

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

May 2025






2025 MAY 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
<p>3rd Sunday of Easter May 4, 2025 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Acts 5:27-32 Ps 150 John 20:19-23</p>	<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)
<p>4th Sunday of Easter May 11, 2025 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>“Mother’s Day”</p>	<p>Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30</p> 	<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) ● Tribute to Mothers: Photos of mothers will be shown during the service to honor/ remember our mothers
<p>5th Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Acts 11:1-18; Ps 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35</p> 	<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) ● Celebration Ringers (Byron UMC Bell Choir): “Creation Story” during 10:30 am Worship Service; full performance at 2:00 pm after potluck luncheon.
<p>6th Sunday of Easter May 25, 2025 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>HERITAGE SUNDAY John 5:1-9</p> 	<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) ● New Members Orientation (1): 12 pm-1:15 pm in Quiet Room; the second session will follow on the next Sunday (June 1st)

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 Beloved Family of God

Happy Easter! I find a surprising truth rising from our culture: even in an age of skepticism, Americans are still believing. In her yearlong project titled "*Believing*," (New York Times, April 21, 2025), Lauren Jackson explores the enduring and evolving spiritual lives of Americans. Despite rising secularization in previous decades, 92% of U.S. adults now express some form of spiritual belief. Religion is re-emerging in public life, from politics to tech, and a generational shift seems to be underway. Jackson, who left the Mormon Church, interviewed thousands to understand how people grapple with belief today—inside and outside organized religion.

The article reveals that while millions left institutional faith in past decades, many found secular substitutes like fitness classes or mindfulness apps ultimately unfulfilling. Religion often fulfills core psychological needs—offering belief, belonging, and behavior. People of faith generally report better mental and physical health.

Though not all are returning to church, there's a growing desire for spaces where spiritual reflection can thrive. This resurgence suggests Americans are searching for meaning, community, and deeper conversations around values like confession, forgiveness, and purpose.

We have Jesus who came to offer forgiveness, a chance to confess and **be** forgiven, **and** an opportunity to be right with God and with others. The first of his last seven sayings from the cross was about forgiveness. The first word after Easter to his disciples was also about forgiveness. His life, death, and resurrection were all his efforts to make sure **that** access to God **was** possible for all those who confess and forgive. Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, was the final act of God to complete it. Because of Easter, **the** disciples knew they were forgiven. Their Lord, who was betrayed by them, was risen from the dead. Their guilts were lifted up, and they were driven to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the undeniable conviction of the resurrection of the Lord.

Over the past 30 years, I have witnessed more and more churches refraining from mentioning the name of Jesus. Whenever I go to various churches to preach, people say to me, "Thank you for preaching about Jesus." Every time, I am taken aback. Christianity is a gathering of those who follow Jesus, and we are those who believe in the God revealed and taught by Jesus, so why should I receive such a greeting? If I don't talk about Jesus, what else am I supposed to preach?

In America, where various races with diverse cultures and religions live together, it is right to respect all religions. However, losing the identity of Christianity and abandoning our core truths is a suicidal act. We can genuinely respect other religions when we stand firm as true Christians and healthy disciples of Jesus. This is because we hope that Buddhists will live as true Buddhists and Muslims as true Muslims.

People are searching for the meaning of life. They desire true salvation and joy in life. When they come to our church, they will want to encounter the real Jesus, not a fake window-dressing Jesus. We must first understand Jesus well, sincerely follow Him, and show His life. I earnestly pray that our church will be a place that gives living water to the thirsty.

I hope and pray that during this Easter season and beyond, we continue to learn about Jesus, practice the ways of Jesus, and to spread the truth of Jesus always and everywhere.

Happy Easter

"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

MOTHER'S PICTURES FOR MOTHER'S DAY

What: Anyone wishing to share their mother's picture in honor/memory of their mother are invited to do so on Mother's Day (May 11, Sunday)

How: Submit a photo of their mother (along with the name of their mother and the submitter) via email (brentwoodcommunityumc@gmail.com) to the office by Wed, May 7th. Then they will be shown during the service on Mother's Day



We believe love in action can change the world



The theme for the 2025 United Women in Faith program is Carrying Our Faith Forward. We will be exploring an intergenerational conversation about what it looks like to carry our faith forward in an expanding or new context. Water is used as a theme - the path of water, our faith stories reflect a punch and a pull, peaks and waterfalls, stagnant ponds and storms. It is for us to recall what faith means to us - to define our faith and to remember who conveyed faith to us.

Eight women attended the April meeting at the home of Cheryl Breitenbucher. We discussed how our faith has changed over the years and shared our faith journeys. The discussion was great, and we look forward to further discussions on how faith identities are formed and carried forward.

Save the date for a couple of fun UWF events! Trivia, Treats and Treasures will be held on Saturday, August 16th from 3-5pm. Sundae Sunday will be September 14th after the service. Watch for details! Also, UWF is asking the women of BCUMC to participate in a Secret Sister Summer of Surprises (see the details in this newsletter). It will be a fun way to build community and connections.

The next United Women in Faith meeting will be on Monday, May 19th at 7pm at Neda Gray's home (1227 Sheldon Drive, Brentwood). 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.



Greetings, men of the UMM! **Bocce Ball Tournament: Saturday, May 3rd!**



The United Methodist Men will be hosting a **bocce ball tournament** in place of its regular monthly breakfast on Saturday, May 3rd at 8:00 a.m. at Veterans Park on Balfour Rd. The United Women in Faith will be joining the men in a UMM vs. UWF tournament. A light breakfast (pastries, fruit, and coffee) will be provided, and Joe's special bacon will make a return appearance. **All are invited!** Hope you can join us! For more information, please contact Joe Niec or any officer of the UMM.

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**, **Leonor and Jim Roberts**, **Charlene Dobson**, **Betty Gaughan**, **Scott Kammeyer's mother**, **Echo Paden** (Eileen Newill's granddaughter), **Joe Niec**, **Rick Dunn's mother**, **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**, **Blake Kurz**, **June Lee** (Pastor's daughter), **JoAnn Funk**, **Jake** (Barbara Pinkston's grandson), **Isadora** (Great-granddaughter of Joyce Sorenson), **Beverly Hendrix**, **Mike Martin** (Linda Barnhill's friend), **Christopher** (Jan Schults' nephew), **Stephanie Hogan**, **Robert** (father of Bob Clarke) and **Kathie Gulizia**.

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

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. Seeing 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.

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

May 25th and June 1st from 12 pm to 1:15 pm (Quiet Room)



You are invited to this orientation if you want to (1) join our church as a committed member or (2) just learn more about our church. This orientation will include (1) sharing of faith journeys; (2) United Methodist Church Beliefs and Mission; and (3) our B.C.U.M. church mission. If you are interested, please let the pastor know by contacting her at 925-303-9339 (cell) or hslee3@gmail.com. Or you may just show up! Our gathering is always very enjoyable and spiritual.



Stewardship 2025

Thank you for supporting the ministries of our church with your dedicated support and generosity. The Joseph novella in Genesis, chapters 37-50, provides a beautiful case study in modeling generosity. His brothers come to Egypt in the midst of a famine and Joseph shares generously with his brothers, giving them not just food but forgiveness. The first quarter of the year has been also a model of generosity. Our income is at 24.68% of the expected 25% and our expenses are on track on well.

Please reach out at any time to our Finance Committee with any questions, suggestions, or concerns. Remember to note on any checks or other donations any specific intended use such as Pledge, Capital Improvement, United Women in Faith, HOPE House, etc. Thank you.

Polly Gallagher, Finance Chair



2025 HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Lay Leader News By Heidi Stark

I hope you all enjoyed a happy Easter! I believe that we are lucky because when we arrive at Easter Sunday, we know what happened. We know that the tomb was empty – we know that Christ was raised from the dead just as he said, and we know that Christ will come again. The disciples watched their beloved teacher die; they were sad and afraid. On that first Easter the women arrived at the tomb only to find it empty. They were told that Jesus had been raised and that they would see him again. It must have been both wonderful and shocking for those that met the risen Christ that first Easter. Jesus' resurrection requires that we see beyond what appears and instead allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Jesus' death was NOT the end for Jesus or for us. Jesus' life, death and resurrection give us hope for the future. God keeps his promises – Christ will come again!

On Easter Sunday, Pastor asked what resurrection means for each of us. The women who were going to the tomb just wanted to honor Jesus by anointing him with spices, but they were worried about how they might move the stone to conduct the ritual. Of course, when they arrived, they found that stone had been moved, and Jesus was not there. Pastor asked us to consider what stones/worries we carry. We all have burdens, but we can take those worries to God in prayer. There are times when our worries seem so big that we can't find the words to pray. The good news is that God knows – God is already there – God knows our needs. Despite our circumstances, we can have hope because of Jesus' resurrection. Death is not the final word. Nothing can take away our hope or separate us from God. God lifts us up as his beloved, forgiven, and redeemed children. We all struggle, we all make mistakes, but those mistakes don't have to define your life. Remember Easter was NOT the end – it's a new beginning filled with hope and light.

I wish you all a Spring bright with promise and hope for the future. No matter what burdens you carry, you are loved, and you can know that God walks with you. God will go before you and take your hand – embrace the journey – trust and hope.

“When I tell you all shall be well, I don't mean that life won't bring you tragedy. Life will be life. I only mean you will be well in spite of it. All shall be well, no matter what.”

– Sue Monk Kidd from The Book of Longings

Random Picture Page



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR FRAN HASSLER



It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the passing of Fran Hassler, a beloved member of our church. Fran passed away peacefully at home on Monday, March 24, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was 94 years old.

Fran had been a faithful and delightful member of BCUMC since 2006, actively participating in church gatherings and mission work. We will all miss her dearly.

A Celebration of Life for Fran Hassler will be held on **Saturday, May 3rd, at 3:00 pm in our church**. A fellowship hour will follow the service.

May God comfort Fran's family and friends, and may we find peace in the knowledge that she rests eternally in God's love.

Your card may be sent to the following address:

Ed & Vickie Johnson
1700 Eureka Avenue
Brentwood, CA 94513

CELEBRATION RINGERS & ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

When: Sunday, May 18 After Service
Where: Fellowship Hall

On Sunday, May 18 the Celebration Ringers handbell choir will be performing during our Sunday worship service. They will play The Creation, a moving religious piece (a narrated story of the creation with bell accompaniment). We are excited to have this special music during our service. At 2pm on May 18th BCUMC will host a concert by the Celebration Ringers. We welcome the opportunity to open our Church to community activities and events, and we are hoping to have a great turnout.

As a thank you to the Celebration Ringers, we would like to provide a meal after our service and before their afternoon concert. We are encouraging everyone to bring a dish to share and invite a friend to enjoy our service, brunch, and a fabulous handbell concert. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend!



May

- 1 Michael Ann Honea
- 1 Neda Gray
- 2 Marie Weekes
- 5 Bev Hendrix
- 7 Elijah van Ruiten
- 8 Cynthia Geddes
- 12 Jacki Hughes
- 16 Julius Lukacs
- 18 Judy Bieger
- 19 David Funk
- 20 Mike Johnson
- 20 Daniel Vitello
- 24 Dennis Buckley
- 27 Den Bowman



May

- 3. Andy and Dari Tran
- 21. Miranda and Andre Smith
- 22. Jackie and Dan Hanel
- 31. JoAnn and David Funk

MOTHER'S DAY

I had a dream
About no other
I had a dream
About my mother
She said hello
From heaven's shore
She said live close
To heaven's door
She said be kind
And be courageous
Words of love
Can be contagious
Hold to your faith
Let go of fear
Try to remember
God is always near
I treasure all
She had to say
And remember her words
On Mother's Day!

© Joe Kick - 2025





United Women in Faith

Secret Sister Summer Surprises

Women of BCUMC, let's have fun, build community and connection through participating in a Secret Sister summer of surprises!

How does it work?

Fill out the Secret Sister Questionnaire (reverse side) and turn it in. As a Secret Sister, you will receive the completed questionnaire of another woman in the church to whom you will send encouraging cards and/or gifts throughout the months of June, July, August and September. A Secret Sister will be assigned to do the same for you!

Do I need to attend United Women in Faith meetings?

You do not need to attend the United Women in Faith (UWF) meetings to take part in the fun. Of course, we'd love to see you there! If you've been wanting to attend but need a ride, please reach out to one of us to coordinate transportation.

Important dates:

- Come to the May meeting on 5/19/25 to participate in a random drawing to assign Secret Sisters. If you are not able to attend, we'll mail you your assignment.
- At the September meeting (9/15/25), we'll reveal the identity of your Secret Sister. If you cannot attend, we'll mail the information to you.

Is it expensive?

Cards and/or gifts for your Secret Sister should not cost a lot of money. Many sweet, simple and delightful surprises can be found for \$10 or less. How often you surprise your Secret Sister is up to you, though a good guide is to aim for one surprise per month.

How do I keep it a secret?

Delivering a gift while keeping it a secret can be tricky! Here are some suggestions:

- Send a card or gift via postal mail, using "Secret Sister" and the church address as "your" return address
- Order an online gift and include a gift receipt from "Your Secret Sister"
- Place a gift on the small table in the Fellowship Hall for your gift recipient to pick up (choose this option only if you're fairly certain your gift recipient attends regularly)
- Drive by your gift recipient's home and leave it on the porch, preferably not in view from the street, where porch pirates will see it! Also, watch out for video doorbells!

Other questions?

Please reach out to **Karen Thomas** for other questions you may have about Secret Sisters: (925) 759-9523; ghia_at_heart@yahoo.com

UWF Officers:

Jan Schults - (925) 890-6296; Cheryl Breitenbucher - (925) 550-0895; Polly Gallagher - (925) 219-2683

secret sister QUESTIONNAIRE



Name: _____

B-Day: _____

Address: _____

My Favorite Things

Color _____

Snack _____

Drink _____

Book Genre _____

Store _____

Restaurant _____

Scent _____

Flower _____

Bible Verse _____

This or That

BOOKS **or** MOVIES

PETS **or** PEOPLE

SALTY **or** SWEET

COLORFUL **or** NEUTRAL

CLASSIC **or** MODERN

INTROVERT **or** EXTROVERT

Where I Would Spend...

\$5 _____

\$10 _____

\$25 _____

More About Me

In my free time...

T-Shirt Size _____

Food Allergies _____

Anything else...

Yes or No

CANDLES? YES | NO

SOCKS? YES | NO




LOTION? YES | NO

SUGAR? YES | NO



May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	2 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	3 Bocce Ball Veterans Park 8am Fran Hassler Memorial 3pm
4 Worship 10:30am Recital 4-7pm	5 Hope House 9-12pm Cinco de Mayo	6 DIG 7-9:30pm Q.R. BC Chorus 7pm Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old BC Chorus 7-9 pm BCC 7pm	7 Hope House 9-12pm SPRC 4:30 ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm Trustees 7pm	8 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	9 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	10
11 Worship 10:30am 	12 Hope House 9-12pm	13 HH Produce Truck 4pm BC Chorus 7pm Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old BCC 7pm	14 Hope House 9-12pm ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm SPRC 4pm Ad Council 7pm	15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	16 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	17 6-8pm Recital
18 Worship 10:30am Celebration Ringers	19 Hope House 9-12pm United Women in Faith 7pm	20 CHD 4:30-6:30pm Finance 6:30 pm Fireside Rm Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old BCC 7pm	21 Hope House 9-12pm ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm	22 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	23 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	24
25 Worship 10:30am	26 Hope House 9-12pm DIG 7-9:30pm Q.R. 	27 HH Produce Truck 4pm Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old NAMI 7pm BCC 7pm	28 Hope House 9-12pm CCN 10am ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm	29 Choir Rehearsal 7pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	30 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	31 

* 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 brentwoodcommunityumc@gmail.com



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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Brentwood, CA 94513

TIME DATED MATERIAL

