

Deeds and Opportunities

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

809 Second Street, Brentwood CA 94513

Office: (925) 634-3093

✝ Hyesung Lee, Pastor ✝

Website: Brentwoodumc.org

Betty Gaughan, Editor: bjgone@icloud.com

Facebook:

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2019



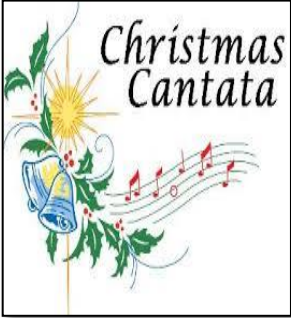


EVERYONE IS INVITED to the
CHRISTMAS CANTATA - COMFORT and JOY
5:30 pm - Sunday - December 8th.

Presented by the BCUMC Choir



Merry Christmas

2019 DECEMBER Worship Schedule

Date/Time	Content/Sermon	WORSHIP ACTS / OTHER ACCTIVITIES
First Sunday of Advent 10:30 am Dec 1	Matthew 24:36-44 <i>Coming of the Lord Brings HOPE</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship Holy Communion Lighting of Advent Candles by Fran and Den Bowman Celebration of Ministry: Young Christian Ministries
Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 am Dec 8	Romans 15:4-13 <i>Coming of the Lord Brings PEACE</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship Lighting of Advent Candles by Ogbana Family Celebration of Ministries: String Band COOKIE WALK- by UMW for Angel Tree Prison Ministry CONFIRMATION 7: "The Bible" led by Michelle Monsef Christmas Cantata: 5:30 pm 
6 pm Wed Dec 11	Advent HEALING Taizé Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> String Band Holy Communion Prayer Service for HEALING
Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 am Dec 15	Matthew 11:2-11 <i>Coming of the Lord Brings JOY</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship Lighting of Advent Candles by Ashley Porter, Grace & Zachary Dicksa Pledge Campaign Closure Social Hour by Finance Committee
Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 am Dec 22	Matthew 1:18-25 <i>Coming of the Lord Brings TRUST</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship Lighting of Advent Candles by Smith Family Presentation of the Bible to Children (3rd & 4th Gr.)
6 pm Tuesday Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 6 P.M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Communion Choir Anthem Candle-lighting Lighting of Advent Candles by Davis Family 
First Sunday after Christmas 10:30 am Dec 29	<i>Guest Preacher:</i> <i>Rev. Pam Abbey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

DECEMBER WORSHIP MINISTERS

Date	Acolyte	Crucifer
12/1	Robin Bliss	Emma Smith
12/8	Grace Charpentier	Christian Belino
12/15	Grace Dicksa	Zackery Dicksa
12/22	Audrey Dunn	Alex Dunn
12/24 (Tues)	Ben Lukacs	Jacob Lukacs
12/29	Jenny Green	Rachael Green

◆ Pastor's Letter ◆

Dear Friends in Ministry

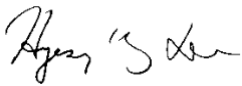
The 2019 Church Conference was held on November 10th with a wonderful bbq lunch prepared by the Men's Group at noon. It was reported that we've got 8 new members with their 6 children combined this year. The Nomination Committee recruited 16 new committee members and chairs. Pastor's compensation package was unanimously approved. For more details, please read the minutes included in this D's and O's. We have a lot to celebrate our church ministry this year. For me, though, the highlight of the Church Conference was the lunch for all people provided by Men's Group. That was the sign of caring hearts of our people and the presence of loving family spirit. I've found out that we were the only church in our circuit that had an All Church Lunch for Church Conference. A big thank you to our men who have expressed their love for the church through multiple luncheons and so many other services this year!

During this Advent, our mission to help the poor will continue through HOPE HOUSE, Tuesday Fresh Fruit Truck and Samaritan Purses. I am so happy to see that our United Methodist Women is collecting donations for **Heifer Project** during the Advent. They call it "Alternative Christmas" because we are not going to buy Christmas gifts for our own family and friends as usual. Instead we are giving gifts of chickens, goats, cows and other animals to poor families in faraway places all over the world. For them our gifts will provide sustaining sources of food and money. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas for our Savior's birthday! In the same spirit, our SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS will be split into two: (1) California Fire Victims through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and (2) HOPE HOUSE ministry of our church. Please give generously for these purposes when you give your special offering for Christmas!

Christ has come to us a long time ago, not just once on his birthday but again and again on Easter Sunday, on many other days when he visited his disciples before his Ascension Day. After that, he has come to us countless times and met us in our prayers, in our listening to the Word, and in our various walks. Wherever Christ comes, the love of God is there lifting up the life of people! Let us look around more to see if there is anyone, any family, any space that needs the Coming of Christ, His Light, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Let us listen to the nudges of the Holy Spirit who never gives up for the sake of saving lives!

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to you all!

Let us rejoice in all circumstances, pray without ceasing, and give thanks always!



Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee



Let Us Pray for the Following Members and Friends of BCUMC!

(This list is provided by our Congregational Care Network of Brentwood Community UMC.

If you want to add names or make any change in this list,
please contact Linda Barnhill at 634-8521.

Cliff Fortner, Barbara Bonnickson, Diana Easley, Jo Merritt,
Beverly Hendrix, Rick Graham, Galen Tidrick, Gordon Fong,
Susan Kent (Eileen Newell's relative), Esther Graham, Judy Bieger,
Murphy Slay (in military service), Jessica Davis (Linda Torello's niece),
Renee Miller, Linda Walton, Jerry Bize & Rosalind (Renee Miller's family),
Vince Cortese (Scott's father-in-law). Becca Feldermann's mother,
Jim Boynton (Barb Pinkston's brother)



*We pray for you and your caregivers that God may fill you every day
with strength, faith, love and peace!*



***2019 Advent Healing Taize Service
6:00 pm Wednesday December 11th
Sanctuary of Brentwood Community UMC***

20 MIN SING ALONG EVERY SUNDAY



You are welcome to join in 20 minutes of singing favorite hymns before Sunday Worship!

***The first two Sundays in July, there will be no Sing Along due to pastor's vacation.**

Tell the pastor what your favorite hymns are!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER

Wednesday Night Prayer continues to open
and welcome anyone who would like to sit in the sanctuary for a time of prayer.

You may stay as long as you want between 6:00 and 7:00 pm!
Candles will be provided for those who wish to light a candle for someone
or for some causes. You may leave your prayer request in the basket,
for which the prayer team will pray!

SAVE THE DATE FOR *WINTER NIGHTS* (HOMELESS MINISTRY) SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH, 2020

Brentwood Community U.M.C. will serve 35 – 40 people with Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner as well as snacks and games for children between the meals! East Contra Costa County Shared Ministry (at Stoneman Chapel-Presbyterian and UCC congregations) is helping homeless families for 8 weeks in January and February with cooperation with many churches. **We will be serving only one day out of 56 days. Your helping hands will be needed!**

2019- 2020 Confirmation News

Sept 2019 through May 2020 -- for kids 7th and up



Confirmation Class 7: Sunday 12 pm December 8th
In Sunday School Room
"The Bible" (Teacher: Michelle Monsef)

THANK-YOU FROM HOPE HOUSE

Thanksgiving week we made up 80 special Thanksgiving bags as an Extra gift to our clients for this festive, giving holiday. Although we ran out of the bags before all the clients came through, everyone that received the extra bag was delighted and Thankful that we care about them and their families.

The storm that came Thanksgiving week brought in cold, wet weather which brought a different set of needs for our clients: warm coats and sweaters, and new socks and underwear for men. For those of you that are looking to clean out your closets, we really could use those good warm coats, scarves, sweaters. And when making out your Christmas list please consider putting socks and underwear for men.



H.O.P.E. (*Hope, Opportunity, Prayer, Encouragement*) HOUSE

Thank you all for keeping Hope House in your Hearts and Prayers this Holiday season.

Jerry Walton, Hope House Director

2019 CHURCH CONFERENCE MINUTES
THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
809 SECOND STREET, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

PRESIDING ELDER: Rev. Schuyler Rhodes (Los Rios District Superintendent)

Members of the BCUMC Congregation were invited into the sanctuary at 12:25 P.M. Two handouts were distributed to each attendee. 1) The Agenda and Committee Reports for this Conference meeting and 2) The United Methodist Book of Discipline (pp 95-96) Leadership Covenant.

The meeting began at 12:29 P.M. with a Prayer from Lay Leader Julius Lukcas. Julius asked everyone to read together the Leadership Covenant.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Presented by JoAnn Funk.

Total number of members at this time = 150.

Celebration of eight New Members; Loss of four members this year: Three to death and one member unresponsive to several attempts to contact him. Four members have been inactive and the Membership Committee has made attempts to contact them. Rev. Rhodes said a prayer for those members who have passed away this year: Lou Bronzan, Dorothy Pontsler, and Beverly Johnson .

The membership report was approved by a showing of hands. There were no objections or abstentions.

Rev. Rhodes thanked JoAnn for the Membership Report with excellent records being kept. He talked about the early Wesley rules for accountability and how the Membership Records are a valuable pastoral care tool.

ELECTION OF RECORDING SECRETARY: Michael Ann Honea was introduced as the Recording Secretary for this Conference Meeting: Rev. Rhodes asked for a raise of hands for those who voted yes for Michael Ann to record notes of the Conference. All were in favor with no objections or abstentions. Michael Ann will record notes of this entire Church Conference.

PASTOR'S COMPENSATION PACKAGE: At 12:40 P.M. Polly Gallagher, SPRC Chair, presented the information for the Pastor's Compensation Package. The Pastor will receive a cash increase of \$1,411.92 for the year 2020 for a total Cash Compensation of \$52,275.82. The increase to the Pastor is approximately 3% which is slightly above the Conference designated increase of 2.7%. The Package allows payment of Health Insurance premiums of \$9,010 (share by Concord UMC), Pension & Benefit Expense of \$11,535.13, and Accountable Reimbursements for Professional Expenses of \$3,800.00.

The Pastor lives in the Parsonage and utilities are paid up to \$3,800 directly by the Church. The Parsonage cost is shared by her Pastor Husband's church. THE TOTAL OF ALL CLERGY COMPENSATION AMOUNTS, PLUS HEALTH INSURANCE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT COSTS IS \$76,620.95.

Rev. Rhodes asked for a show of hands for those who favored the Pastor's Compensation as presented – all were in favor with no objections or abstentions. The Pastor's Package was approved

Nominations & Lay Development: Pastor Hyesung Lee

Nomination of Trustees:

Rev Rhodes stated that the State of California requires a Board of Trustees for the Church. This is a legal entity and the Board of Trustees receive and manage the Trust. Up to nine members can be on the Board of Trustees and up to one-third do not need to be members of the UMC.

Two people have been nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees Committee: Larry Schaffer and Jeff Schults. Pastor Lee stated: "I move that the Secretary cast a ballot favoring the nominee for the Board of Trustees and the Secretary note in the minutes that the nominees were elected by ballot" There was a secret ballot vote: All of the voting attendees were asked to write the names of Larry Schaffer and Jeff Schults on the back of the "Leadership Covenant" handout IF they chose to vote for these two men as new members of the Board of Trustees. The ballots were collected and counted. Thirty ballots were collected – all voting for Larry Schaffer and Jeff Schults. Larry Schaffer and Jeff Schults will be new members of The Board of Trustees as of January 1, 2020. The Board of Trustees will elect the chairman at the first meeting.

Pastor Lee gave an explanation of the BCUMC 2020 MINISTRY TEAMS AND STRUCTURE indicating:
* = new members, _____ = need a member, (name in parenthesis) = pending final confirmation.

Julius Lukcas has been the Lay Leader for ten years. He has four boys and his time as Lay Leader has diminished. Beginning in 2020 Dave Funk will work with Julius as another Lay Leader and will share responsibilities with committee work and serving the Pastor.

The Pastor reviewed the three parts of the Ministry Team Structure:

1. Connecting Ministry: Connecting Ministry – connecting with God through the Word and Worship: Music Committee, Worship Stewards (Ushers, Greeters, Acolyte/Crucifer Coordinators, Altar Guild, Social Hour and Flower Coordinator, Video/Audio. Creative Worship Team.
2. Growing Ministry: Connecting with God through Teaching and Nurturing: Young Christians Ministry, Bible/Book study group, Voyagers (60+), Midtown Faith (20-59), Creative Intentional Spiritual Formation
3. Serving Ministry; Connecting with God through Healing and Supporting: Administrative Council, Board of Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations, Finance-Stewardship, Nominations & Lay Development, Membership Committee, Congregational Care network, HOPE House committee, United Methodist Women, United Methodist men, Endowment & Memorials, Reconciling ministry Committee/Safe Space Committee.

Rev. Rhodes asked for a show of hands for those who favored the Nomination Report as presented.– all were in favor with no objections or abstentions. The Nominations Report was approved.

The Official part of this meeting was over at 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Ann Honea,

Recording Secretary

Did You Know There Are Angels in The Church?

By Dennis Buckley

The Board of Trustees works really hard to make sure the church buildings and grounds are kept in good repair. Trustees are also responsible for the furniture and interior of our buildings. Trustees have a budget from the Finance Committee to pay for repairs and replacement of things around the church.



I have a story to tell about what has happened this year.

Earlier this year, Trustees decided that replacing the old red folding chairs in the Fellowship Hall was a priority item that we could afford. Research was done, samples were ordered, polls were taken, a style was chosen, and the chairs were ordered. When the bill arrived, an angel came forward and offered to pay for the new chairs.

A volunteer (not a church member) at H.O.P.E. House was concerned about the condition of the old carpet and vinyl flooring. The floors were very hard to keep clean. This angel donated funds to replace the floors at H.O.P.E. House with new, easy to clean, wood flooring. At the same time, other angels provided time and materials for the H.O.P.E. House check-in desk and shelving improvements.

Trustees then turned their attention to the venetian blinds in the Sunday School rooms. Many of the slats were bent or broken. One set of slats in the nursery had tooth marks on them! Trustees decided that replacing the blinds would be the next priority item to address. We could afford the purchase because we did not have to spend money for chairs or floors. Research was done, a style was selected, and the blinds were ordered and installed. When the bill arrived, another angel came forward and offered to pay for the new blinds.

After getting new chairs and new blinds, Trustees turned their attention to replacing two windows in the Pastor's office and one in the Sunday School as the next priority item that needed to be addressed. We certainly could afford the project because we didn't pay for chairs, floors or blinds. Again, research was done and contractors were invited to quote the work. One of the contractors, who attends a church in Dublin, was impressed by what we are doing here. After he gave us a quote for the work and left, the contractor called back and said he was moved to donate the materials and labor for the project. Another angel (who doesn't even live here)!!

THESE ANGELS CONTRIBUTED GOODS AND SERVICES THAT TOTALED ALMOST \$13,000!

There are many angels associated with our church. Angels support the church with their regular pledges and offerings. Angels support the church in response to special pleas and fundraisers. Angels appear unbidden and pay for chairs, floors, blinds and windows.

While I have focused on "Angel Giving" that happened this year, I need to say that this is not something new. In prior years, angels have provided double paned insulated windows for the Sunday School and video projectors and screens for the Youth Room, Sunday School, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, paper towels, cleaning and kitchen supplies.

It is my prayer that other angels will appear as Trustees embark on projects in 2020.



2. Christian Belino
- 3 Janet Kurz
- 4 Lynn Austin
- 6 Don Stirling
- 11 Diane Lee
- 13 Heidi Retzer
- 14 Fred Gulizia
- 16 Chinedum Ekpemiro
- 17 Griffin Slay
- 17 Aidan Dunn
- 19 Benjamin Lukacs
- 19 Joseph Lukacs
- 20 Marcie Lukacs
- 21 Pastor Hyesung Lee
- 21 Olivia Webb
- 22 Ryan Price
- 25 Andre Smith
- 26 Kaela Scott
27. Zeke Canonica
- 27 Teresa Kick
- 27 Melissa van Ruiten
- 29 Valerie Umana

! *Happy Anniversary*

- 6 Patti Evans & Marty Jewell
- 10 Diane & Carey Hutchison

CHRISTMAS TIDINGS

What child is this?
 Born so many years ago
 No room at the inn
 Is there room in my heart?
 Come sweet Jesus
 May you live in my heart
 And may I live in you
 In your great spirit
 Of wisdom and abundant love.

And may Christmas blessings be
 To one and all.

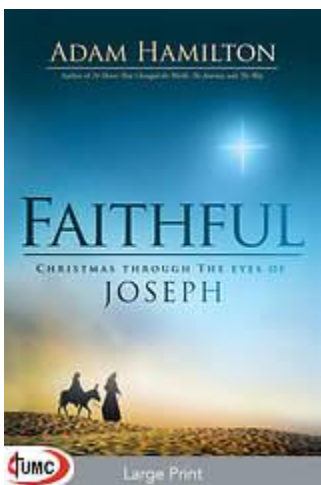
© Joe Kick - 2019

UMW COOKIE WALK Sunday, December 8th

After worship, the congregation is invited to pick up a cookie tin and take the Cookie Walk to fill it with all sorts of cookies!

Donations go for Teddy Bears for Children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kaiser/Oakland and for presents to the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship Ministry for the children of prisoners.

Extra cookies and tins are welcome.



FAITHFUL (REV. ADAM HAMILTON)

Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph

4 Advent Sundays at 9:00 am (From 12/1)

Text book (\$12)

Facilitator: Mel Strong

In Sunday School Room

We're not that different from Joseph. True, we may not be part of a story that will be remembered for all time, but like Joseph, we encounter circumstances that we'd never choose for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away, but Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, faithfully moving forward in the strength that God

provides. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.



Statement of Inclusion:

***Brentwood Community United Methodist Church is a
welcoming and reconciling congregation,
affirming its ministry with the whole family of God
regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, economic situation,
gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status.***

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

Los Rios District Superintendent: Rev. Schuyler Rhoads

Pastor: Hyesung Lee ✝ Lay Leader: Julius Lukacs

Administrative Assistant: Michele Carrillo

Brentwood Community
United Methodist Church
809 Second Street
Brentwood, CA 94513

TIME DATED MATERIAL

