Good News

Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ
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September 2026
Volume XLV No. IX

A Message from our Moderator…
Lori Katayama

Thank you to everyone for making Pastor Mitchell's Celebration of Ministry on August 2nd such a wonderful and heartfelt send off. It may have been one of the hottest days of the year and it was probably a first for MPCC to host two large services in one day. I would like to acknowledge the following people who were part of the planning team:

Morning worship:
Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young carefully crafted a service of personal good-byes and thanks for the Young Family. Every part of the service was filled with sentiments of gratitude and thanksgiving including an inspiring adaptation of the hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory."
Music offerings were given by: Ida Gonzales, Eileen Mitsueda, Rhys Yamasaki.
Readers for the service were: Roger Ng, Lynne Hanamoto, BJ Woo, Jan Fukushima, Glenn Hino, Alice Higashi.
AV and slide presentations were done by: Steven Woo, BJ Woo, Glenn Hino
An especially poignant moment was the final video from Rev. Charing Wei-Jen Chen whose send off included a "live long and prosper" Star Trek nod.

Afternoon worship:
Rev. Rachael Pryor led a beautiful Celebration of Ministry service at 3pm filled with remembrances from many of Pastor Mitchell's colleagues.
Music offerings were given by: Ida Gonzales, Eileen Mitsueda, La Hula I Ke Akua led by Darin Yamada.
Lei Presentations: Lori Katayama on behalf of the church, Alice Higashi on behalf of Bible Study, BJ Woo on behalf of youth and young adults.

Remembrances were given by:
Representing PAAM: Rev. Dr. Ernie Reyes
Representing Nikkei Interfaith Fellowship: Rev. Robert Yuge
Representing Asian Youth Collective: James Chin
Representing Jesus Reigns Victoriously Church: Rev. Romy de Gula
MPCC Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Michio Oyakawa
Representing MPCC Youth Ministries: BJ Woo
Representing MPCC Members, Family, Friends: Lori Katayama
Closing Prayer: Mike Okamura

I would like to also thank the Farewell Planning Committee for their participation and contribution to the various events this past year: Mamie Okamoto, BJ Woo, Lynne Hanamoto, Kiko Kawamoto, Ron Yamasaki, Annie Yamasaki, and chief decorator Mac Reyes. Our luncheon and desserts were coordinated by Lynne Hanamoto and Tricia Tao and we received a generous donation of cookies from Anne Hashisaka of Kauai Kookie Company. Thanks also to Montebello High School's Interact Club for their help setting up and cleaning up afterwards.

I encourage everyone to view the services on YouTube to re-live the love and gratitude that was shared on August 2nd.

Blessings – Moderator, Lori

Worship Schedule

September 6
Holy Communion w/
Rev. Dr. Ernie Reyes
"United Hearts: Trusting and Obeying God Together"
Luke 5:1-11

September 13
Speaker Rev. Wendy Tajima
"Mercy"
Genesis 50:15-21 & Romans 14:1-12

September 20
Speaker Rev. Sam Pullen
"I was Unjustly Detained, and You Visited Me"
Matthew 25:35-40

September 27
Summer Ex Fundraiser
Speaker Rev. Norma De-Saegher
"The Power of Prayer"
Luke 11:1-12