, flies, disease, hail, locusts, et al. Our current plagues are racism, xenophobia, and COVID-19, or as I heard one immunologist say of the Delta variant, COVID-21.

Oh, the cycles of patience and disappointment our faith ancestors, the ancient Israelites, must have endured before they could worship God as they pleased!

As for our faith and obedience to Jesus, discipleship involves dying to ourselves and taking up the cross and following him. We are commanded to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Loving other people can involve many things, but at minimum it involves seeking their good. The general principle of the common good comes down to benevolence, love, care for others, and laying down personal priorities for the service of others. Christians thinking about vaccinations must weigh this key biblical principle in their decision-making process. You yourself may have little to fear if you reject a vaccine, but you'll have little control over whom you infect in turn.

All Christians should praise and thank God for the awe-inspiring power of our bodily immune system. Yet we can also thank God for insights of doctors and researchers who have developed vaccines to strengthen our immune system, preventing countless early

deaths and needless suffering. As we roll up our sleeves for a vaccine, we can be confident we are making an ethical and wise decision for the health of ourselves and our communities.

Thank you all for your part in battling this modern plague and thank you for your patience as our MPCC leadership seeks keeping us all safe and healthy, in mind, body, and spirit.

Looking to that Day,
Pastor Mitchell

Worship at MPCC

August 1

YouTube Livestream
"Edification: Gifts of the Spirit"
Holy Communion
Ephesians 4:1-16

August 8

YouTube Livestream
"Imitation: Living in Love"
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 15

YouTube Livestream
"Domestication: The Christian Household"
Ephesians 5:21-6:9

August 22

YouTube Livestream
"Fortification: The Whole Armor of God"
Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29

YouTube Livestream
"Be Love"
Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Christian Education Board

Lori K., Co-Chairperson

The CE board did not meet in July but we were putting together some awesome plans for the Annual Church Picnic. As you well know, we had to postpone the picnic to a later, to be determined, date as we await for Covid conditions to improve. We pray with all of you for not only our church members but our entire community to stay safe and healthy.

We are seeking a Sunday School Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year. If you would like more information on what that entails, please contact Lani D. (sundayschool@montebelloucc.org) or myself.

A Message from our Treasurer...

Terry H.

The Trustee Board would like to thank you for your financial support. We received a dividend check of \$1,625.00 from Setsuko Hagihara Fund. We had income of \$560.00 from the Father's Day burritos.

	June	Year to Date
Total Income:	\$15,915.00	\$116,736.82
Total Expense:	\$22,042.30	\$118,591.05
Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$5,127.30)	(\$1,854.23)
Building Fund	\$303,272.39	

Board of Trustees

Roger N., Chairperson

In June, the Sanctuary and Sunday School wing needed a complete replacement of the heat pump system. The new system was installed and completed within a week. The total cost included applying for City of Montebello building permits, state mandated HERS Testing, and taxes came out to approximately \$20,395.12. Thank you to the congregation for approving this much needed repair.

Church-wide clean-up which was scheduled for July 31st, has been postponed. Clean up will be rescheduled for a later date. If you would be willing to assist in the future clean up please let me know. In addition to Church-wide clean up, we are also looking for volunteers to assist with general garden maintenance on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 8am - 10am. If you can help in any way please contact me or just show up.

Lastly, Trustees applied and were approved by Google as a non-profit to have our church staff, council members, and chairpersons with an official church email address. Currently, we are creating the accounts and once they are finished you can email to their titled email address.

Diaconate Board

Annie Y., Chairperson

Happy Summer 2021! I was hoping by the time I write this that we would all be back worshipping together again but it seems we have to wait a bit longer.

In June when things were looking better and we offered in-person participation for the Fathers' Day brunch, folks were still very cautious and most drove through to pick up the food, which I think is a good thing.

We did have a couple of in-person services, one on June 6th, another on July 4th, and those who attended seemed to really have enjoyed coming together and visiting with each other. However, after the July 4th service, the church got notified that one of the attendees got symptoms and a subsequent home test showed positive for the Corona virus.

A follow up PCR test taken a few days later came up negative for Covid but the person's doctor warned that, due to reported symptoms, we must assume the first positive test was accurate and the second negative test indicated the person had recovered. This also means the virus was active at the July 4th service even though symptoms were not apparent yet.

We have asked the July 4th attendees to self-monitor for symptoms and so far have not had any reported incidence of infection. We are grateful the infected person was opened and timely in sharing the information so we were able to take proper precautions.

As result of this "scare" and the rise of infection rate with the recurrence of the mask mandate in California, the church council is pushing the reopening to the first Sunday in September at the earliest.

We will try to keep everyone informed as much as possible but the situation is still very fluid and can change with little notice. Let's all be diligent in keeping ourselves and each other safe.

I wish you good health, much happiness and hope to see you all very soon.

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

Wednesday/Saturday Group

Bob Miwa

6/19/21 Nitaya Y., Ryan Y., Chico I., and Bien R. mowed, and edged the front and back yard. Maria M. joined us cleaning and weeding both yards. Ryan watered the front and lanai area. Nitaya watered the backyard.

Special Offerings and Gifts

6/23/21 Nitaya Y., Chico I., and Alice H. cleaned and watered the front yard. They were joined by Pastor Mitchell Y., Terry and Suzy H., Mitch S., Kiku Y., and Ed Y. folding and labeling the Good News. The donut lady brought us donuts for our break. Nitaya and I went to the post office to mail the Good News and they told us they were out of the card board boxes.

6/30/21 Nitaya Y., Chico I., Ed Y., and Ernie A. trimmed 4 trees of red berries on the parking lot side only and cleaned the yard. We moved to the back yard while Nitaya Y. trimmed the hedges alongside the gate so it can be closed. Ernie A., Chico I., and Ed Y. weeded between the hedges along the C.E. wing and laid black cloth and black wood chips to keep the weeds from growing. The donut lady brought donuts for our break. Nitaya watered when it cooled down.

7/3/21 Nitaya Y. and Maria M. weed whacked the Chavez property. Ryan Y. and Steven W. mowed, edged and cleaned the yard. They watered the front and back yard.

7/7/21 Nitaya Y. and Ryan Y. were joined by Ernie A. cleaning the front yard from fire work debris and watered the front and back yard. Ryan Y. brought donuts for our break. The back yard was also cleaned.

7/14/21 Ryan Y., Nitaya Y., and Chico I. cleaned the front yard. Ryan trimmed the hedges along Los Angeles street. Chico and Ryan cleaned the back yard. The donut lady brought donuts for our break. Nitaya watered

H., Barbara	In Memory of Eddie H.
K., Kiku	Summer Ex
M., Bob	In Memory of Dawn T.
W., Denise	Summer Ex
W., Henry & Carol	In Celebration of Henry's Birthday
Y., Jane	In Memory of Noby U. and Eddie H.
Y., Evelyn	Family Fund, Father's Day, and In Memory of Sakiko N.
Y., Lorran	In Memory of Sam Y. and James Y.
Y., Beverly	Summer Ex

the front and Ryan watered the back yard.

Church Directory

Church	Mpcc@montebelloucc.org
Pastor Mitchell Y.	Myoung@montebelloucc.org
BJ W.	Bwoo@montebelloucc.org
Eileen M.	Musicdirector@montebelloucc.org
Summer Ex	Summerex@montebelloucc.org
S.S. Superintendent	Sundayschool@montebelloucc.org
Moderator	moderator@montebelloucc.org
Board of Trustees	Trusteeschairperson@montebelloucc.org
Christian Education Board	Cechairperson@montebelloucc.org
Diaconate Board	Diaconatechairperson@montebelloucc.org
Treasurer	Treasurer@montebelloucc.org

With Our Church Family

Prayers of the People

With Deepest Sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Loved ones killed in the collapse of the high-rise building in Florida.
- The Liu family's father/grandfather in Japan who passed away recently. Prayers of comfort for the Liu family members, friends of Eileen Y.
- Jane V., who was in hospice care, passed away last week.
- Prayers for Jane's husband Mike, Jan F.'s cousin, and the extended family.

Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Blessings for:

- Delia, Maggie M.'s best friend in Idaho, and Delia's husband Bruce, who had surgery on June 21.
- Doug M., Margaret E.'s father, now at Atherton Skilled Nursing in Alhambra since June 21. He seems to be doing well. Prayers for Doug, his wife Ruth and his family.
- Andrew's parents living in Taiwan, that they remain protected from the Covid virus. Andrew is a friend of Eileen Y.
- Jennie W.'s friends and sister living in Taiwan, that they remain safe as the Covid cases surge there.
- Jennie W. asks for prayers for herself as she has a painful neck due to previous accidents and now arthritis. She prays for the well-being of the church community.
- George, Ida G.'s son in the Philippines, who is recovering from laparoscopic surgery.
- John Jr., Maggie M.'s nephew, is recovering from surgery and also needs prayers for his eyes.
- Amelia, Toni M.'s mother, had eye surgery on July 5 and can now see. Toni also lifts up prayers of thanksgiving for John C.'s improvement and for everyone.
- Rosie S., Grace S.'s friend, who has skin cancer on her cheek. She also needs testing on her throat.
- Rev. Jolene C., pastor of Arcadia Congregational, UCC, who was in the hospital but is now home.
- Debbie D., Rosa R.'s friend, who is recovering from surgery on her left shoulder on July 15.
- Mike Phillips entered the hospital in Fontana on July 17 with blood clots in his abdomen. Prayers for his well-being as tests are being done.

Congratulations to:

- Rev. Dr. Ernie R., who was awarded Chaplain of the Year by Kaiser Permanente MC-Home Care for the second year in a row. PAAM celebrates and gives thanks for Dr. Ernie and his service in So. California, going the extra mile in his work.

Thanksgiving:

- By the 30 recipients of Montebello's Child Sponsorship program, for the scholarships put by our sister church in the Philippines Jesus Reigns Victorious.

August Birthday Celebrations

1	Dirk M.
5	Carol A.
5	Stephanie P.
8	Rosa R.
11	Taylor Y.
11	Rhys Y.
13	Trent H.
14	Christine K.
15	Ron Y.
16	Melissa R.
17	Ernest A.
17	Mitchell Y.
18	Troy K.
25	Shoichi H.
25	Yvonne P.
25	Brandon S.
25	Ryan Y.
27	Kaito K.
27	Edith S.
30	Bernalyd A.
31	Raquelrae M.
31	Miki S.

NOTE:

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

Save Used Stamps

Please continue to save "Used Stamps".

These used stamps will be sent to JOCS office in Japan. Stamp collectors in Japan are asked to purchase the used stamps to convert them into cash. With the cash the JOCS helps send medical staff overseas.

For more information email
info@jocs.or.jp

Please leave at least 1/8-1/4"
around the stamp and if it is multi-
ple stamps cut it together. For
more information call Evelyn Y.

**when cutting please leave jagged
edges intact.*



VIRTUAL CHAIR YOGA

WITH JOCELYN YAMASAKI

WEDNESDAYS @7:30AM

VIA ZOOM

Virtual Coffee Hour

Every Sunday at 12:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 820 1599 7091

Password: mpcc

Or

call 1(669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 820 1599 7091 #

Password: 418862 #



Searching for a 2021-2022 Sunday School Superintendent

Contact

sundayschool@montebello.org

Cchairperson@montebelloucc.org

For more details



Summer Celebration Fundraiser Drive-thru

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021

11:00am—12:30pm

A healthy MPCC Mediterranean meal fundraiser which includes chicken with pita bread, hummus, chopped veggies, turmeric rice, fruit cup, and a special dessert. Suggested donation of \$10. Contact Lynne H. or the church office for details.





"Arise! Shine! For your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Isaiah 60:1

Date: July 7– July 30 (Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays)

9:30am-12:00pm

Lesson Days & Music/Crafts/Game Days

Lesson 1: The Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-2:9)

Lesson 2: Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-20)

Lesson 3: Faith through the Roof (Luke 5:17-26)

Lesson 4: The "Lost" Parables (Luke 15)

Lesson 5: Mary at the Tomb (John 20:1-18)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion	2 *Virtual Dance @5pm	3 Bible Study @10am	4 *Virtual Yoga Class @7:30am *Virtual Dance @3pm	5 Choir	6	7 CE Meeting
8	9 *Virtual Dance @5pm	10 Bible Study @10am	11 *Virtual Yoga Class @7:30am *Virtual Dance @3pm	12 Choir	13	14 Summer Celebration Mediterranean Fundraiser @11am-12:30pm
15 Council Meeting	16 *Virtual Dance @5pm	17 Bible Study @10am	18 *Virtual Yoga Class @7:30am *Virtual Dance @3pm	19 Choir	20	21
22 MPCC's Founder's Day Goodnews Articles Due	23 *Virtual Dance @5pm	24 Bible Study @10am	25 *Virtual Yoga Class @7:30am *Virtual Dance @3pm Goodnews Mailing	26 Choir	27	28
29 Pastor's 5th Sunday Off	30 *Virtual Dance @5pm	31 Bible Study @10am				

Coming in TBA Kid's Night Out 5-9pm
September TBA Church Picnic
2021:

See our updated online calendar at:
<http://Montebelloucc.org//>

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

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MONTEREY PARK CA
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, August 22 @8pm
via email to
bwoo@montebelloucc.org

website: montebelloucc.org
e-mail: mpcc@montebelloucc.org
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 Livestream*