

Deeds and Opportunities

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

809 Second Street, Brentwood CA 94513

Office: (925) 634-3093

† Hyesung Lee, Pastor †

Website: Brentwoodumc.org

Editor: Bob Clarke

February 2025



2025 FEBRUARY Worship Schedule

Hybrid Worship Service Both In-Person and Virtual!

Come Join Us in Virtual Worship Services on Church Website and Facebook:

<https://www.brentwoodumc.org/bcumc/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28404281274/>

SUNDAY WORSHIP	Scriptures / Themes	Worship Acts and More
4th Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 2, 2025 10:30 a.m.	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holy Communion ● Adult Bible Study: 9am – 10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples)
5th Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 9, 2025 10:30 a.m.	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) Psalm 138 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Bible Study: 9 am–10 am (Youth Rm) ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) ● String Band: Singing Introit and Anthem
6th Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 16, 2025 10:30 a.m.	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Bible Study: 9am – 10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples)
7th Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 23, 2025 10:30 a.m.	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Bible Study: 9am – 10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after Time for Young Disciples) ● Sunday Night Live: 5:00 pm with Potluck

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

We are ONE PEOPLE rooted in Scripture, centered in Christ, serving in love, and united in essentials!

Here are some resources for those who'd like more about United Methodist Church!

For **Reconciling Ministries Network**, go to <https://rmnetwork.org/>

For California-Nevada Annual Conference, go to <https://www.cnumc.org/>

For Los Rios District, go to <https://losrios.cnumc.org/>

For Western Jurisdiction, go to <https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/>

For more information about UMC, go to ResourceUMC here
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/connection-makes-the-umc-work>

For recent UM news, go to umnews.org here

<https://www.umnews.org/en/>



† Pastor's Letter †

Dear Ones in the Family of God,

I am incredibly grateful that we survived last year as a church! The General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church (GCFA) reports that 1,491 churches closed in 2023. As of 2024, over 7,900 churches have exited, including many that were "closed." This represents 26% of all U.S. United Methodist churches. This split is considered one of the largest denominational splits in the United States since the Civil War (<https://juicyecumenism.com/2024/11/25/united-methodist-collaps>).

Many churches departed through the disaffiliation process due to sexuality issues. Others closed due to declining membership and resources. Many of these churches were "legacy churches."

A "legacy church" refers to an established, long-standing church that has experienced a significant decline in membership and vitality over time. This decline is often attributed to factors such as changing demographics, outdated practices, an inability to adapt to modern needs, and a lack of outreach to younger generations. Ultimately, this can lead to the church's closure or fading away from the community. Essentially, it's a church that has "lived its legacy" and is no longer thriving as it once did.

Without the continuous addition of new members, many churches have declined as their faithful long-time members naturally age and pass away. We could easily be one of them if we do not actively attract new members who are eager to join our congregation. If our membership declines, so will our income, making it difficult to maintain our operations and facilities.

At the last Finance Committee meeting, I learned that we, BCUMC, have performed better than expected financially. We projected a deficit of \$25,480.51 but ended with a deficit of \$6,841.93 (26.85%). The proposed budget for 2025 is \$238,428.93, an increase from \$215,842.51 in 2024. Although it's still a "faith" budget, the projected deficit has decreased.

I am deeply grateful for the congregation's generous giving to support the mission and ministries of the church. I believe that you, the church, have responded to God's generous love. Thank you all! I also extend my thanks to the Finance Committee (chair: Polly Gallagher; treasurer: Diego Garcia) for their dedicated work. I thank our wonderful leadership of the two Lay Leaders (Heidi Stark and David Funk) and all the Committee chairs and members. Their presence, character, attitude, and Christ-like hearts have made this possible by God's grace. Hallelujah! Glory to God!


On January 11, 2025, we held a Catching Up Session with our New Members. They shared their experiences of joining the church within the last two years. The following factors have kept them coming back:

- **Music Ministries** – The Choir and String Band inspire and touch their hearts every Sunday.
- **Fellowship Hour** – This is when they can get to know each other better.
- **Name Tags** – During the Fellowship Hour, name tags help them feel more comfortable initiating conversations with others.
- **Welcoming spirit and attitude** – from the door to the sanctuary and to the fellowship hall, people's welcoming spirit and attitude have made new members' hearts wide open.
- **Young Disciples and Sunday School for Kids** – Children are well cared for by childcare providers and participate in engaging programs.
- **HOPE HOUSE** – the ministry of the church has inspired so many new members
- **Reconciling Congregation** – Our dedicated ministry for LGBTQIA+ individuals and all those who are vulnerable has inspired many new members.

I believe there are many more things we can do to improve and grow. These improvements will not cause us pressure or anxiety but rather fill us with gratitude and peace of mind. We can focus one at a time, working faithfully and cooperatively with joy and effectiveness.

May God bless us all!

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Sunday, February 23, 5-7pm

Our next Sunday Night Live event will be held on Sunday, February 23 from 5-7pm. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Potluck Dinner at 5pm. Following our meal, we will have a variety of games available for all ages. We are looking forward to a low-key, fun family time. All are welcome – come spend time with your Church family and enjoy dinner, fellowship, and games. A sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall – let us know if you can attend and what delicious dish you will bring. Questions, please contact Pastor Lee or Lay Leaders, Dave Funk or Heidi Stark.

We believe love in action can change the world



The theme for the 2025 United Women in Faith program is practicing hope together. We will explore how we carry faith forward from generation to generation. Come hear the messages and share your story.

At our January meeting, a few women gathered to catch up and check in. It's wonderful to part of a caring and sharing group. At our next meeting we will continue to explore our faith and plan our calendar of events for 2025. Also, check your mailboxes for a letter from our President, Jan Schults on how you can help support the mission and ministries of United Women in Faith locally and globally.

The next United Women in Faith meeting will be on Monday, February 17th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome; please consider joining and putting your faith in action! Questions, please contact Jan Schults, United Women in Faith President at 925-890-6296.



Men of BCUMC! The next Men's Breakfast is coming up on [February 1st](#), at 8:00 a.m. Have a good breakfast and enjoy some time in fellowship. Coffee will be piping hot by 7:30.

Discussion topics will include Bean Feed logistics and events & activities for 2025. Chaplain Dave, as always, will give us some spiritual thoughts to ponder as we continue through the New Year.

The cost for breakfast is \$5.00. Bring a friend, and his breakfast is free!

Hope to see you there!

WE LIFT UP OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES IN OUR PRAYERS

This list is provided by our Congregational Care Network (CCN) of BCUMC. If you want to add names or make any changes to this list, please contact Linda Barnhill (925) 634-8521 or lindalucy1103@outlook.com.



We pray for all these friends that God may fill them every day with strength, faith, love, and peace.

Prayer Chain:



Grace Olayomi (Gbenga Olayomi's wife), **John Gonzales** (Adella Logan's son), **Bev and Martin Tucker**, **John Moore**, **Dawn** (Daughter of Eugene and Jenny Davis), **Joyce Heflin**, **Fran Hassler**, **Leonor and Jim Roberts**, **Charlene Dobson**, **Betty Gaughan**, **Bella** (Bob Clarke's friend), **Scott Kammeyer's mother**, **Denise** (Bob Clarke's friend), **Echo Paden** (Eileen Newill's granddaughter), **Lee Rogers** (Laura Webb's brother-in-law), **Joe Niec**, **Mother of Rick Dunn**, **Larry Schaffer**, **Frank Schaffer** (Larry Schaffer's brother), **Danny Carpenter** (Edie Tidrick's nephew), **Lyric Jones** (Eileen Newill's granddaughter), **Nathan** (Steve Smith's brother), **Robin Thompson** (JoAnn Funk's friend), **Hisako Suzuki**, **Alex Reece** (granddaughter of Kathie Gulizia), **Steven Clarke** (Bob Clarke's son), **Blake Kurz**, **Cindy Pierce**, **June Lee** (Pastor's daughter), **JoAnn Funk**, and **Family of Doug Manzer on his passing** (Laura Webb's nephew).

2025 LENT AND EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LENT	Ash Wednesday	March 5 (Wed)	Worship Service 7:00 pm
	Palm Sunday	April 13 (Sun)	Sunday Worship 10:30 am
	Good Friday	April 18 (Fri)	Worship Service 7:00 pm
	Easter	April 20 (Sun)	Sunrise Service 6:30 am
			Easter Breakfast 7:00 am
			Morning Service 10:30 am
			Egg Hunt for Kids During Fellowship Hour

UMCOR offers hope on the long road to Helene recovery

** To support the vital work of UMCOR, BCUMC sent special offerings collected throughout Fall and Winter 2024. The following quotes from UMCOR's report demonstrate the impact of these contributions. (United Methodist Committee on Relief). For the full report, you can go to <https://umcmmission.org>*



By Christie R. House (January 15, 2025)

Katie Hills, UMCOR's director of Disaster Response, assesses the situation in Boone, NC, while pitching in with ERTs to clear debris from Valle Crucis UMC. (Photo: Ben Rogers, WNCC)

McKim noted: "I've been United Methodist all my life. How many times have we taken up special offerings for UMCOR? And we've sent money, and this is the first time it's been right here in my own backyard! That's actually a very humbling experience. Learning how to receive everything that everyone has given us has been extremely humbling and gives me hope in humanity."

People from the wider UMC connection started showing up with water, food, diapers – and people from the community soon learned where they could find these things they desperately needed. Before long the church was a major hub. UMCOR sent clean-up supplies, volunteers from church within and outside the conference showed up with supplies and stayed to help organize and distribute them...

Jim Cox, who recently began work as UMCOR's new executive director, met a number of ERTs in the Asheville, North Carolina, area as they arrived to help Western North Carolina Conference mud-out and clean-up in surrounding communities.

"UMCOR has been in partnership with the conference here since day one," he noted. "Western North Carolina Conference has done great work early on. We're now looking at long-term recovery. We plan to partner together with the conference for several years."

Communication from Laura Webb – Youth Ministry Director RE: Children's Sunday School

I enjoy so much the time I spend with our children at Sunday School! They are eager to learn more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. As we talk and share together, they are musing about the lives of the Bible characters, their circumstances and their choices. They ask funny and deep questions about the meaning of things. To see their faces light up with understanding is the greatest joy.

We have one class that includes late 3 yr olds to 11-year-old students. Attendance currently ranges from 3-10 students. There are 4 teachers who rotate through the month. Curriculum is provided.

I invite you to join in this experience as our Sunday School classes become larger. To strengthen our Sunday School, I need:

1-2 additional adults to teach 5th Sundays and Substitute. Curriculum is provided

4-5 high schoolers or adults to assist the teacher once monthly. Tasks would include taking attendance, assisting with crafts and activities, and accompanying students who need to leave the classroom.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATED (March 1st, 2023)

“Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God Always!”

(General Principal of Wesleyan Methodist Discipleship)

For the safety of all, and in alignment with the state and county advice we continue to strongly suggest wearing a mask in public settings. We will continue respecting each person’s choice to wear or not wear a mask in any circumstances. No one should be asked ‘why?’

In addition, please, if you are sick stay at home.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES will be displayed on each wall of the rooms in the church.

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church Ad Council

2025 Lent Study: Disciples of Christ in Community

Facilitator: Rev. Hugh Stevenson

When: Sunday 9:00 am to 10:00 am (3/9 – 4/13)

Where: Youth Room



Lent 1 (3/9)	Temptation	Luke 4:1-11
Lent 2 (3/16)	Widow of Nain’s son healed	Luke 7:11-17
Lent 3 (3/23)	Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
Lent 4 (3/30)	Parable of Prodigal Son	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Lent 5 (4/6)	Woman anointed his feet	John 12:1-6
Lent 6 (4/13)	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-40

- Everyone is invited
- No textbook is needed except the Bible. It would be good if we all bring our own copies of the Bible, although copies of the texts will be handed out at each session.
- We will read a passage of scripture and answer various questions about it. We will explore how they resonate with us

Ash
WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
7 pm March 5 (Wed), 2025

Lay Leader News By Heidi Stark

I don't know about you, but January seemed really long, and I feel like the year got off to a rough start. Things have felt very extreme and out of control. We are witnessing new, difficult and divisive policies being put into action, devastating fires, extreme weather, wars and so much destruction. Maybe personally you are feeling "off" due to illness, caregiving, finances, housing, job, family or relationship issues. I know I'm struggling with changes going on in my life for me and my family. I'm concerned about our country and worried that the policies being put in place will set us back and cause harm to many people. I think about the people who have lost everything, and I know I am fortunate; yet still I want to crawl into bed and pull the covers over my head.

I've been feeling overwhelmed with work and family responsibilities are draining my energy; so, I was comforted to hear Pastor's sermon on January 26th that reminded us that everybody has dark moments – "cave time". What matters is how we respond when dark times descend. I may want to hide away in my bed but that won't change the situation. Instead, I must get up and continue to work, love and offer care. Pastor reminded us that we are to always bless the Lord – not just when things are good. When we are surrounded by challenges, we must speak up and speak out. Perfection isn't important – it's important that we keep showing up. We can always proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and know that we are worthy in God's eyes. Ask God to help you shine when and where you are.

If you feel like things aren't going as you planned – maybe you haven't been able to keep your New Year's resolutions – give yourself some grace – be forgiving – God is! I would like to spend quiet time with God every day in prayer and reading my devotionals and Bible Study. I'm good at reading the Upper Room every day, and I definitely pray many times throughout my day, but spending quiet time in prayer and devotional reading isn't happening daily for me right now. I am behind in my daily readings, but instead of stopping altogether in defeat – I made the decision to start where I am. I decided not to try and catch up. I'm trying to see each day as a new opportunity – just take the day as it comes - stop trying to make things what I think they should be and ask God to guide my steps for the day. Sure, I could go back and read all the devotionals I've missed this year. Would they have meaning or just be another task to do? Instead, I'm choosing to forgive myself for not being able to get it all done every day. I encourage you to start where you are! Don't compare yourself to others! Read today's devotional - today's Bible verse – it will likely be just what you needed at that moment – God is amazing that way! So, move on - learn, grow - be a light even when you feel dim. Sow seeds of calmness, kindness, healing, peace, and love wherever you go. Give yourself some grace and keep shining your light day by day, step by step.

Looking for Sign-ups



Did you know that you can help our church by signing up for fellowship hour? You would provide a variety of goodies and help set up and clean up the hall. If you have a special person you want to honor or an important date to celebrate, you can celebrate with your church family. A signup is on the bulletin board near the kitchen.

Another opportunity would be to share altar flowers for the service. Bring a flower arrangement before church starts and then after the service you can take the flowers home to enjoy. This is a great way to commemorate a special person or event.

Please Sign up on the bulletin board!

The Annual Bean Feed is coming!

☆☆☆ 40th Anniversary! ☆☆☆

Thank you for four decades of support!

Sunday March 22nd, 2025; from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The **United Methodist Men (UMM)** of the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church will be sponsoring this year's Bean Feed at the date and time indicated above. We will be holding the event in the drive-thru style, same as last year: UMM will cater a delicious meal directly to your car as you drive by the side entrance of the church on the Midway alley. Please come in from the HOPE House (Pine Street) side of the alley.

All you have to do is drive up to the side entrance door of the church, hand us your ticket, and we will deliver a plated, wrapped, and delicious **tri-tip or mac & cheese casserole meal with potato salad, beans, dinner roll, carrot cake, and a bottle of water**—all the makings for an easy and delicious Sunday night dinner! We also will have a delivery service for shut ins.

The proceeds from the Bean Feed go to the UMM scholarship fund. This worthwhile event has been an annual tradition of the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church for 40 years now! UMM has always had the goal of providing scholarships to young adults, and in some cases older adults, in support of their academic journeys. For 2025, UMM will **provide scholarships in the amount of \$750** to each recipient.

We are asking for a **minimum \$20.00 donation** per plate.

Please see one of the men of the UMM for a ticket—the men are available at BCUMC on Sunday mornings, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or give one of them a call!

Thanks so much for your support!

Stewardship 2025

Thank you for joining us as we considered what it means to be *Devoted to Generosity*. We are pleased to report that the congregation has responded generously. We are fortunate to have a community of faith that believes in what God is doing here, in this place.

Our theme for this year has been rich with reminders as to how God has provided for us in rich abundance as a human family and has invited our community to be a part of sharing our blessings with others.

We are most thankful and appreciative for the pledge support this year, 35 pledges totaling \$122,635.00. The Ad Council approved a budget for 2025 for \$238,428.00. Our projected income for 2025 is \$217,095.00. Our income is based on pledge commitments for 2025, donations and plate offerings, facility use and additional income from Stockton Central UMC.

Please reach out at any time to our Finance Committee with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Polly Gallagher, Finance Chair





February

- 2 Julia Thomas Niec
- 6 Quentin Kim
- 6 Lillian Grace Kim
- 7 Joy Smith
- 8 Jeff Schults
- 9 Kevin Gray
- 11 Mary Jean Spediacci
- 13 Blake Kurz
- 16 Mark Azevedo
- 19 Nancy Schaffer
- 22 Eugene Davis
- 22 Daisy Kennedy
- 25 Jerry Walton
- 26 Jayceon Kammeyer
- 28 Martin Tucker

Happy Anniversary!

February

- 11. Lian and Luther Belino
- 12. Joy and Steven Smith
- 14. Melissa and Chris van Ruiten
- 14. Marcie and Julius Lukacs

GOD'S GRACE

If God sent a valentine
What would it be?
Something unexpected
Sent to you or me.
God's grace
In this place
Lifts us up
In ways we need
A helping hand
Our hearts freed
From worry or doubt
Or nagging fear
He's always with us
More than just near
Glorious truth
Much more than fine
His abiding grace
To us, his valentine.

© Joe Kick - 2025

February 2025 Facility Use Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 UMM Breakfast 8am
2 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am	3 H.O.P.E. House Ministry 9am	4 Empowerment Program Youth 4pm Produce Truck @ Hope House 4pm BCC 7pm Dig Board Meeting 7pm	5 Hope House 9am- 12pm ACA 5:30pm Al-Anon 7pm Trustees 7pm	6 Trilogy Singers 4:15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7pm	7 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm	8
9 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am	10 H.O.P.E. House Ministry 9am	11 Empowerment Program Youth 4pm BCC 7pm	12 Hope House 9am SPRC 4:30pm ACA 5:30pm Al Anon 7pm Ad Council 7pm	13 Trilogy Singers 4:15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7pm	14 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm 	15
16 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am Small Group Bible Study 12pm Youth Room	17 H.O.P.E. House Ministry 9am Unite Women of Faith 7pm	18 Empowerment Program Youth 4pm BCC 7pm Finance Committee 6:30pm	19 Hope House 9am- 12pm ACA 5:30pm Al-Anon 7pm	20 Trilogy Singers 4:15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30pm	21 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm	22
23 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am	24 H.O.P.E. House Ministry 9am DIG 7pm	25 Empowerment Program Youth 4pm BCC 7pm NAMI Meeting 7pm	26 Hope House 9am- 12pm CCN 10am ACA 5:30pm Al-Anon 7pm	27 Trilogy Singers 4:15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30pm	28 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm	

Dates and Times are subject to change

* For the most updated calendar/schedule see church website: www.brentwoodumc.org

* To request use of Facility or any questions contact Michelle: 925 634 3093 or admin@brentwoodumc.org



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 Sandra Olewine

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Los Rios District Superintendent: Rev. David Niu

Pastor: Hyesung Lee † Lay Leaders: Heidi Stark and David Funk

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Carrillo

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

