

# ✝ Pastor's Letter ✝

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you today with a heart full of joy and excitement about the growing fellowship within our Church Circuit, which includes Byron, Brentwood, Antioch, and Pittsburg UMCs. On August 14th, the pastors and lay leaders from our churches gathered via Zoom, and it was a wonderful time of sharing, brainstorming, and planning how we can strengthen

our bonds and serve God together. I want to share some of the wonderful things emerging from this partnership.

**A Joint Confirmation Journey for Our Youth** One of the most exciting initiatives already in motion is a **Joint Confirmation Class** for the youth of all four churches. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to learn and grow in faith alongside their peers from our neighboring congregations.



- **Orientation:** Sunday, September 21st, at 12:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Brentwood Community UMC
- **Who Should Attend:** All interested youth, and their parents are welcome to learn more about this journey.

Teachers and mentors from all four churches will be leading the class. We are praying for a powerful and successful Confirmation Journey for all who participate.

**An Invitation to Worship and Learn Together** In the spirit of collaboration, our sister churches are opening their doors and sharing their events with all of us. You are warmly invited to enjoy these wonderful activities:

- **From Pittsburg UMC:**
  - **"Worship Under the Stars" (Cafe Agape Ministry):** An evening for young people and families to worship with LIVE praise music, art, and dance. There will be local vendors, game booths, and more!
    - **Date:** Saturday, September 13th, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
    - **Location:** Pittsburg UMC (153 West Leland Road, Pittsburg)
  - **Hip Hop Liberation Bible Studies:** A unique and engaging study held via Zoom.
    - **When:** The 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
    - **Zoom ID:** 895 2654 2310 | **Passcode:** 182625
- **A New Partnership in Worship:**
  - Antioch and Pittsburg UMCs have begun a beautiful new tradition. On the **first Sunday of every month**, the Pittsburg congregation, which is faithfully served by two young lay ministers, will join the Antioch church for a combined worship service and to share in the Holy Communion. We pray that by God's grace, this partnership will bless both churches abundantly.

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**A Personal Note: A Journey Home** On a personal note, I will be traveling to Korea for two weeks to visit my mother, siblings, and other relatives. My trip is centered around a very special occasion: my mother's 94th birthday on September 8th!

Many of you know we feared we might lose her last year, but she has made a remarkable recovery and grows stronger each day. It brings me such happiness to share that she is now enjoying the peaceful rhythm of crocheting and the lively company of a new family puppy. Your prayers have meant the world to us.

**While I Am Away (September 7th & 14th)** During my absence, our church will be in very capable hands.

- **Guest Preacher:** The Rev. Hugh Stevenson will be preaching on both Sundays, September 7th and 14th. I am so excited for you to hear his message!
- **Joyful Music:** I will be sad to miss the return of our wonderful Choir on September 7th, but I will be with you in spirit!
- **Pastoral Care:** For any matters requiring pastoral support, please contact our Lay Leader, **David Funk (925-628-8938)**, or our CCN Chair, **Linda Walton (925-209-8597)**. They will graciously coordinate any necessary care.

We also continue to hold David Funk in our prayers as he undergoes cancer treatment. Thanks be to God, he is responding well and without side effects.

Let us continue to live out the Gospel that has freed us from sin and death, from fear and oppression!

God is Wonderful!

In His Grace,



Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee