

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



January 2026





2026 JANUARY 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>EPIPHANY SUNDAY Jan 4, 2026 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Guest Preacher: Rev. Hugh Stevenson *Pastor Lee is on Family Vacation (till Jan 8th)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holy Communion officiated by Rev. Hugh Stevenson ● Adult Bible Study: 9am – 10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) ● ALL CHURCH POTLUCK
<p>BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY Jan 11, 2026 10:30 a.m.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Bible Study: 9 am–10 am (Youth Rm) ● Adult Bible Study: 9am –10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) ● De-Hanging of Greens: right after a brief Fellowship Hour at 11:45 am. Everyone is invited to help!
<p>2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Jan 18, 2025 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Bible Study: 9 am–10 am (Youth Rm) ● Adult Bible Study: 9am –10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples)
<p>3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Jan 25, 2025 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:13-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Bible Study: 9 am–10 am (Youth Rm) ● Adult Bible Study: 9am –10am Youth Rm ● Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples)

2026 Epiphany through Easter Worship Schedule

2026 Liturgical Dates (Year A)

Event / Season	Date(s)	Liturgical Color
Epiphany (Day)	January 6	White / Gold
Season after Epiphany	January 7 – February 17	Green
Ash Wednesday	February 18	Purple / Grey
Lent (Season)	February 18 – April 4	Purple
Good Friday	April 3	No Color / Black
Easter Sunday	April 5	White / Gold

✝ Pastor's Letter ✝

Dear My Family of God

Happy New Year! A brand-new year, 2026, has been placed into our hands. As we stand at the threshold of these next twelve months, we must ask ourselves a vital question: **Whose time is it?**

We often behave as if time is our own. We craft meticulous schedules, making plans for every activity and assigning blocks of time to our families, our work, our friends, and our hobbies. When we use our time well, we feel a sense of pride; when we waste it, we are filled with regret. In all of this, we act as the masters of our minutes, forgetting that we do not own time—we belong to the One who created it.

In the middle of December, I had an eye-opening experience during our Sunday morning worship. Usually, I am filled with gratitude for the presence of the Holy Spirit, but that morning, my mind was struggling. I was wrestling with my sermon, gripped by the nagging thought: *"Is this good enough?"* I began to doubt my preparation, and my mind started wandering into a forest of "what-ifs."

It was in that moment of tension that I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit speak to my heart: **"Hyesung, give it to me! Why are you still holding on to this yourself?"**

I was startled. "What do you mean?" I wondered. The Spirit answered: **"This is My time. Let it go and trust Me."** In that moment, I realized I had been gripping my words and my message so tightly that I had squeezed out the room for God to move. I surrendered the script. I let go of the pressure to be perfect and gave the hour back to the Spirit. Immediately, I felt a wave of relief. That Sunday, I preached with a freedom and enthusiasm I hadn't felt in a long time. It was truly His time, not mine.

James 4:13–15 warns us against the arrogance of planning our future without acknowledging God's ownership of our days. It reminds us that our life is like a "mist" and that every tomorrow is a gift under His control. As the scripture says, *"Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"*

As we enter 2026, let us shift our perspective. We are not the owners of this new year; we are its stewards. When we stop trying to control every second and start listening for the voice of the Master, we find a freedom that no calendar or "perfect" plan can provide.

My prayer for you this year is this: May you have the courage to loosen your grip on your plans and place them into His hands. When the "what-ifs" of life start to cloud your mind, remember the Spirit's whisper: *"This is My time."* Trust Him with your hours, your days, and your seasons, for He is the one who makes all things beautiful in His time.

Let us walk into 2026 not as people driven by a clock, but as people led by the loving owner of the TIME!

With love and blessings,



Pastor Hyesung Lee



United Women in Faith

We believe love in action can change the world

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action, we get it done. And we invite you to join us.

We did not have our December meeting and January's meeting is TBD as the new officer panel is being established.

We wish you a very Happy New Year!

We encourage all our women to join us for this program. If you would like to join us but don't like driving at night, email Jan at menkesis@yahoo.com and she can make arrangements to pick you up. We are happy to have you join us.



Greetings, men of the UMM! The next Men's Breakfast is coming up on **Saturday, January 3** at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come spend a fine wintry morning with your fellow Methodist men, have a good breakfast, and spend some time in fellowship. We will have a special menu this time of pancakes, eggs & sausage to mark the new year. Coffee will be piping hot by 7:30. Discussion items will include activities for 2026; and Diego will lead the spiritual reflection.

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

2026 Holy Communion Servers

Date	Communion Servers
Jan 4	Linda Walton, Scott Baxter
Feb 1	Larry Schaffer, Dari Tran
Mar 1	Robin Vaughan & Bob Clarke
April 5	Marge Walton, Eileen Newill
May 3	Nini Picart, Gbenga Olayomi
June 7	Nate Ekpemiro, Jan Schults

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), **John Moore, Dawn** (Daughter of Eugene and Jenny Davis), **Joyce Heflin, Leonor and Jim Roberts, Charlene Dobson, Betty Gaughan, 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), **Blake Kurz, Jake** (Barbara Pinkston's grandson), **Mike Martin** (Linda Barnhill's friend), **Heidi Stark, Luiz Da Silva** (Heidi Stark's husband), **Dave Funk, Robert Ruddick, Annie Hendrix** (Bev Hendrix's daughter), **Mark** (Edie Tidrick's family), **Jo Chapman, Gloria Martin** (Laura Webb's friend), **Frank** (Jerry Walton's brother), **Alivia Logan-Kumagai's Mother-in-Law, Heather Cannon** (Susan Stuteville's daughter), **Abby** (Katie Moore's neighbor's daughter), **Ava** (Nancy Weld's granddaughter), **Susan** (John & Katie Moore's daughter), **Christina Rama** (Laura Webb's daughter), **Brother of Jan Schults, Joyce Sorenson, Karen** (Jan Schults' sister-in-law), and **Gary** (Polly Gallagher's brother-in-law).



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 attendance, assisting with crafts and activities, and accompanying students who need to leave the classroom.

Housing Needed for a Local Family

Pastor Hyesung has received a request from a faithful family of six within our congregation who is currently navigating a season of hardship following a job loss. They are looking for a small rental house in the **Brentwood or Byron** area.

We are asking our church family to please **keep them in your prayers** during this transition. If you know of a property, a kind landlord, or have any leads, please contact the church office or directly the pastor Lee. We hope to help them find a home through a personal connection within our community.





What	When	Where	Theme	Teachers
Class 4	Feb. 1 st (Sun) 12:30 Lunch & Class	Antioch UMC (50 Walton Ln)	What is the Bible? (#20, 21pp.135-149)	Plenary: Kevin Younger Class: Lesila & Esther Older: Kevin & Sungho
Class 5	Feb. 15 th (Sun) 12:30 Lunch & Class	Byron UMC (14671 Byron Hwy)	What does It Mean to Be United Methodist? (#8-9, pp. 63-83)	Plenary: Holly & Cheryl Younger Class: Lesila & Esther Older: Holly & Cheryl
Bishop's Confirmation Retreat	Feb 27 (Fri) – Mar 1 (Sun), 2026	Camp Lodestar 6135 Blue Mountain Rd, Wilseyville, CA 95257 (800-678-5102)	With Bishop Sandra K. Olewine	(Chaperone) Lesila Leger + One more
Class 6	March 8 (Sun) 12:30 Lunch & Class	Byron UMC (14671 Byron Hwy)	What Is the Church? (#10,16-17 pp. 78-83, 111-121)	Plenary: Holly & Cheryl Younger Class: Lesila & Esther Older: Holly & Cheryl
Class 7	March 15 (Sun) 12:30 Lunch & Class	Pittsburgh (153 W Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565)	What Is Christian Life? (#11-15, pp. 84-110)	Plenary: Sungho Younger Class: Lesila & Esther Older: Hyesung
Class 8	April 19 (Sun) 12:30 Lunch & Class	Pittsburgh (153 W Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565)	Claiming My Faith & Confirmation Preparation (Unit 6)	Plenary: Kevin Younger Class: Lesila & Esther Older: Kevin & Sungho
Confirmation Sunday	May 24, 2026 (Sun) Pentecost	4 UMCs	Confirmation Worship	Confirmands, Parents, Mentors, Teachers & Pastors

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/>



Supporting Our Confirmands

At the Join Worship on Sunday December 28, 2025 at Antioch UMC, a special portion of the offering was received to support students attending the Bishop's Confirmation Retreat (February 27-March 1, 2026).

- Total expected cost: \$1,300 (for five confirmands and two chaperones)
- Amount received so far: approximately \$800

Those who were unable to attend the joint worship may still contribute.

Please send a check with the note: "Confirmation Retreat Scholarship."



*This picture shows two confirmands from Pittsburg, offering worship dance during the Joint Worship on Dec 28.

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Sunday, February 1st and 8th
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.

Our Church Family in 2025

The 10th Anniversary of being a Reconciling Church



Circuit-wide Staff Parish Relations Committee (S.P.R.C.) TRAINING

For Whom: New & Returning SPRC Members
of Byron, Brentwood, Antioch and Pittsburg UMC
When: Saturday January 31, 2026, 10:00 am to 12:00 am
Where: Brentwood Community UMC (809 Second Street)
Agenda: General Orientation and Nuts & Bolts in Practical Works

Lay Leader News By Heidi Stark

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good Christmas. I knew Christmas would look and feel different this year while going through cancer treatment and being without Luiz. My family and I are learning to navigate the ongoing grief of our new realities. I recently heard a woman speak about finding micro joys in a time of macro grief. Sometimes I feel guilty being happy without Luiz beside me, but I'm learning that I can feel many emotions at the same time. I was able to find many joys in December. It was a great joy to have a baby in my house, and such fun to see Christmas through Campbell's eyes. I loved the joyous music of the BCUMC Christmas Concert that I was able to live stream. It was wonderful to receive Christmas cards from friends and family near and far. My son, Drew and daughter-in-law, Britt arrived on the 21st to spend Christmas with us in Brentwood. I watched my two oldest granddaughters dance in the Nutcracker, and they were amazing. We celebrated my son-in-law, Jacob's birthday on 12/21 and my daughter, Jenna's birthday on 12/26. Our family celebrated Christmas with Luiz at his home on 12/22. All 11 of us enjoyed a meal, opened gifts, played games, and laughed and talked together. I had my last chemo treatment on 12/23, and I was surrounded by my family as I rang the bell signifying an end to this phase of treatment. We awoke on Christmas Eve to the news that my daughter, Kate and her three children were sick and had fevers; so, we could not spend the day together as we had planned. But, as my daughter-in-law said, if there is one thing this family knows how to do it's play the cards we've been dealt. We dropped food and gifts off at Kate's, and we exchanged gifts over FaceTime. On Christmas day, Santa came for Campbell and via FaceTime once again, we got to see what Santa brought Macy, McKinley, and Michael. There were lots of joys even when things felt very unsettled.

I am profoundly thankful to be done with chemo and hope to never have that experience again. I have a break to allow my body to recover before I start radiation. I will meet with my radiation oncologist in early January to begin the preparations for radiation treatments that will probably start in February. I want to start feeling normal again and settle into new routines, but I'm in limbo. I want to look forward to the future, but I'm afraid to project too far ahead. Also, it's hard for me to imagine what my future can be; I always imagined sharing that future with Luiz. It's a strange time. We all know that a new year will bring good times, bad times, laughter, tears, fears, sorrows, and joys. A new year also means new opportunities and options. A new year is a new chance to cherish our families and friends and to show our love to all. A new year is another opportunity to find joy and to ask God to guide our steps each day, to help us be the best versions of ourselves, and to help us to lead our best lives. I hope that this new year brings us all comfort and peace.

Dear God, You know us. Before we were even born, You loved us and knew every detail of our lives. As we enter 2026, please fill us with Your peace that passes understanding and keep our eyes fixed on You. No matter what we face this year, give us strength and hope, and help us to dream with You. Even when it may feel like dreaming isn't possible, show us that nothing is impossible for You. In 2026, please bless us and protect us. Let Your face shine upon us and be gracious to us. Please give us Your peace and make this a year of breakthrough. In Jesus' name, Amen.



January

- 4 Emily Ruddick
- 5 Zachary Diksa
- 12 Vickey Barriner
- 15 Margo Wentz
- 16 Dari Tran
- 18 Heidi Stark
- 21 Jackie Hanel
- 23 Jacob Lukacs
- 24 Wyatt van Ruiten
- 25 Horace Gipson
- 25 Gbenga Olayomi
- 27 Audrey Dunn



January

- 2. Scott and Carl Kammeyer



OUR UNCHANGING GOD

In the world
Things go up and down
Fortunes change
Get turned around
I've heard it said
(Get it in my head)
God is unchanging.

Always here, always near
His love always true
The same God
Who sees us through
Impossible situations
Pulls us out of the sea
Sets our hearts free.

He's not on his break
Not about to retire
He's not gonna say
Call me another day.
None of those things
He answers our call
Whenever it rings.
New year - new ideas
With our unchanging God!

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JANUARY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	2 String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	3 UMM Breakfast 8am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am Church Potluck	Hope House 9-11:30 am	Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old DIG 7pm	Hope House 9-11:30am ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm Trustees 7pm	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	Piano Class 11:30am-2pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am	Hope House 9-12pm Liberation Bible Study 7 pm	HH Produce Truck 4pm Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old BCC 7pm	Hope House 9-12pm SPRC 4:30pm ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm Ad Council 7pm AI Anon 7-8:15pm	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am	Hope House 9-12pm UWF 7pm	Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old Finance Committee 6:30pm BCC 7pm	Hope House 9-12pm ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA 7:30-8:45pm	String Band 10:30am AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	Music Teachers Assn 1pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Bible Study 9am Worship 10:30am	Hope House 9-12pm Liberation Bible Study 7 pm DIG 7pm Q.R.	HH Produce Truck 4pm Empowerment Program Youth 4pm 12-16 yrs old 5:30 17-20 yrs old NAMI 7pm	Hope House 9-12pm CCN Meeting 10am ACA 5:30pm Quiet Rm AI Anon 7-8:15pm	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA 7:30-8:45pm 7:45pm AA 6:45-7:45pm AI Anon 8-9:30pm	String Band 10:30 AA 6:45pm- AI Anon 8	SPRC Training 10-12 pm

*** 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: Polly Gallagher, Heidi Stark and David Funk

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Carrillo

Brentwood Community
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TIME DATED MATERIAL

