BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER

THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5389 **November 2026**

November - December Services

11/08/2026 – Eitaikyo, November Shotsuki, Dharma School
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Majima-

11/14/2026 – Fowler BWA Bento Fundraiser – Pre order & drive thru only –
Pick up between 1pm – 3 pm – Flyer/order form attached

11/22/2026 - Bodhi Day, December Shotsuki, Dharma School
– 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Majima

12/19/2026 – Mochitsuki – Flyer & order form attached

12/31/2026 – Joya-e Service – 7:00 p.m. – Rev. Brian Nagata

01/01/2027 – New Years Day Service – 9:00 a.m.

Three Messengers from King Yama

As October draws to a close, children dress up as ghosts and skeletons and visit their neighbors with a cheerful "Trick or Treat!" In keeping with the season, let me share a Buddhist story from India—a little visit to the world of the dead. At the entrance to that world stands a court where the realm of life's next birth is determined. Presiding over this court is King Yama, the judge of the dead.

Shall we take a peek inside?

A man stood before King Yama, who was looking into a large mirror. This mirror revealed the man's actions during his lifetime—something like a video recording.

Looking over the man's life, King Yama said, "I see many harmful actions here. The karma of these actions leads to hell."

The man hurried to explain.

"I'm sorry. I died so suddenly, and I was so busy every day. I just didn't have time to cultivate virtue."

"Suddenly, you say? How old are you?"

"Sixty-seven."

"At sixty-seven, you must have seen the three messengers I sent you."

"Um… Your Majesty, these three messengers… who were they?"

King Yama began to explain.

"The first was Old Age. Have you seen an elderly person whose hair had fallen out, whose legs had grown weak, and whose teeth were gone?"

"Oh, yes. I have."

"That was my first messenger—a reminder that you, too, were growing older, and that it was time to begin preparing for your journey."

Then King Yama asked another question.

"My second messenger was Illness. Have you seen someone suffering from sickness?"

"Yes, I have."

"That was my second messenger—a reminder that you, too, could become ill, and an invitation to begin preparing for your departure."

"I'm sorry. I didn't realize."

The man looked unsure what to say as King Yama continued.

"And my third messenger was Death. Have you seen someone who had died?"

"Yes, I have."

"That was a reminder that your life in this world, too, would someday come to an end. When you saw someone who had passed away, did you ever think about your own departure from this world and what would follow?"

The man answered quietly.

"I'm sorry. I saw many people who had passed away, but I never really took it to heart that I, too, would one day leave this world."

King Yama let out a long sigh.

"Ah… I sent all three messengers, but you did not recognize their message or begin your preparations. Now, the karma of your actions leads you onward within the cycle of birth and death."

There are six realms within this cycle of birth and death, including our human world. All are subject to change, and none is free from suffering. We, too, live within this cycle. Through the karma of his actions, the man would next be born in hell.

As I watch this man depart, I am reminded of the teaching Shakyamuni Buddha shared with us: Amida's Vow to guide all beings to the Land of Bliss.
And then I find myself returning to this man's words:
"I'm sorry. I saw many people who had passed away, but I never really took it to heart that I, too, would one day leave this world."
We see people growing old. We worry about friends who are ill. We attend funerals for people dear to us. Yet when we return to our everyday routines, we easily lose sight of what these encounters mean for our own lives. Most of us have met King Yama's three messengers without recognizing that their message is also for us.

Their message brings us to a question: Where is this life heading?
Shakyamuni Buddha taught that Amida's Vow embraces all beings—including this man, and you and me.

Shinran Shonin expresses this in a hymn:
The light of purity is without compare.
When a person encounters the light,
All bonds of karma fall away;
So take refuge in Amida, the ultimate shelter.

Can we hear Amida's call?

Namo Amida Butsu.



閻魔さまのお使い

今月はインドに伝わる、閻魔さまのお話をご紹介しましょう。
ある男が、この世の命を終え、閻魔さまの前に立ちました。生前の行いを映す鏡を見ながら、閻魔さまは言いました。
「お前の行いによる業は、地獄へとつながっているな」
「すみません。急に死んだものですから。それに毎日忙しくて、徳を積む暇がありませんでした」
「何歳だ」
「六十七歳です」
「それなら、私が送った三人の使いを見ただろう」
「ええっと……どなたのことでしょうか」
閻魔さまは尋ねました。
「年老いた人を見たことはあるか。病気で苦しむ人は。亡くなった人は」
「はい、みな見ました」
「それが『老い』『病』『死』という三人の使いだ。お前自身も、この世から旅立つ身であると知らせていたのだ」
男は、うつむいて答えました。
「見てはいましたが、自分のこととしては受けとめていませんでした」
閻魔さまは、深いため息をつきました。男は、結局、自らの業によって地獄に生まれることになりました。
さて、この男を、私たちは笑えるでしょうか。

私たちも老いを見て、病を心配し、お葬式にも参ります。それでも日々の忙しさに戻れば、自分の旅立ちはもう少し先のことだと思ってしまいます。男が閻魔さまに返した言葉に、私自身の姿が重なります。
そのような私たちに、お釈迦さまは、すべてのいのちを浄土へと導く阿弥陀さまの本願を説かれました。
親鸞聖人は、和讃にお示しくださいます。

清浄光明ならびなし　　遇斯光のゆゑなれば
一切の業繫ものぞこりぬ　　畢竟依を帰命せよ

私たちにも、阿弥陀さまの呼び声が聞こえているでしょうか。
そして、地獄へ向かったこの男も、阿弥陀さまの光に遇いますように。

南無阿弥陀仏

The Rabbit Who Heard a THUMP!
A Jataka Story



One day, a rabbit was resting beneath a tree. “What if the earth broke apart?” he wondered. Just then, a fruit fell onto a dry leaf. THUMP! “The earth is breaking apart!” cried Rabbit. “RUN!”



He raced down the path and met Deer. “Why are you running?” Deer asked. “The earth is breaking apart!” Rabbit shouted. Deer ran, too. Soon Boar, Buffalo, and many other animals joined them. A whole crowd was thundering through the forest!

“Which way do we go?” puffed Buffalo. “I’m following Boar!” “Well, I’m following Deer!” said Boar. Deer called ahead, “Rabbit! Where are we going?” Rabbit’s ears bounced as he ran. “I don’t know! Somewhere else!” And everyone ran a little faster.



A lion stepped into their path. “Wait! What happened?” The animals shouted, “The earth is breaking apart!” Lion asked, “Who saw it happen?” They looked at one another. “Buffalo told me.” “Boar told me.” “Deer told me.” Finally, everyone looked at Rabbit. “I heard it!” he squeaked.



“Let’s go and look,” said Lion gently. Together, they returned to the tree. Lion found the fallen fruit and the dry leaf. He dropped the fruit onto the leaf. THUMP! Rabbit’s ears shot up. “That’s the sound!” The earth was still there. The forest was still standing. Rabbit took a deep breath. “One little fruit—and all that running!”

Sometimes we hear something and feel sure it must be true. In this story, the wise lion—the Buddha in a former life—helps everyone pause and look carefully. Before we pass a story along, we can ask: **“Do I know that’s true? How can we find out?”**

Namo Amida Butsu.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice fall weather we have been experiencing. We had some very enjoyable speakers for our Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial Service and our Dharma Gathering this past month. Thank you to Rev. Nobuo Miyaji for visiting from Seal Beach to deliver our Eshinni/Kakuchinni Memorial message and to Gary Mukai for applying the lyrics to *Row.Row, Row Your Boat* to your daily lives.

Don't forget to place your orders for the BWA Bento Box Lunch fundraiser on Saturday, November 14th. It is a fundraiser to benefit the FBC Building Fund. Bento boxes are $20. Fill out and submit your order forms to purchase the bento boxes and mochi for our Mochitsuki on December 19th. We are trying to get an early count of mochi so we know how much ingredients to order. The Mochitsuki is jointly sponsored by the Fowler Buddhist Church and Boy Scout Troop 199. We will need all church members to come and help out that day.

At our last church board meeting on Oct. 25th, it was determined that we need to raise our church dues for 2027 to $300 per individual / $600 per family. This has become necessary because our dues have not been increased in many years, the costs of everything have become more expensive (especially costs for service and repairs to the church), and there is an increase in the dues assessment for the BCA. Dues are payable between now and January.

The board meeting had nominations for new officers for 2027 and the nominations are:

President: Barton Ashida
VP 1: Gerald Nakayama
VP 2: Cherie Nakayama
Treas1: Ron Yoshimoto
Treas 2: Barton Ashida
Auditor: Gary Keithley
Secretary: Gary Mukai
Youth Dir: Craig Honda
Tayoko Honda
Religious Chair: Karen Mukai

Ballots will be mailed out to all church members in the near future.

Sensei Karen Mukai is currently continuing her classes through IBS for Kyoshi certification and has received additional financial support from the FBC Golf Club, which is much appreciated.

November's church services will be the November Shotsuki and Eitaikyo service and Dharma School on November 8th and the December Shotsuki and Bodhi Day Service and Dharma School on November 22nd (yes, that's right, December Shotsuki and Bodhi Day in November). There will be no services in December

except the Joya-E service on New Year's Eve.

'Hope to see you at church this month. 'Hoping you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Gary Mukai, President

Board of Governors – District 1/2

Riji

Ken Ishimoto
Rick Miyasaki

Toban

Marlene Miyasaki
Rick Miyasaki

BWA Bento Fundraiser

On November 14th, Fowler BWA, will have Bento Sale, $20 each and will be drive-through only.

Bento include: Teriyaki chicken, Barasushi, Namasu, Kabocha Nishime, & fortune cookie. Pre-sale only. There will be limited Bentos for sale. Order forms follow the newsletter.

MOCHITSUKI

The Council of Youths will have its annual Mochitsuki on Saturday December 19, 2026. An order form is enclosed. Please note that the ordering deadline is December 04th We plan to make approximately 800 pounds of mochi.

Any order taken after December 04th will not be filled until all prior orders are filled and may not be available until after 3:00 PM on Dec. 19th. Please understand the problems late orders create.

We need help from as many members, volunteers from affiliated organizations; BWA (Buddhist Women Association), Boy Scout Troop 199, Dharma School Parents, Golf Club and the community in general. This is a labor-intensive undertaking, as well an important social event that has its roots in Japanese tradition. Please try to help and support the youth of our church and at the same time pass on the knowledge and experience of this important part of Japanese culture.

It is very important that you order all types of mochis; yomogi & white,
an yomogi, an white, & O kagami set. Youth Department provided mochis so that we can plan how much material and how many batches are needed.

We would like to thank, Yuko Matoba and Tayoko Honda. Without their hard work raising, harvesting, cleaning, and packaging, we would not be able to enjoy such high quality yomogi (mugwort) mochi.

Mochitsuki Schedule:

Dec. 17 @ 10:00 AM – Rice washing. Bring equipment up from basement.
Dec. 18 @ TBA – Set up, test, clean equipment & disassemble.
Dec. 19 @ 4:00 AM – Set up & start burners.
Dec. 19 @ 6:00 AM – Men, start cooking rice.
Dec. 19 @ 7:00 AM – Everyone else, start making mochi.
Dec, 19 @ 8:00 AM Need 6 people forming a Azuki An-Balls.
Dec. 19 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM – Order pickup. Yomogi orders may not be available before 1:00 p.m.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Craig & Tayoko Honda
Sharon Asakawa



The Shotsuki names for the month of November are:

Hina Tsuboi
Wasa Kuramoto
Shizuno Matsuoka
Mieko Honda
Masajiro Miyake
Tamayo Hirasuna
Mikiye Mukai
Haruso Kimura
Yasuo Fujikawa
Kenji Takimoto
Masuno Nishina
Nobu Shimoda
Itsuyo Iwamoto
Haruko Toyama
Dennis Nakagawa
Yoshimi Nakahira
Matsuso Takeda
Patsy Ashida
Ben Nakamura
*Taeko Yamashita
Chizu Miyagawa
Majorie Yuriko Miyasaki
Fred Masakiyo Sakazaki
Masami Ray Nishina
Kenji Takimoto
Sachiko Onaka
Shigeru Shig Uchiyama
Kim Nishina
Lily Yuriko Kato
Russsell Shimizu
Toshiko Arasuna
Mitsuro Tomoyasu

Shirley Honda
Howard Matsumura
Tomoko Lily Kawamoto
Robert Kondo
George Teraoka
Ken Hashimoto

October 2026 Donations

Eshinni/Kakushinni Service

$	30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
$	30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
$	30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
$	30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
$	20.00	Sharon Asakawa

Shotsuki

$	250.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
		In Memory of Masao Fujikawa
$	250.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
		In Memory of Kumi Fujikawa
$	250.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
		In Memory of Henry Fujikawa
$	250.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
		In Memory of Harry Yasuo Fujikawa
$	100.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
$	100.00	Linda, Nick & Chris Matsumoto
		In Memory of Russell Matsumoto
$	50.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama
		In Memory of Russell Matsumoto
$	50.00	Bey & Susan Driss & Family
		In Memory of Russell Matsumoto
$	30.00	Hitomi Sera & Family
		In Memory of Teruo Arasuna
$	30.00	Janie Yuen

Dharma Gathering

$	30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
$	20.00	Sharon Asakawa

Special Donation

$	50.00	Rev. & Mrs. Nobuo & Yoshiko Miyaji



ANNUAL MOCHITSUKI PROJECT FOR YOUTH

The Buddhist Church of Fowler and the **Youth Department** and **Troop 199** will have the **2026 Mochitsuki on Saturday December 19th.** All orders will be **accepted on a first come, first basis**. We would appreciate anyone who would like to come and help. We will start making mochi about 7:00, Saturday morning.

ORDERING DEADLINE: **Friday, December 04th**, All orders after this date are subject to supply.

PRICES: $10.00 per pound-White & Yomogi Mochi
$15.00 per pound- An- White & Yomogi Mochi (An-provided by Council of Youth)
$10.00 per Small O kagami set-for Home Obustudan
$20.00 per large O kagami set-for Church Onaijin

PICK-UP TIME: Saturday. December 19th, **from 1:00PM to 3:00PM. Yomogi orders will not be ready before 1:00PM.** All orders not picked up by 3:00PM are subject to be sold.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Council of Youth, Fowler Buddhist Church
TO ORDER: Mail this order form with check.
To Fowler Buddhist Church PO Box 335 - Fowler, CA 93625

Attn:	**Tayoko Honda**	**559-246-1858**
	Satomi Hiyama	**559-217-4436**
	Craig Honda	**559-246-5919**

2026 Buddhist Church of Fowler Mochitsuki
Order Form

Name_____Phone_____

Address_____a_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

O kagami set, Hm-Sm size	_____sets	X	$10.00 =	_____
Naijin-Large size	_____sets	X	$20.00 =	_____
Ko Mochi	_____lbs.	X	$10.00 =	_____
Yomogi Mochi	_____lbs.	X	$10.00 =	_____
An Mochi (7pcs)	_____lbs.	X	$15.00 =	_____
AnYomogi Mochi (7pcs)	_____lbs.	X	$15.00 =	_____

***All An mochi is sold at 7pcs Per Pound**
DO NOT SEND CASH. WE WILL NOT BE RESPONIBLE FOR CASH SENT THROUGH THE MAIL!
TO GUARANTEE YOUR ORDER IS FILLED WITH CHECK, PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 04th.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Council of Youth, Fowler Buddhist Church
MAIL TO:
Fowler Buddhist Church PO Box 335 - Fowler, CA 93625
Attn: Tayoko Honda & Satomi Hiyama

Fowler Buddhist Women's Association
Building Fund Raiser

Saturday, November 14,2026
1:00pm to 3:00pm
Box lunches must be picked up by 3pm

Buddhist Church of Fowler
210 South 9th Street
Fowler, CA 93625

Box Lunch Includes:
Teriyaki Chicken, Barasushi, Kabocha,
Nishime, Namasu and Fortune Cookie

---------- **Preorder Deadline: November 7, 2026** ----------

Name_____

Address_____City, Zip Code_____

Phone_____Email Address_____

Take Out Box Lunch _____@$20.00 = $_____

Additional Donation Thank you =$_____

Total Payment Enclosed =$_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "FOWLER BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION".
C/O TAYOKO HONDA, P.O. BOX 425, FOWLER, CA 93625
PLEASE NO CASH.

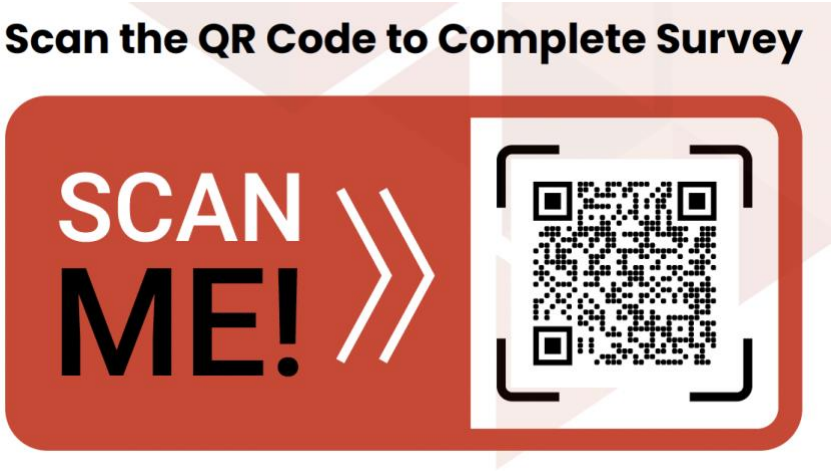
BCA Member Survey

We want to hear your thoughts

We would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey to share your thoughts and perspectives regarding the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The purpose of this survey is to better understand awareness of BCA programs and services, along with your perception of the value BCA provides to local temples and sangha members, and opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement.

Your feedback is important and will help guide future efforts to support temples, ministers, and sangha members across our organization.

We invite you to complete this anonymous online survey using the link below. We expect the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.



Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help shape the future of our Buddhist community.

In Gassho,

Gayle Noguchi
Executive Director
Buddhist Churches of America