

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

April 2026



2026 APRIL 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/>

Date	Scriptures	Worship Acts and More
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday April 3, 2026</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday April 5, 2026</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion for both Sunrise and Morning Service • EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE (6:30 am) • EASTER MORNING SERVICE (10:30 am) • EASTER BREAKFAST by Men’s Group (7:00 am) • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) • Easter Egg Hunt: After Service at Church Lawn and Community Garden
<p style="text-align: center;">April 12, 2026 2nd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lay Preacher: Cheryl Breitenbucher Time with Young Disciples: Jeanette Ruddick *Pastor Lee is on vacation</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)
<p style="text-align: center;">April 19, 2026 3rd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ” Psalm 119:1-8, Ephesians 4:11–16, Luke 5:1–11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Bible Study: 9am –10am Youth Rm • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) • Joint Confirmation: 12:30 pm (Pittsburg UMC)
<p style="text-align: center;">April 26, 2026 4th Sunday of Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit” Psalm 16, John 10:10, Colossians 2:6-10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Bible Study: 9am –10am Youth Rm • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples)

✝ Pastor's Letter ✝

Dear Church Family,

Halleluia! Christ is risen!

As we step into this Easter season, we are reminded that the resurrection isn't just a historical event we celebrate once a year—it is the living proof that **God is with us always**. In a world that often feels divided or discouraging, Easter reminds us that light has a way of breaking through the cracks, often in places we least expect.

A "Data Point" of Hope in Brentwood

As I shared during our service on March 29th, our congregation at Brentwood Community United Methodist Church has been honored with the People's Choice Award for the 2025 "Deck the Park" tree decorating contest. To be honest, I am still reflecting on this victory with a sense of wonder. Given the resistance we've encountered since we first displayed our rainbow flag in 2018, I hadn't dared to imagine such an overwhelming embrace from our neighbors. The most beautiful part of this win is that it wasn't decided by a small committee, but by the hundreds of residents and visitors who walked through City Park. By receiving nearly 700 votes—compared to 200 for the runner-up—it's clear that our tree did more than just catch the eye; it spoke directly to the heart of our community.

The Power of a Brave Space

Our tree touched so many hearts because of the powerful symbols it carried. By wrapping it in a large rainbow ribbon, the symbol of our status as a **Reconciling Congregation**, we provided a "brave space" for people to show their support for LGBTQ+ welcome right in the literal center of the city.

Furthermore, the tree was adorned with decorations from **HOPE HOUSE**, signifying our unwavering commitment to our neighbors in need. I truly appreciate, Jeanette Ruddick and Melissa van Ruiten, the co-chairpersons of the Reconciling Committee for their vision, and I invite you all to join me in giving them a round of applause for this beautiful ministry.

We Are Not Alone

This win is a significant "**data point**" of hope. It suggests that the community is more ready than we might have feared for a message of radical inclusion. Those 700 votes were a big "thank you" from the secret allies of Brentwood—people who appreciate a church that is brave enough to love across traditional boundaries. St. Paul wrote in **Galatians 6:9**: "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" In a world full of reasons to be discouraged, we will not become weary easily, and we will not run away.

Love as a Bridge-Builder

The message remains clear: **Love is a bridge-builder**. Love wins over hearts, and peace is possible even beyond traditional "enemy lines." Let's remember that we are not alone; we are surrounded by thousands of allies connected through our common mission. As the Bible says, when we are in God, we find the strength to do all things through Christ who empowers us (**Philippians 4:13**).

May the light of the resurrection guide you this month and always.

In Christ's Victorious Light,



Pastor Hyesung Lee

We believe love in action can change the world



United Women in Faith

March's meeting was a small group as the schools were on their spring break and many were traveling. Polly led the program entitled "Mapping our Meanders."

April's program is titled "Seeds of Hope." This Session will focus on building hope, particularly in our climate justice work, by imagining how things could be if we make the changes we know are needed.

We will continue to remind all our crafty women about our new fundraiser "Fruits of the Spirit Throwback Boutique." You can think about your favorite craft project that can be donated after church on May 17th. All proceeds help fund our mission projects. Jam, jellies, baked goodies, jewelry, and natural arts are all welcome. There will be a signup sheet on the UWF bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to give us an idea of what we can expect.

All women and friends are welcome to join us. If you would like to but do not drive in the dark, we are happy to pick you up. Just give us a call. Jan Schults, Polly Gallagher or Cheryl Breitenbucher are in the directory.



Greetings, men of the UMM! The next Men's Breakfast is coming up on **Saturday, April 4th**, at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come spend a fine spring morning with your fellow Methodist men, have a good breakfast, and spend some time in fellowship. Coffee will be piping hot by 7:30.

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

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**, **Family of Eugene and Jenny Davis**, **Joyce Heflin**, **Leonor and Jim Roberts**, **Charlene Dobson**, **Betty Gaughan**, **Echo Paden** (Eileen Newill's granddaughter), **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), **Mike Martin** (Linda Barnhill's friend), **Luiz Da Silva** (Heidi Stark's husband), **Dave and JoAnn Funk**, **Jo Chapman**, **Gloria Martin** (Laura Webb's friend), **Frank** (Jerry Walton's brother), **Ava** (Nancy Weld's granddaughter), **Susan** (John & Katie Moore's daughter), **Joyce Sorenson**, **Karen** (Jan Schults' sister-in-law), **Gary** (Polly Gallagher's brother-in-law), **Michael Moore** (John & Katie's son), **Maddie** (Amy Bright's daughter), **Fred** (Kathie Gulizia's husband), **Family of Joe Kick**, **Shirley Gray**, **Alfred Narayan**, **Marilyn Miguel's husband Tony** (Michael Ann Honea's friends), and **Eugene Davis**. **Xavier**, grandson of Doris Pena, **Gloria**, sister of Doris Pena, and **Charlies**, sister of Edie Tidrick.

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/>



Thank you!



BCUMC congregants for making the UMM

41st Annual Bean Feed

a great success

in support of student scholarships!

JOINT CONFIRMATION JOURNEY				
(Antioch, Byron, Brentwood, Pittsburg)				
What	When	Where	Theme	Teachers/Participants
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 Dinner	TBD	Pittsburgh (153 W Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565)	To celebrate the journey of our confirmands through sharing experiences	Participants: confirmands, teachers, mentors, parents, Lay Leaders and Pastors
Confirmation Sunday	May 24, 2026 (Sun) Pentecost	2 Places Brentwood UMC Pittsburg UMC	Confirmation Worship	Confirmands, Parents, Mentors, Teachers & Pastors



Joe Kick went to be with the Lord on March 22, 2026



Our dear friend and the wonderful leader of our String Band, **Joe Kick**, moved to heaven to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

We are all feeling the weight of this shock. Joe was a man of many gifts, and it is hard to capture his essence in just a few words. He was:

- A devoted husband, father, and grandfather.
 - A poet, songwriter, and worshipper.
 - A man of prayer who deeply loved the silence.
- A carpenter, a gardener, and a neighbor always ready to lend a hand.
 - A friend who is always joyfully and helpfully there for you.
 - A humble servant and a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Honoring His Legacy

The family wishes to prepare his service without rush. A **Celebration of Life Service** will be held in the future, and we will notify you as soon as the details are finalized.

In the meantime, let us comfort the family and one another. You can honor Joe's memory by sending a card, cherishing your time here on earth, singing songs as often as possible, and helping one another in every way you can. Joe will be honored most in our faithful acts of loving God and one another.



The United Methodist Men will be hosting the Easter Pancake Breakfast on Easter morning, April 5th, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Come to the sunrise service and stay for a good breakfast with friends! Or come early for the 10:00 a.m. service and have breakfast then. Either way, what better way to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Lord!

Lay Leader News By Heidi Stark

This past Sunday was Palm Sunday, and we waved our palm branches and shouted Hosana as we celebrated and remembered Jesus' triumphal arrival into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. There was excitement, but now we enter Holy Week. We are somber, we know what is coming. We also know that the story isn't over! We know that there will be sadness and tears, and we know that there is hope, and love, and joy to come. I am a big fan of the author, Kate Bowler. She is a professor of American religious history at Duke Divinity School. Her most recent book, *Joyful Anyway* comes out this month. One of the things she says is that joy and happiness are different. Joy doesn't require good circumstances. Joy can appear even when nothing is measurably better. I can relate to that! Sometimes it is hard to accept that you can be joyful in the midst of great difficulty. Kate says that Joy reminds us that no matter what, life is still worth loving. For every time we ask, *is this it?* **Joy will answer: *There is more.***

I participated in the Lent book study; we read the book *An Unlikely Lent* by Rachel Billups. In the book, she explores the often-overlooked characters in the Easter story. She shows how these men and women showed up for Jesus in extraordinary ways. Mary of Bethany showed her devotion to Jesus with an extravagant offering. The unnamed servant girl challenged Peter and ultimately transformed him. Barabbas a known criminal was given freedom from the cross over Jesus who did no wrong. While this seems unfair it is a reminder that God's grace and mercy defy logic – offering freedom to all even those who feel they don't deserve it. Simon of Cyrene was an innocent bystander when he was forced to help carry Jesus' cross. We often think we don't need help, but even Jesus needed help when his cross was too heavy to bear alone. Simon of Cyrene shows us how important it is to step up and step in – interdependence is not weakness – it is community. The women who stayed at the cross showed remarkable courage; they stayed when others fled the scene. They stood witness to the suffering of Jesus; they showed us that being brave and courageous isn't always loud or forceful, but often quiet – often it is just showing up. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were powerful and privileged men, but they risked their status to make sure Jesus' body was properly cared for in death. They show us that sometimes we need to step out of our comfort zones to serve Christ even if our actions will come at a cost to us. Jesus took a stand for God's Kingdom; He took the blame for our sins. We know redemption because Jesus was willing to give his life for us – what an amazing gift. We need to be willing to give and serve as Jesus did for us.

In March, we welcomed new members, Amy and Maddie Bright into our congregation. I love that their last name is Bright because their witness shines for God. They shine despite Maddie's challenging health issues. I know that you all join me in welcoming them to BCUMC. I am thankful they found us and that we can journey together. Our church recently suffered a tremendous loss when our dear friend, Joe Kick went to be with God. Joe was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. A man of deep faith; he was creative and talented. He shared his words and his music in ways that touched so many. He was a lovely, gentle man, and his presence will be greatly missed. We surround Joe's wife, Joy and his family with our love and support, and we are all thankful to have known him.

For every time we wonder, is this it? Joy will answer, no there is more.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE
Sunday, May 31, 6-8pm

Our next Sunday Night Live event will be held on Sunday, May 31 from 6-8pm. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for desserts and games. 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 sweet treats, fellowship, and games. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall in May – let us know if you can attend and what delicious dessert you will bring. Questions, please contact Pastor Lee or Lay Leaders, Dave Funk, Polly Gallagher, or Heidi Stark.

Reconciling Committee Awareness Ministry's Announcements

The Reconciling Committee would like to update the congregation on our commitment to reconciling with our congregation and community.

Our Vision: "Changing Hearts and Changing Minds to be Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors".

Our Mission: "Through Love, Education and Acceptance we will Changing Hearts and Changing Minds to be Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors."

To achieve this, we focus our work on education, awareness and support. Our methods are changing from impromptu announcements regarding the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, + more) community in the beginning of service to consistent monthly PowerPoint slides and bulletin announcements regarding several marginalized communities and our interfaith friends. We are widening our 'nets'. We are adding to the Ds & Os with more in-depth paragraphs about an awareness day or tidbit of history or cultural awareness. Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month. Please contact Jeanette Ruddick at 925-963-2543 if interested in learning more. And onto our *April D&O In Depth Announcements...*

International Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31st

International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual holiday occurring on March 31 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide. The holiday was founded by Michigan-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered holiday was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the loss of transgender people to hate crimes, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.

10th National Day of Silence, April 10th

Organized by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) on second Friday of April. since 1996, the National Day of Silence is to spread awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) individuals in schools. The "+" signifies additional sexual orientations and gender identities. Traditionally students take a day-long vow of silence to symbolically represent the silencing of LGBTQIA2S+ students. This protest is organized by the students under their 1st amendment constitutional rights; schools do not create nor destroy these activities. However, with recent legislative attacks on the community, many groups are doing a "Day of Dialogue". For example, Liberty High School's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is doing an informational booth at lunch and individual students will participate in the silent protest throughout the day.

From our friend Sister Jane Aseltyne of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Michigan, Lord hear our prayer, "We ask that God hear the sound of our pleading and sustain us in our work in recognizing and affirming the LGBTQIA+ community. May we hold together the desperation we feel and the hope for which we long. Amen." (*July 23, 2023*)

Capital Improvement Project

As we approach the one-year mark of this project, we can see the fruits of our collective generosity. Our original goal of \$70,000 over two years was meant to accomplish two things: the painting and termite repair to our church building and the transformation of the Second Street "lawn" area. **One down and one to go!**

To date we have received over \$21,000 in donations. Half of this amount has gone to replenish the Trustee Necessary Improvement/Repair and Maintenance funds

which covered much of the original painting and termite costs. The remaining amount awaits plans for our 2nd Street lawn area. We will continue to fundraise for our Project as our next phase begins and the fruits of our generosity are made visible. The Trustees and Finance committees welcome any feedback or suggestions as we move forward on the transformation.

Feel free at any point to make a one-time donation or submit a pledge. Check the poster in the Fellowship Hall for pledge cards.



Worship Thoughts

Have you ever thought: why do we clap? And for whom are we clapping? Do you feel conflicted and confused about it: should I clap, should I not clap?

We all have different ways of expressing ourselves and different expectations of worship, and there are no rules about clapping during a service. For some clapping after a theologically rich and God-inspiring song is a natural expression of the joy they feel towards their heavenly Father. Their clapping is an affirmation (and adoration) of their good God and is a physical way for them can show their appreciation and gratitude.

Rituals, however, can become rote and meaningless over time. This could include the clapping of hands after every worship song. Clapping can lose its impact, become rote, and can actually lessen and detract from the sacredness of the spiritual experience of worship. Soon, people do it as an automatic response, without giving thought as to why they are clapping.

Ultimately, how we express our delight, affirmation, and adoration of God is a matter of each individual's heart, as each one worships in spirit and in truth ([John 4:24](#)). As we live our value of being a welcoming congregation, we welcome different means of expression. Whether our physical expression includes bowing our heads, kneeling, a spoken Amen, raising our hands, and yes, clapping (during and after a song), all of it must be done to and for the glory of God.

Welcome New Members

Madison (Madie) Bright

Who is Maddie? Well, she is the daughter of Amy Bright, who is also becoming a member today. Maddie was Baptized in Delta Community Presbyterian Church, Discovery Bay, graduated from Liberty High School, and resides in Byron. Family includes parents Jason and Amy Bright, with older brothers Jayson and Ethan. Maddie is very crafty and artistic, enjoys singing especially Christian Music (Choir rehearses weekly, Thursday 7PM); is an experienced Youth Group Leader, and brings positivity when the bad seems to be engulfing others. Because of medical travails Maddie has a vast understanding of our medical system. Maddie's first interaction with BCUMC was this past December while attending Byron Bell Ringers' Concert. She was looking for a "new" church. Our warm and genuine welcoming, coupled with Reconciling Ministries, immediately drew her to us.

Amy Bright

Amy Bright was Baptized at Blossom Valley Christian Church, San Jose. She last attended Calvary Fellowship in Discovery Bay. She is married to her high school sweetheart. Her interests include family time, reading, and helping others. And WELCOME Amy!



Scholarship Application Deadline

Hello, family members of the recipients of last year's UMM-sponsored academic scholarships! Just wanted to remind you that if your students are enrolled in college in this current academic year or will be in 2026-2027, they are encouraged to apply again for an academic scholarship.

The deadline for applications is April 22.

If you need to pick up an application for them, please contact Dave Funk, Rick Dunn, Bob Clarke, or Scott Baxter; or they can contact the scholarship committee members themselves.

Thanks!

Scott Baxter

Scholarship committee member



April

- 7. John Moore
- 9. Donna Baker
- 12. Joey Zamjahn
- 15. Murphy Slay
- 16. Robert Ruddick
- 17. Jeanette Ruddick
- 19. Joe Niec
- 21. Greg Pacquer
- 22. Jenn Dunn
- 25. Polly Gallagher

Happy Anniversary!

April

- 7. Bob and Janet Clarke
- 29. Sherani and David Scheppler

EASTER

Happy resurrection day!
Lord Jesus shows the way
Angels by the empty grave
Heavy stone now rolled away.

Risen Savior walks beside us
On our own road to Emmaus
Helping us to now avoid
All that would betray us.

Joyful we arise with Christ
The impossible now come true
Death defeated, life eternal
Our hearts and souls to renew.

One with Jesus, we breathe
And smile and laugh and pray
And look with wonder
Happy resurrection day!

© Joe Kick - 2023



*** 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

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

