

Deeds and Opportunities

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

Office: (925) 634-3093

✝ Hyesung Lee, Pastor ✝

Website: Brentwoodumc.org





Facebook:
Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

Betty Gaughan, Editor

MARCH 2020



2020 MARCH Worship Schedule

Date/Time	Content/Sermon	WORSHIP ACTS / OTHER ACCTIVITIES
First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	Matthew 4:1-11 "Identity Matters"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Study Making Sense of the Bible (1) at 8:45 am in Sunday School Room • 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship • Holy Communion • UMW CALL TO PRAYER at 11:40 am in the sanctuary
Wednesday Taizé Service 6 p.m. March 4, 2020	Taizé Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Band • Holy Communion
Second Sunday in Lent March 8, 2020	John 3:1-17 "The Unrecognizable Matters"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Study Making Sense of the Bible (2) at 8:45 am in Sunday School Room • 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship • Worship Music by String Band • CONFIRMATION 12: "Our Calling" by Pastor Lee
Wednesday Taizé Service 6 p.m. March 11, 2020	Taizé Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Band • Holy Communion
Third Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020	John 4:5-26 "Difficult Conversation Matters"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Study Making Sense of the Bible (3) at 8:45 am in Sunday School Room • 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship • UMW Potato Bake
Wednesday Taizé Service 6 p.m. March 18, 2020	Taizé Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Band • Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020	John 9:1-12 "Witnessing Matters"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Study Making Sense of the Bible (4) at 8:45 am in Sunday School Room • 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship
Wednesday Taizé Service 6 p.m. March 25, 2020	Taizé Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Band • Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020	John 11:1-45 "Faith in Resurrection Matters"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Study Making Sense of the Bible (5) at 8:45 am in Sunday School Room • 20 Minute Sing Along before Worship • Pulpit Exchange: Rev. Laumanu Ika preaches at BCUMC and Rev. Hyesung Lee preaches at Pittsburgh UMC

MARCH WORSHIP MINISTERS

Date	Acolyte	Crucifer
3/1	Audrey Dunn	Madeline Charpentier
3/8	Emma Smith	Christian Belino
3/15	Jenny Green	Rachael Green
3/22	Grace Charpentier	Madeline Charpentier
3/29	Robin Bliss	Zeke Canonica

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!

LENTEN WEDNESDAY TAIZE SERVICE

6 PM on 7 Wednesdays between March 4 and April 8



***Holy Thursday Joint Service**

(Discovery Bay Presbyterian Church & Byron UMC)

When: April 9th (Thursday) at 7 pm

Where: Delta Community Presbyterian Church

(1900 Willow Lake Rd, Discovery Bay, CA 94505)

All are invited!

***Good Friday Service on April 10 (Friday)**

What: *Tenebrae* Service will be held which is characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles, and by a "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in total darkness near the end of the service. This year 14 stations of the cross will be reflected upon.

When: April 10th Friday at 6 pm

Where: Brentwood Community UMC – 6 pm

† Pastor's Letter †

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

As we begin 2020 Lent Season, I'd like to share with you my sermon on **“Blessing in Jesus’ Term – Speaking Against Gospel of Prosperity”** preached on February 2 based upon the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12)

In the Beatitudes, Jesus talks about people who are blessed. **“Blessed!”** is a wonderful word. Sadly, many people are confused with the concept of “blessed” with prosperity, good fortune, and wealth. There are churches - generally quite successful churches - that preach a gospel of prosperity. It is a growing tradition among many Christians today. They are convinced that wealth and financial well-being are a clear expression that they have God’s favor. Such believers claim that wealth and the good things of life are given by God to certain elect individuals, favorites, if you will. The implication is that if people are faithful, God will reward them with success and wealth and if not, they will suffer from poverty and failures.

Dangerously, prosperity gospel can easily become old-fashioned selfishness and a smoke-screen for personal indulgence and exaggerated lifestyle. Not surprisingly many Biblical theologians criticize this approach as a modern form of idolatry. It idolizes wealth and larger-than-life. By idolizing wealth, it judges <people with poverty and sufferings> as those who have not received God’s favor and blessings. But the Bible presents <plenty of evidences> of the opposite of what they claim.

Jesus is the primary evidence. He was poor and didn’t even own his house. He had many misfortunes. He was abandoned by his disciples, bullied by religious leaders, persecuted, tortured and murdered by the authorities. But we know he was always favored by God as “His Beloved Son.” At his birth, even in such a poor birth place, he was loved by God. At his baptism, at his transfiguration moment and at the moment of death, the heaven was opened and the voice confirmed “This is my beloved Son.”

Poverty and suffering were never the evidence for the lack of God’s blessing. The apostle Paul and Peter were going through great sufferings but were always with God’s abundant grace and blessing. Gospel of prosperity teaches the opposite of Christ’s Good News that God blesses all, especially the poor, the misfortune, and the vulnerable in the world.

Furthermore, the gospel of prosperity ignores the strong Biblical injunctions for compassion and concern for those in need. Their presumed status as “the blessed ones” makes them to see the poor as inferior to them. Their belief builds up the wall between the have and the have-not -- thicker and higher.

So Jesus has broken down that wall between the two. He identified himself with the poor and the less fortunate. He said **“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these (the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the imprisoned...), you did it to me”** (Matthew 25:40). By identifying himself with the misfortunate, he blesses and includes them in the blessed community of God. Therefore, we need to be clear about the definition of blessing in Jesus’ term.

The Beatitudes reflect the image of Christ, his lifestyle, his values and characters as he defines who are the blessed. Jesus is “the poor in spirit,” “the one who mourn,” “the meek,” “the one who hunger and thirst for righteousness,” “the merciful,” “the pure in heart,” “the peacemaker” and “the one who is persecuted for righteousness’s sake.”

According to Jesus, WEALTH is not the evidence of God’s blessing but rather a tool given to bless others and to find joy in blessing others. In the late nineteenth century, Andrew Carnegie articulated a sense of gratitude

and generosity by arguing, in the words of Jesus, that ... **From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.** (Luke 12:48). He also said, "Wealth is not to feed our egos but to feed the hungry and to help people help themselves." He redistributed his surplus resources by means of responsible gifting to institutions that enriched humankind. His approach challenged the common practice of his time, whereby the wealthy simply passed their resources on to their heirs.

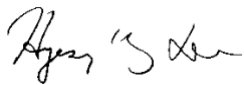
Throughout the latter part of his life he gave a brilliant example of the wisdom of his Gospel of Wealth. Wealth is not the evidence of God's favor for certain selected people but it is rather ***God's calling*** to serve others in the world.

Today our Lord speaks to us about what it means to be ***blessed***. Jesus wants us to know that the Kingdom of Heaven is experienced right now, whenever we embrace each other as children of God, and whenever we bear one another's burdens and reach out to those most vulnerable in our midst, binding their wounds and protecting them from evil.

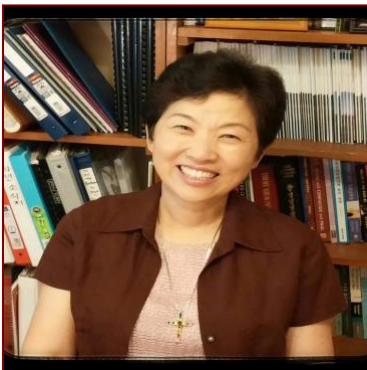
The Beatitudes need a new interpretation in our day when the cult of self-indulgence has displaced the Jesus' message of compassion and concern. Jesus came into the world to save us, not to please us. His saving Gospel calls us to move from the Kingdom of self to the Kingdom of God.

Let us follow Jesus as he leads us!

Blessed Lenten Journey to You All!



Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee



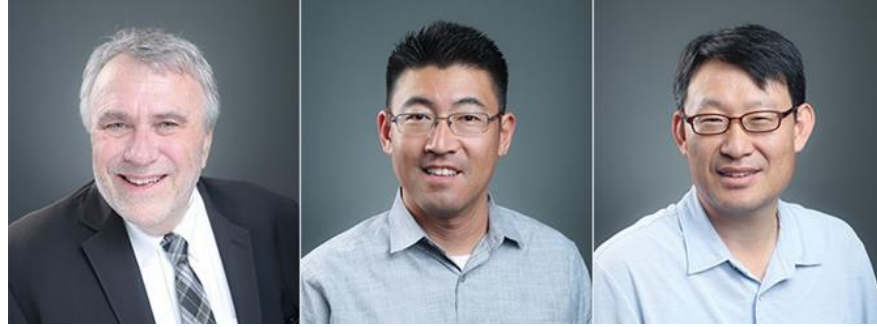
2019- 2020 **Confirmation News**

Sept 2019 through May 2020
for kids 7th and up



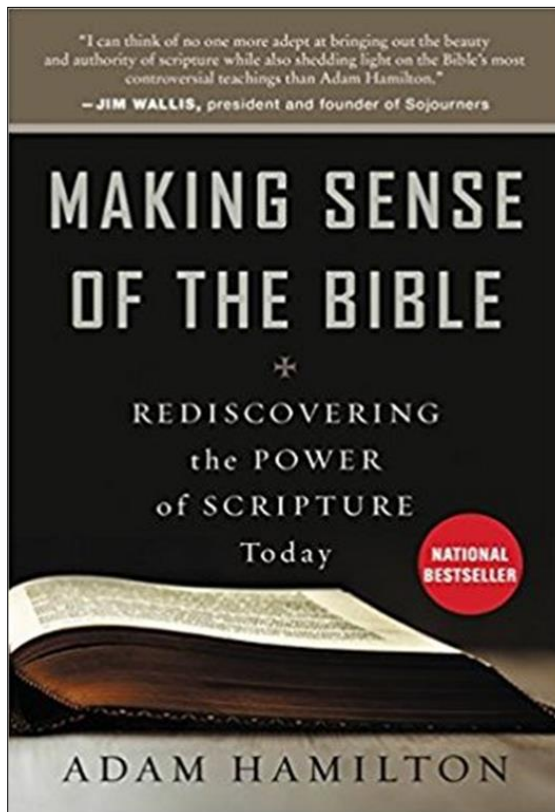
- **Confirmation Class 12:** Sunday March 8 at noon in Sunday School Room
"Our Calling" (Teacher: Pastor Hyesung Lee)

Change of District Superintendents



Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño announced on February 9th that she will be appointing Rev. Dr. Samuel Hong to serve as the Superintendent of the El Camino Real District beginning on July 1, 2020.

Rev. Shinya Goto, who is serving the El Camino Real District, will be appointed to serve the Los Ríos District following Rev. Schuyler Rhodes who will be retiring. Rev. Shinya Goto has been the District Superintendent for El Camino Real District since 2018. His family will be moving to the Sacramento area during the summertime and begin serving for Los Rios District.



Making Sense of the Bible

Six Sundays

8:45 am – 10:00 am

**March 1, 8, 15, 22,
29 & April 5**

Sunday School Room

Contact: Pastor 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 Michael Ann Honea at 925.872.9043.

Linda Walton, Jerry & Rosalynn Bize, Diana Easley, Gordon Fong,
Judy Bieger, Esther Graham, Rene Miller, Esther Riney, Jo Merritt,
Murphy Slay (stationed in US), Curt Patten, Beverly Tucker,
Bob Briggs, Paul Gamache, Joyce Sorensen's friend Cathy,
Carla Oberholtzer, Diane and Carey Hutchison, Barbara Bonnickson,
BCUMC church denominational issues, and
The United Methodist Church Reconciling Ministry Post-General Conference.



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

SPRC – Connecting the Pastor, Staff & Congregation

There are specific tasks that guide the Staff Parish Relations Committee:

- Encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and respect the pastor and staff.
- Promote unity in the church with open and clear communication.
- Confer with staff on the effectiveness of their roles, especially in the use of their gifts, skills and time, and any possible impediments to their effectiveness.
- Routine evaluations, clergy housing, salary recommendations and job descriptions.

Having open and clear communication is key to building trust and lasting relationships so that the whole church continues to grow and thrive. Please reach out to a SPRC committee member to express your hopes, dreams, compliments and concerns. Each committee member has a specific liaison, but we are all happy to talk with you anytime.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	STAFF
Polly Gallagher	Pastor Hyesung Lee
Rosemary Wood	Office Administrator, Michelle Carrillo
Katie Moore	Nursery Staff
Heidi Stark	Youth Director, Rebecca Feldermann
Miranda Smith/Linda Walton	Custodian, Keith Hicks
Dennis Buckley	Accompanists, Lugh Baxter, Kevin Fallon & Greg Pacquer
Shirley Gray	Choir Director, Alivia Logan



2 Ogechi Ekpemiro
7 Alfred Narayan
10 Barbara Pinkston
12 Rick Dunn
15 Marjorie Walton
19 Linda Walton
20 James Bartlett
24 Nate Clarke
25 Chu Ekpemiro
25 Don Fraley
26 Annalise Hanel
28 Esther Graham

! *Happy Anniversary*

18 Lisa & Paul Slay

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

8:00 AM

BCUMC Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to breakfast.

Come and Join in a great breakfast
and fellowship.

Heart-healthy food to be included.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th

Bring a friend. . . His breakfast is free!

Call Dave Funk, 925-997-5018
with any questions

DAYS OF LENT

In these wondrous days of Lent
May I look for ideas heaven sent
If unforgiveness I'm holding onto
May I find ways to now relent
If days gone by somehow misspent
May I forgive myself – 100%
Revisit the teachings that Jesus sent
And ponder all his words have meant
May actions infuse my good intent
Share hidden gifts, so far unspent
Less looking for woes to gladly lament
Find things to praise – more eloquent
Have faith in God on my ascent
And find new ways for love to invent
Respect God's children – all different
Embrace more peace – and breathe content
No need to get out of shape bent
As we trust in God - mishaps prevent
And before I wonder – where all the time went
May I just do something – in these days of Lent.

© Joe Kick - 2020

ANTHEM
"SHINE, JESUS,
SHINE"
SOLOIST
DARBY GRAY



HELP WANTED:
VOLUNTEER K-2ND GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

There is a great opportunity to work with children from kindergarten to second grade from now through the spring months. Lesson plans will be provided. We have new teaching materials that are user-friendly and are popular with both the children and their teachers--give them a try! If you are interested, please contact Christopher van Ruiten, chair of the Young Christians Ministry Committee, at Christopher.vanRuiten@gmail.com



by Rebecca Feldermann

The middle school group, otherwise known as MTJ, and the young adult/high school group, also known as YAHS, have continued to get together on our regular Sunday nights and have enjoyed discussions and events in January and February. In January, our youth and members of the church participated in the Winter Nights program. We prepared and served lunch for the families staying and played some intense and rousing rounds of U-NO!

MTJ enjoyed a Fast Food Progressive Dinner. This year we went to McDonald's, Taco Bell, Wendy's and Burger King. On Saturday, February 1st, the youth had a movie afternoon at AMC. We saw the newest Jumanji movie—many laughs to be had! MTJ served at Glide on February 16th. We also held our annual Fat Tuesday Pancake feed—the perfect way to kick off the season of Lent.

Discussion topics have included friendship, divorce, advice-giving/receiving, and of course a variety of things that just come up in conversation 😊

Here is the schedule for March:

Sunday, March 1st, 5:30pm-7:00pm (MTJ), 7:30pm-9:00pm (YAHS)

Sunday, March 8th, Movie @ the Delta "Onward" followed by Sip n' Scoop and a game night, time TBD**

Sunday March 15th, NO YOUTH, SPRING BREAK

Sunday, March 22nd NO YOUTH, SPRING BREAK

Sunday, March 29th, Movie @ the Delta "Mulan" in the afternoon

Sunday, March 29th, 5:30pm-7:00pm (MTJ), 7:30pm-9:00pm (YAHS)

****CALL or TEXT Rebecca Feldermann if you are interested - 925.876.0562**

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth. 😊

**THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH
BY ATTENDING OUR
FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE FEED!**





Welcome new members!
Daniel Vitello, Rachael, Jenny and Carol Green



by Heidi Stark

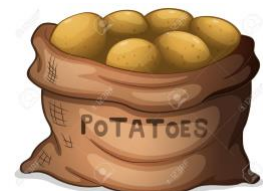
UMW 2020 READING PROGRAM

Do you like to read? United Methodist Women offers a Reading Program every year! The purpose of the Reading Program is to help us to better understand and participate in God's mission in the world today. Books have been selected by the Reading Program committee that will challenge readers, explore current issues, increase sensitivity, and promote understanding and change. The Reading Program books are divided into five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. There are books available for all ages and reading levels. For information on how to participate and the 2020 book titles please contact Jennifer Dunn at 925-513-6161 or email her at habitot.here@gmail.com. Information can also be found on the UMW bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

UMW UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

BCUMC UWM has two Circles that meet to enjoy fellowship, grow spiritually, learn about global and local mission needs, and provide support through the sharing of our time, talents and treasures. The Jesse Lee Circle meets for fellowship and program at 10am on the second Tuesday of the month in the Quiet Room at the Church. The Priscilla Circle meets for dinner fellowship and program at 6:30pm on the third Monday of each month at Panera, 5897 Lone Tree Way. All women are welcome; please consider joining us at a Circle meeting, combined event or fundraiser. Upcoming UMW dates:

- March 1 – Noon – Church Fellowship Hall - Call to Prayer and Self-Denial – *We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities* – Soup and Salad Luncheon hosted by Jesse Lee and Priscilla Circles for all women of the church
- March 10 – 10am Jesse Lee Circle – Church Quiet Room
- March 15 – 11:30am – Church Fellowship Hall –
Potato Bake Fundraiser for UMW missions hosted by Jesse Lee Circle
- March 16 – 6pm Priscilla Circle – Panera
- April 14 – 10am Jesse Lee Circle – Church Quiet Room
- April 18 – Time TBD – Church Fellowship Hall - **Trivia, Treats & Treasures** missions hosted by Priscilla Circle.
- April 20 – 6:30pm Priscilla Circle – Panera





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

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Los Rios District Superintendent: Rev. Schuyler Rhoads

Pastor: Hyesung Lee † Lay Leaders: Julius Lukacs and David Funk

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Carrillo

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL

