



MONTEBELLO PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume XL No. VII

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Good News

July 2021

Freedom

“And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you...”

Leviticus 25:10

Free. What a word! It can have multiple meanings and misunderstandings. It is often connected to patriotism or nationality as in America being the “land of the free and the home of the brave” in our current National Anthem.

Generally, “free” is thought of as positive because it has a connotation of being separated from absent of something/someone we don’t want. Gluten-free bread, BPA-free plastic bottles, and if you feel you must only eat organic food, by federal law, your food should be manure ash-free, arsenic-free, calcium chloride-free, lead salt-free, rotenone-free, sodium fluoaluminate-free, strychnine-free, tobacco dust-free. Many of us will remember the “free” misunderstanding in the movie “Back to the Future” when a 1980’s teenager tries to order a popular caffeine-free soda in 1950’s America:

Marty: *“Give me a Pepsi Free.”*

Lou: *“You want a Pepsi, pal, you’re gonna pay for it.”*

Here in the month of July, our nation symbolically celebrates freedom on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. The 13 colonies declared themselves free of British imperial policies regarding taxation and frontier policy. Increasingly wealthy, land-owning colonists saw the British rule as an affront to moral justice and were willing to risk their lives, land,

and property (including slaves) in order to preserve their freedom.

Yet, the now more obvious celebration of moral justice would be the recent federal recognition of Juneteenth, a celebration so named as a combination of “June” and “nineteenth” in honor of the June 19, 1865 announcement that tens of thousands of African-Americans in Texas had been emancipated, closing the door on one of the last chapters of slavery in the U.S. In our Judeo-Christian tradition, we should also note the Juneteenth is also historically known as Jubilee Day, recalling the biblical Jubilee in which slaves were freed and debts cancelled every seven times seven (49) years.

Interestingly enough, our next in-person worship service here at Montebello Plymouth will be held on **Sunday, July 4, 2021**. You won’t need a reservation since our leadership has decided that we can safely worship together in-person at 50% capacity in the Fukushima Chapel, but we will ask everyone to wear facemasks during the service. For some of you, this may be your first time back for in-person worship, perhaps this will be your COVID-19 freedom celebration. And our emergence from Covid may also be a sober reminder that freedom is not the same as license: just because we have freedom does not mean that we can do whatever we want whenever we want. (I hope none of you insisted on shopping maskless at Costco or Trader Joe’s at the peaks of the pandemic!) When people do whatever they want by disregarding God’s law, their own good, or the rights of others, evil results.

This Independence Day, let us also

traditionally celebrate American freedom by remembering our strength in diversity for all those who have come to our shores and borders seeking the elusive oppression-free, terror-free life for their families so that someday we may truly live our founders’ ideals of liberty and justice for ALL!

Finding Freedom in Christ,

Pastor Mitchell

Worship at MPCC

July 4
YouTube Livestream/In-person
Worship
“Sent With Power”
Holy Communion
Mark 6:1-13

July 11
YouTube Livestream
Church Picnic
“Adoption: Family by Choice”
Ephesians 1:3-14

July 18
YouTube Livestream
“Naturalization: from Alien to Citizen”
Ephesians 2:11-22

July 25
YouTube Livestream
“Globalization: All and More”
Ephesians 3:14-21

Christian Education Board

Lori K., Co-Chairperson

The CE board had a busy month even though we were still not meeting in person.

Sunday school met via zoom and we celebrated our graduates and thanked our teachers during worship on June 13th to close out the school year. Thanks to all who participated and helped this year, especially Superintendent Lani D. and Youth Director BJ W.

On Father's Day, after a youth participation worship, we were blessed to have Annie Y. and June F. put together a Burrito Brunch catered by "Tacos Wasted." We served about 130 breakfast burritos with homemade cookies, fruit and drinks. Many hands helped with set up, clean up, providing the extras and serving. Thank you CE board members, women, men, and youth for pitching in. We were so blessed.

On Sunday July 11th the CE board is organizing the annual Church Picnic. Please RSVP so we know how much food to prepare. See the enclosed flyer for details.

A Message from our Treasurer...

Terry H.

The Trustee Board would like to thank you for your financial support.

	May	Year to Date
Total Income:	\$18,588.21	\$100,821.82
Total Expense:	\$17,832.96	\$96,548.75
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$755.25	\$4,273.07
Building Fund is \$321,520.51		
Setsuko Hagihara Fund is \$52,956.66		

Wednesday/Saturday Group

Bob Miwa

5/22/21 Roger N., Ryan Y., Bien R., Nitaya Y., Chico I., Maria M., Maggie M., and Steven W. trimmed 5 hedges in the back next to the C.E. wing and cleaned and watered the yards as Roger, Ryan, Bien, and Steven mowed and edged the yard. Ryan and Nitaya watered the back yard. Then they helped Pastor Mitchell set up Mori Hall for Sunday's Confirmation/Baptism.

5/26/21 Ryan, Nitaya, Alice H., Terry and Suzy H., Chico, Kiku Y., Pastor Mitchell folded and labeled the good News. We thanked the donut lady for bringing donuts. Nitaya watered the front and back yard.

6/2/21 Ryan and Nitaya repaired the locking door mechanism for the main electrical panel located between Mori Hall and the Neighbor's on the south side. Ed Y., Ryan, and Nitaya mowed, edge, watered and cleaned the yard. R.K. Industries started to install two new a/c units in C.E. wing.

6/5/21 Ryan, Nitaya, Maria, Bien, Steven mowed and edged the back yard. Ryan, Nitaya, and Maria trimmed the hedges

next to the back yard fence, and cleaned and watered the front and back yard. Bien and Steven helped set up Mori Hall for Sunday service. Ryan repaired 2 sprinkler heads.

6/9/21 Ryan, Nitaya, Chico, and Ed trimmed the hedges along Greenwood Ave. and cleaned the yard. Ryan mowed and edged the lawn along Greenwood Ave. We weeded the strip along C.E. wing and the Chavez property. The donut lady brought donuts for our break. Ryan watered the front yard as Nitaya watered the back yard. Ed helped Alice clean the kitchen refrigerator.

6/16/21 Nitaya cleaned and watered the front and back yard. I told Ryan not to come because of heat wave

Mother's Day Recap

Ron N.

Well our Mother's Day Drive-Thru Brunch was a success, largely due to the dedicated individuals which comprised of our Men's Breakfast Group, our church's youth, and even a few of our church's Ladies. It would take a lot of time and paper to list everyone responsible, so I will focus on those who did the major cooking and preparations.

These cooks were:

Fried Rice: Ed F. **Waffles:** Ron T. **Bacon:** Mitch S. & Ron N. **Sausage:** Lisa T. **Fresh Fruit:** Lisa T. & Nitaya Y. **Eggs:** Andie H. & Bien R. **Biscuits:** Andie H. & Bien R.

I would also like to thank our Lisa T. for providing the beautiful Carnation flowers, in which she added a lovely bow and note, wishing our Mothers a "Happy Mother's Day". Also, thanks to Anne Y. for providing a small Gift Bag to our church ladies. Finally, I want to thank both Nitaya Y. and Lisa T. for staying behind to help clean up the kitchen.

Special Offerings and Gifts

A., Fred	In Celebration of Anniversary
C., Chris	In Memory of Les
F., Steve & Naomi	Holy Communion
H., Barbara	Summer Ex
H., Terry & Suzy	Summer Ex
K., Jean	In Memory of Virginia K. (sister of Yasuko H.)
M., Toni	Special Offering
M., Jane	In Memory of Yosh M. & Saki N.
M., Bob	In Memory of Esther
T., Patricia	Rev. J. K. Fukushima Scholarship
W., Jennie	Special Offering
Y., Ed & Cindy	In Memory of Veza S.

With Our Church Family

July Birthday Celebrations

Prayers of the People

With Deepest Sympathy to the family/ies of:

- Gordon M.'s sister, who passed away recently. Gordon is a friend of Jan F.
- Milt H., former Interim Conference Minister Jane H.'s husband, who passed away on June 18.

Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Blessing for:

- Toni M., who had a dry throat and cough but is feeling better and continues to ask for prayers for everyone.
- Tom, Frank M.'s police officer friend in New Jersey who is dealing with heart issues.
- Maria C., Jan F.'s neighbor, who has Alzheimer's and had a brain bleed on Easter Sunday. Maria is now in assisted living.
- Chris and Sandra L. and their children Daniel, Ally and Davy. Pepperdine U. has gone through a reorganization due to Covid-related financial issues and the special faculty technical support teams have been eliminated. Chris was part of a team but affirms that "God's got a plan and we'll figure it out someday."
- Mike, Rosa R.'s acupuncturist, whose business was devastated by water damage. He is looking for a new place to re-open his business.
- Conference Minister, Felix Villanueva, who has retired and will be moving to Washington state with his family.
- Acting Conference Minister, Libby Tigner, who will continue to lead the Conference as she has as Interim Conference Minister.
- Ryan Y., who shares a joy - he has published his first poem and received \$40 for it.
- all fathers and father-figures who love, guide and mentor children and youth.

5	Carol I.
7	Grant M.
8	Mitsie M.
8	Ryan T.
9	Kiku K.
10	Patrick F.
10	Bryce H.
11	Henry W.
11	Andrew C.
12	Suzy H.
12	Michio O.
13	Les S.
19	Ann S.
24	Megan M.
26	Toni M.
28	Joyce K.
28	Elinor S.
31	James Y.

Congratulations to:

- Samantha B., Toni M.'s granddaughter, for getting all A's in school.
- Frank M., Toni M.'s son, for receiving his M.E. in Special Education from Arizona State University.
- Kenzo K., Christine K.'s grandson, who graduated from Diamond Bar High School.
- all the students who graduated from high school and college.
- Natasha Y., for receiving the Gwenith V. Shima scholarship.

Thanksgiving:

- By Rosa R., who gives thanks for a miracle. She was able to lose enough weight to be taken off insulin.
- For Jennifer C. of Brea UCC, who edited a video of the Call to Worship for the Conference Annual Meeting, lifting up the multiple languages spoken by people in the Conference. Readers from MPCC were Grace and Joshua H., Raul, Maria and Alexandra M. and Nitaya Y.

NOTE:
For prayer requests in the month of July 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 multiple 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 #



Sunday Worship Service Volunteer

In light of the potential in-person services, our Diaconate Board is asking for volunteers for the following:

Layreaders

Ushers

Greeters

Coffee Hour Hosts*

**Until further notice, the Diaconate board will tend to Coffee Hour.*

Please email Michi T. at michiron@pacbell.net or contact any Diaconate board member if you wish to participate.

MPCC Database Update

Please fill out the form and send it back to the church office to help us update our information. Any questions contact the church office.

mpcc@montebelloucc.org

Weekly Sign-Up for June

Altar Flowers

Available

Contact our church office



Last Month's Photos



**In-Person Worship Service
June 6, 2021**



**Father's Day Breakfast Burrito catered by
"Taco Wasted" June 20, 2021**



**Worship team and Youth Group volunteers for Father's
Day June 20, 2021**



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk (*) are private classes and not church events. Please contact the church office for more information.</p>				1	2	3 Meet & Greet for Summer Ex @10am-12pm
4 In-Person Worship Service Holy Communion	5 Office Closed	6 Bible Study @10am	7 Summer Ex Begins *Virtual Chair Yoga @7:30am *Virtual Dance Class @3pm	8 Choir @4:30pm	9	10
11 Church Picnic	12 *Virtual Dance @3pm	13 Bible Study @10am	14 *Virtual Chair Yoga @7:30am *Virtual Dance Class @3pm	15 Choir @4:30pm	16	17 Summer Celebration Meeting @8am-1pm
18 Council Meeting Goodnews Deadline	19 *Virtual Dance @3pm	20 Bible Study @10am	21 *Virtual Chair Yoga @7:30am *Virtual Dance Class @3pm Goodnews Mailing	22 Choir @4:30pm	23	24 Summer Ex Activity @10am-1pm
25	26 *Virtual Dance @3pm	27 Bible Study @10am	28 *Virtual Chair Yoga @7:30am *Virtual Dance Class @3pm	29 Choir @4:30pm	30 Last Day of Summer Ex	31 Sunday School Outing Church Clean Up @9am-1pm

<p>Coming in August 2021:</p>	<p>7 Kid's Night Out 5-9pm</p> <p>22 MPCC's Founder's Day</p> <p>29 Pastor's 5th Sunday Off</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

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