

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

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

February 2024




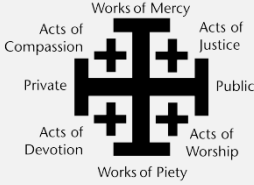
2024 **FEBRUARY** Worship Schedule

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 | Scripture Readings | Worship Acts and More |
|---|--|---|
| 5th Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 4, 2024 10:30 a.m. | Isaiah 40:25-31 1Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion • Adult Bible Study: (Youth Room 8:45 am – 9:45 am) • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) • Special Music: Flute by Kim Griffith-Fraley |
| TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY Feb 11, 2024 10:30 a.m. |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Bible Study: (Youth Room 8:45 am – 9:45 am) • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) |
| Ash Wednesday Feb 14, 2024 7 p.m. |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposition of Ashes • Reflection on "Works of Piety" |
| 1st Sunday in Lent Feb 18, 2024 10:30 a.m. | Genesis 9:8-18 1Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Morning Bible Study: (Youth Room 8:45 am – 9:45 am) • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) • Worship Music: String Band |
| 2nd Sunday in Lent Feb 25, 2024 10:30 a.m. | Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Morning Bible Study: (Youth Room 8:45 am – 9:45 am) • Sunday School for Kids (after the Time for Young Disciples) • SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE: 5 pm - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall |

Worship Ministers

| Date | Worship Leader | Pianist | Acolyte | Crucifer | Greeter | Ushers |
|------|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|------------------|---|
| 2/4 | Polly Gallagher | Rose Marie | TBD | TBD | Linda Walton | Gbenga Olayomi, Scott Baxter |
| 2/11 | Larry Schaffer | Greg Pacquer | TBD | TBD | Michael A. Honea | Gbenga Olayomi, Scott Baxter, CiCi Kirshner |
| 2/14 | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| 2/18 | Heidi Stark | Rose Marie | TBD | TBD | Marge Walton | Gbenga Olayomi, Scott Baxter |
| 2/25 | Dave Funk | TBD | TBD | TBD | Margo Wentz | Gbenga Olayomi, Scott Baxter |

Editor's note: Acolyte and Crucifer duties are not currently assigned to Youth, so Ushers try to nab someone to serve, or carry out the task themselves. We are also looking for new pianists.

† Pastor's Letter †

Dear Siblings in Christ

This year, I'm deeply pondering what it means to truly "Follow Jesus" in every aspect of my life. During the inspiring Church Leaders Virtual Training (Jan 20, 2024), District Superintendent Rev. Blake Busick offered a great perspective on how this Conference theme applies to our local church context.

Imagine Trustees who view their sole mission as "maintaining the facilities." Their default response to new ministry proposals would likely be a firm "no." Keeping the building clean and secure becomes their singular focus, leading them to shut the door whenever possible.

However, if "Following Jesus" becomes their guiding vision, a shift occurs. They open their hearts and ears to new ideas, embracing opportunities to "help" and "strengthen" them. They encourage experimentation and welcome collaboration, understanding that the true purpose of the space extends beyond mere upkeep.

Similarly, when the Finance team sees their role solely as budgetary control, they risk rigidity and missed opportunities. Flexibility becomes crucial to support diverse ministries and their needs.

The point is, our perspectives matter. When we frame our roles through the lens of "Following Jesus," we move beyond limitations and embrace creativity, collaboration, and a willingness to serve the larger mission. We become open to possibilities, fostering a community that truly reflects Christ's teachings.

This year, "Following Jesus" isn't just a theme, it's a lens through which I read scripture and craft sermons. Take Jonah, for instance. He used to represent my own stubbornness and self-absorption. The focus was always on my humanness, my sin. But now, I see Jonah as someone who, despite disagreement, follows God. Jonah had a constant "tug-of-war" with God because of his disagreement with God. Even at the end, Jonah remains unconvinced, yet engaged. God keeps speaking, working with him, a testament to God's unwavering presence. Imagine if God waited for complete agreement before acting? We'd all be waiting forever!

Thankfully, our God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment" (Jonah 4:2). God forgives not just the Ninevites, but someone like Jonah too. That, I believe, reflects *God's Image*: working with others despite disagreements. This "Following Jesus" perspective allows me to see the Book of Jonah as a testament to God's incredible capacity to work with anyone. With this vision, the focus is changed from 'me' to 'God'. It's a vision I hold dear, especially in our divided times - national, cultural, even denominational.

Let's keep walking with this vision in all our thoughts, actions, plans and communal lives! Proverbs 29:18 writes: "Where there is no vision, the people perish!" "Following Jesus" will lead us to a place that resembles Christ Jesus more clearly.

"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

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

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

For Youth 2023 national gathering, go to <https://losrios.cnumc.org/event/16402842>

For more information about UMC, go to ResourceUMC here

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/connection-makes-the-umc-work>



We believe love in action can change the world

In January we gathered for a time of fellowship and planning for 2024. This year's program invites all to join at God's banquet table as we explore what it means to be a community – not just in our circle, but with all of creation. Come hear the messages, learn, share, and grow.

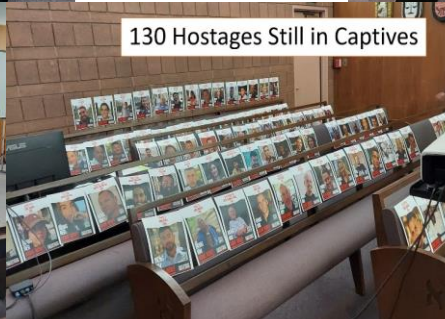
The next United Women in Faith meeting will be on Monday, February 19th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome; please consider joining and putting your faith in action! Questions, please contact Jan Schults, United Women in Faith President at 925-890-6296.

YOUTH GROUP VISIT TO TEMPLE ISRAEL (JAN 26, 2024)



Temple Israel
in Stockton
(Jan 26, 2024)

Youth Group
with
Rabbi Jason
Gwasdoff

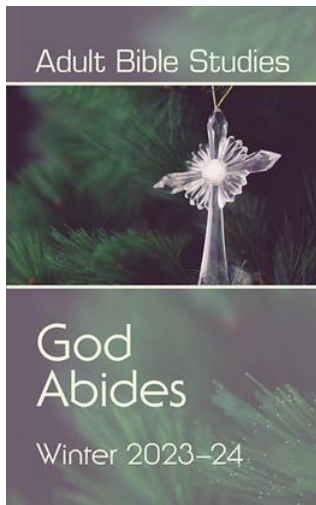


130 Hostages Still in Captives



Hostages Who Have
Come Home

Adult Bible Studies Winter 2023/24



Grow your faith and transform your life.

Cultivate a deeper relationship with God through *Adult Bible Studies*. This resource, endorsed by the Curriculum Resources Committee of The United Methodist Church, offers a year-round, weekly Bible study plan for Sunday school classes and other small groups. Each weekly lesson offers background and focal Scriptures, key verses, and doctrinally sound and relevant biblical interpretation and application in a readable font size. Annual plans provide comprehensive coverage of the Bible, special lessons during the church seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, and suggestions for developing spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, community, and service, among many others. *Adult Bible Studies* is a reliable companion and guide for learning and growing in Christian faith. With the help of the Student Book, Teacher/Commentary Kit, and DVD, the class will embrace that it's "**not just about learning - it's about living out biblical teachings**".

Classes start Sunday December 03 in the BCUMC Youth Classroom from 8:45 to 10am.

Facilitator: Diego Garcia.

Please notify us that you plan to attend. We will have a book ready for you.



Greetings, BCUMC! **The February men's breakfast is coming this Saturday, February 3rd at 8:00 a.m.** Coffee will be piping hot by 7:30. Come on by, have a good breakfast, and spend a little time with your fellow Methodist men.

In addition, the new slate of officers for the Men's Group would like to introduce itself to you all. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Men's Group or any of its activities. We have lots of ideas in mind for the year to include our annual Bean Feed, more information to come. We would like to hear your ideas, too!

Your Men's Group officers for 2024 are:

Joe Niec, president (new)

Diego Garcia, vice-president (new)

Larry Schaffer, treasurer (returning)

Dave Funk, chaplain (returning)

Scott Baxter, secretary (new)

Let us know if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns!

Thanks,
Scott Baxter, Secretary, BCUMC UMM

Lay Leader News

By Heidi Stark

The month of February is often associated with love – Valentine’s Day! This year, Valentine’s Day, February 14 is also Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. What is Lent? It is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. It is a season of the church calendar where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting to grow closer to God. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” - John 3:16* That’s an amazing gift – that’s amazing love! We are called to open ourselves to God during Lent to examine our relationship with Him. We are asked to repent and turn to God. Lent is a good time to reflect on the values and priorities in our lives. Many people give something up – make a sacrifice during the 40 days of Lent. Another option is to take on a spiritual discipline to draw nearer to God. Check out UpperRoom.org/lent101 for information on the history of Lent and suggested practices for the season of Lent.

I would like to encourage everyone to participate in collecting items for Blessing Bags during Lent. What is a Blessing Bag? A Blessing Bag is a small bag filled with essential items that can be provided to the homeless. Each bag is filled with simple items to help someone get through the day. Hygiene items, snacks, and inspirational materials are common blessing bag items. The items we collect during Lent will be used to assemble Blessing Bags at a Sunday Night Live event in April. The completed bags will be distributed throughout our community to help those in need.

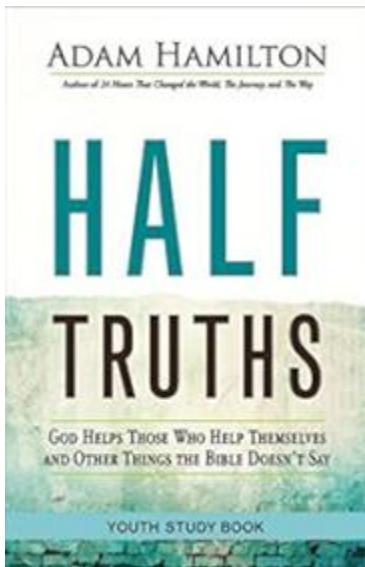
Typically, a Blessing Bag does not contain money, but it does contain items that everyone would find useful. Day-to-day necessities are important, and they can help keep someone healthy. Here are a few of the best items for a Blessing Bag:

- Gallon Ziplock Bags
- Toilet Paper/Small Tissue Packs
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Sanitizing Wipes, Spray or Gel
- Ibuprofen
- Gum
- Granola bars
- Deodorant
- Socks
- Water
- Gloves
- Instant Warmers (for cold nights)
- Emergency Whistle
- Bible Verses/Bible
- Protein Bar
- Tuna (easy open packaging)
- Plastic Utensils
- Comb/Brush
- Nail File
- Hat
- Plastic Rain Poncho
- Flashlight
- Antibacterial Ointment
- Shaving Cream and Disposable Razors
- Nuts
- Beef Jerky
- Lotion (travel size)
- Pen, Pencil, and Notebook
- Chapstick
- Soap
- Shampoo and Conditioner (travel size)

These are just suggestions, and every bag will be different with a focus on hygiene items for all. The more items and variety of items we collect will mean we can create more bags. There will be a box in the Narthex where items can be dropped off. By giving we take the focus off ourselves and help others – we sacrifice our needs for the needs of others.

I hope you’ll join me on this Lenten journey and take the challenge of giving up something for someone else and that you will challenge yourself to draw nearer to God this Lenten season.

“Until our world decides that every human matters, that everyone has a right to food and safety and freedom and healthcare and equality, it is the obligation of those privileged to have food and safety and freedom and healthcare and equality to fight tirelessly for those who do not.” — L.R. Knost



3 Week Small Group

HALF TRUTH (by Adam Hamilton, Abingdon Press, 2016)

Book: You may buy the book at Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com
Facilitator: Pastor Hyesung Lee

When: 3 Thursdays, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15 at 7 pm (via zoom)

*** Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86040319519>

Meeting ID: 860 4031 9519

We will learn, explore, discuss why the following phrases are half truths:

“Everything happens for a reason”

“God helps those who help themselves”

“God won’t give you more than you can handle”

“God said it, I believe it, that settles it”

“Love the sinner, Hate the sin”

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

DINNER WITH DIEGO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 5-7PM

Your Pastor and Lay Leaders, Dave Funk and Heidi Stark will be hosting a special Sunday Night Live event on Sunday, February 25 from 5-7pm. Our own Diego Garcia will share his path to service for Church and community. It will be a blessing to hear his witness as he shares how he has followed God’s call to serve. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm for dinner before Diego shares his message. We will be providing the meal per our Church Food policy; so, it is important that those wishing to attend this event sign up by February 18 to allow us to plan and order food. This event is open to all ages, and a sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall or contact Heidi Stark at 925-216-4709 or hstark@cobaltc.com to RSVP by February 18. Come – spend time with your Church family and enjoy dinner, fellowship, and inspiring conversation. All are welcome!

BOCUMC Youth

In January, the youth group went bowling and went to visit the Jewish temple in Stockton. Their congregation was so welcoming to us, and Rabbi Jason spent about an hour after the service answering questions and showing us one of their four Torahs. It was so interesting. This month, we are meeting on Feb. 4th for pizza, Bible, and games and on Feb. 25th for a movie night. We may meet at the AMC movie theater or watch something at church. Stay tuned and watch for your emails from Cheryl Breitenbucher, youth director!

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**, **Hozeh Lee** (Pastor Lee's son), **Dawn** (Daughter of Eugene and Jenny Davis), **Ethel Badham**, **Joyce Heflin**, **Fran Hassler**, **Melvin Strong**, **Leonor Roberts**, **Charlene Dobson**, **Betty and Jack Gaughan**, **Don** (Kim Fraley's husband), **Kim Fraley**, **Bella** (Bob Clarke's friend), **Alfred Narayan**, **Hisako Suzuki**, **Beth's daughter** (Linda Barnhill's friend), **Ginger** (Cynthia Geddes's friend), **Barbara Pinkston**, **Fred Gulizia** (Kathie's husband), **Scott Kammeyer's mother**, **Dari Tran**, **Timothy** (Joyce Sorenson), **Denise** (Bob Clarke's friend), **Lana** (Michelle Carrillo's mother), **Mike Martin** (Linda Barnhill), **Echo Paden** (Eileen Newill's granddaughter), **John Annable** (Linda Barnhill), **Hugh Stevenson** and **Kobee Wayne** (Joyce Sorenson's grandson).

BCUMC Food Policy By Heidi Stark

Just a reminder that at our November meeting, the Administrative Council implemented a new food policy for Church social events. We will no longer provide homemade items for fellowship gatherings. All food items must be commercially prepared, or store bought. Items should be packaged individually or provided in sealed containers only opened at the event. This policy will be reevaluated periodically. We appreciate everyone's support as we try to provide a healthy and safe environment for all to worship and fellowship in.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact Pastor Lee, or Lay Leader, Dave Funk or Ad. Council Chair/Lay Leader, Heidi Stark.

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

2024 LENT SCHEDULE

2024 LENT: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 (Ash Wed) – Thu, Mar 28, 2024 (Holy Thursday)

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 (Worship Service at 7 pm with Imposition of Ashes and Learning about Works of Piety)

PALM SUNDAY: Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 10:30 am

GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, March 29, 2024 (Worship Service at 7 pm)

EASTER SUNDAY: Mar 31, 2024

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00 am (Church Lawn)

Easter Breakfast by UM Men's Group: 7 am – 9:30 am (Fellowship Hall)

Morning Service at 10:30 am (Sanctuary)

Frequent Questions about Lent:

How is the date of Easter determined? Easter is a moveable feast as opposed to a fixed date each year. Easter being celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of spring (March 21 or later) dates back to the Council of Nicea in 325.

How long is Lent? Do Sundays count in Lent? Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, excluding Sundays. Sundays are an important part of Lent, but we do not include them in the "40 days" because on every Sunday we remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ in the Mass.

STRING BAND (Jan 6, 2024)



It is a tradition that String Band gather together on Epiphany Day every year at Joe and Joy Kick's house. We celebrate Epiphany and our music ministry together with delicious meal (provided by Joy and Joe) and singing our favorite songs. This year, Hyesung's husband Sungho Lee (Pastor of Central UMC, Stockton) joined us. We missed Hue and Angela Stevenson who are a part of the Band. A deep appreciation to Kicks for their wonderful leadership, hospitality and many gifts of music! Glory to God!

Margo Wentz moved to Livermore two years ago. She still joins us in Sunday Worship and contributes for the ministry of our church as much as she can. Pastor visited her on January 24th while she attended the 3 day Gathering of Orders in Asbury UMC, Livermore. Margo is enjoying new friends and activities there. Her daughter lives close by and takes care of her in many ways. She gave the pastor three big boxes of clothes and shoes to be delivered to HOPE HOUSE. Her donations are greatly appreciated! May God continue to bless her with health and peace with joy!





February

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



February

11. Lian and Luther Belino
14. Melissa and Chris van Ruiten
14. Marcie and Julius Lukacs

VALENTINE'S VIBRATIONS

Candy hearts
And valentines
Flowers to say
"I'm yours, you're mine."
Acts of kindness
Words to delight
Good love to share
Any day is just right.

Life's great mystery
That we are part
Of love Divine
From God's loving heart.
God is the source
That is our song
And our generous love
For everyone.

© Joe Kick - 2024

Happy Valentine's Day

February 2024 Facility Use Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | Trilogy Singers 4:30pm NA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm | String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm | UMM Breakfast 8am |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10:30am | Hope House 9- 12pm | Young Christians 7pm Y.R DIG 7pm Q.R. Brentwood Community Chorus 7 pm | Hope House 9- 12pm SPRC 4:30pm ACA 5pm Quiet Rm Trustee 7pm Zoom | NA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sm Group Study 7pm | String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10:30am | Hope House 9- 12pm | HH Produce Truck 4pm Brentwood Community Chorus 7 pm | Hope House 9- 12pm ACA 5pm Quiet Rm  Al Anon 7pm Ash Wednesday Service – 7 pm | Trilogy Singers 4:30pm NA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sm Group Study 7pm | String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10:30am | Hope House 9- 12pm DIG 7pm United Women in Faith 7pm | Finance 6:30 pm Fireside Rm Brentwood Community Chorus 7 pm | Hope House 9- 12pm CCN 10am ACA 5pm Quiet Rm Al Anon 7pm Ad council 7pm Fireside Rm | Trilogy Singers 4:30pm NA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm | String Band 10:30am AA 6:45pm Al Anon 8pm | Recital 3pm |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |
| Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10:30am | Hope House 9- 12pm DIG 7pm Q.R. | HH Produce Truck 4pm Brentwood Community Chorus 7 pm NAMI 7pm | Hope House 9- 12pm CCN 10am F.H. Reconciling Committee ACA 5pm Quiet Rm Al Anon 7pm | Trilogy Singers 4:30pm NA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm  | |  |

*** 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 Minerva G. Carcaño

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Los Rios District Superintendent: Rev. Shinya Goto

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

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Carrillo

Brentwood Community
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809 Second Street
Brentwood, CA 94513

TIME DATED MATERIAL

