

## Special Message

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the ministers and leaders of the Buddhist Churches of America for stepping up during this challenging time and making the Dharma available to everyone through various means so that we can all find solace in the Nembutsu. I am deeply grateful to your commitment to sharing the Nembutsu Dharma with your members and the world at this difficult time and am impressed with your creativity through your various social media posts, whether it be in writing or on video.

The entire world is confronted with a physical and spiritual challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic, yet we as Nembutsu followers have a guide that helps us to keep ourselves calm and a way to try to overcome this difficulty by turning to our spiritual source. I deeply feel that all of your extraordinary efforts are bringing everyone together to care for each other and help each other.

Let us continue to receive the guiding light of Amida Buddha with a positive attitude. The length and outcome of this pandemic is uncertain, but we are fortunate to have the Dharma as our refuge. So please continue to share Buddha's wish for the world in these creative ways so that our members will have a constant reminder that they are not alone. Again, I would to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all that you are doing in sharing the Dharma and guiding all of us towards the Buddha's Light. Namo Amida Butsu

Kodo Umezu, Bishop  
Buddhist Churches of America