

# *Deeds and Opportunities*

## **Brentwood Community United Methodist Church**

809 Second Street, Brentwood CA 94513

Office: (925) 634-3093

✝ Hyesung Lee, Pastor ✝

Website: [Brentwoodumc.org](http://Brentwoodumc.org)

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Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

***FEBRUARY 2020***



Reconciling Banner Selection

## 2020 FEBRUARY Worship Schedule

Date/Time	Content/Sermon	WORSHIP ACTS / OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> February 2, 2020 10:30 a.m.	Matthew 5:1-12 "Blessed Are You"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holy Communion</b></li> <li>• <b>Special Church Conference</b> at 11:40 am (right after service) in the sanctuary (for election of three additional Trustee members)</li> <li>• <b>New Member Orientation (2)</b> at noon in Quiet Room</li> </ul>
<b>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> February 9, 2020 10:30 a.m.	Matthew 5:13-20 "Salt and Light"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CONFIRMATION 10:</b> "Theology" by Julius Lukacs</li> </ul>
<b><u>Wednesday</u> Taizé Service</b> 6 p.m. February 12, 2020	<b>Taizé Service</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• String Band</li> <li>• <b>Holy Communion</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> February 16, 2020 10:30 a.m.	Matthew 5:21-37 "Anger and Sin"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 Minute <b>Sing Along</b> before Worship</li> <li>• <b>Special Music:</b> String Band</li> </ul>
<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> February 23, 2020 10:30 a.m.	Matthew 17:1-9 "Transfiguration and Transformation"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CONFIRMATION 11:</b> "Our Faith" by Pastor Hyesung Lee</li> </ul>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> February 26, 2020 6 p.m.	<u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u> "Renewed by the Spirit"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service in <b>Taizé style</b></li> <li>• <b>Special Music</b></li> <li>• <b>Ash Imposition</b></li> <li>• <b>Holy Communion</b></li> </ul>

### FEBRUARY WORSHIP MINISTERS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Crucifer</i>
2/2 (Sun)	Madeline Charpentier	Christian Belino
2/9 (Sun)	Grace Charpentier	Emma Smith
2/16 (Sun)	Grace Dicksa	Zackery Dicksa
2/23 (Sun)	Jenny Green	Rachael Green
2/26 (Wed) 6pm <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Robin Bliss	Zeke Canonica

## 20 MIN SING ALONG EVERY SUNDAY



You are welcome to join in 20 minutes of singing favorite hymns before Sunday Worship!

\*The first two Sundays in July, there will be no Sing Along due to pastor's vacation.

Tell the pastor what your favorite hymns are!

## ✠ Pastor's Letter ✠

Dear Friends in Ministry

I want to share my sermon summary (Jan 19) with you which reflect my thoughts on Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. Here it is:

While I was still in Korea two weeks ago, a big proposal announcement regarding the future of UMC was made on January 3rd, 2020. Its summary is:

- Makes a pathway for 'traditionalist Methodist to leave UMC
- Allows churches to keep assets, employees, etc. and pastors to retain pensions
- \$25 million over 4 years given to new 'traditionalist Methodist denomination'
- Local churches make decision on individual separation by Dec 31, 2024.
- Will be voted upon in May 2020 by UMC General Conference.

My first reaction was '**sadness**' to realize that we have eventually come to this point of **separation**. I know that this is only a proposal, not a decision yet. It is just one of 9 major plans on the table and still needs to be voted by the General Conference in May. But I see a high probability for its passing at General Conference. Even our Bishop, Minerva Carcano, who has been adamantly opposing to any idea of separation, seems to support this protocol. No matter how well anybody tries to sugarcoat it, **it is a separation after all** that we are talking about. So it makes me 'sad'.

My second reaction was a feeling of 'relief' to realize that our pro-longed, constant confrontation and the painful impasse may have ended finally. But after these first reactions, I have kept asking what this means to us? Is this simply an expression of our human failures that we just cannot stay together united in the Body of Christ? Or are there any God's gracious touch and blessing for all of us? So I've been talking with my colleagues a lot about this.

Last year at our Annual Conference, we had "holy conferencing" where **honest thoughts** about human sexuality were shared. There was one lady, in my husband's group, who shared her frustration. She wore a rainbow stole and was very outspoken. She said, *"I don't understand why some people don't accept LGBTQIA+ as equal brothers and sisters. God is love. We should love everybody. What part of the love don't they understand? Why are they so stubborn and legalistic? Can anybody help me to understand them?"*

My husband shared his own experience. He always has to slow down when he walks with his church members who are elderly. Otherwise, he would walk alone, leaving others behind. Then they would shout to him, "Wait for me, Pastor Leel!" He continued to say to the group: He felt the same way / many times / at our annual conference and general conference. Our **progressive** friends are walking faster when they talk about human sexuality. Our **traditional** friends walk slowly when they talk about LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters. **We walk at different pace on this issue.** It does not mean that progressive friends are always more progressive in *all* areas. On another issue like illegal immigration, suddenly some of the so-called progressive groups become so defensive and do not want to allow <undocumented foreigners> to come to the USA. Some of them wanted to build a wall and not a bridge. We can tell that we are all fast-walkers on some issues and slow-walkers on some other issues. When we value unity, however, we need to slow down or speed up to walk with others with a different pace. Our pace is different...how about our direction? Isn't it true that we all *agree* that our God guides us toward full inclusion of all persons? We all agree the direction of our walk. However, it is the pace of the walk that matters. Some slow walkers want to say to progressive friends on this issue, "Wait for me, I am out of breath!"

When my husband said this to the group, the lady who complained earlier opened her eyes widely and smiled. "You are the first person who makes me understand why they are so stubborn! They are out of breath! I walked too fast! I am sorry. But can you speed up?" Then everyone laughed together in the group.

Our walk resembles the wilderness walk of the Israelites. We find in the Bible that **God had to stop** the walk many times so that the slow walkers could catch up and continue the journey with fast walkers. The pillars of fire and cloud sometimes stayed for many months. In this way, they were able to walk together for 40 years in the wilderness. The Israelites' journey has been our journey too in the United Methodist Church for the last 40 years.

**Now we have come to the point of decision making.** We arrived at the Jordan River, figuratively speaking. It is a decision time and we have this Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. Our traditional friends now say, "Progressive colleagues! Please go first! I will catch up later." This idea was expressed in 2019 Special General Conference as a "Gracious Exit." Now, they signed the Protocol and want to walk at their own pace. This protocol does not mean that our traditional brothers and sisters stop their journey as fellow Methodists. This protocol does not mean that our progressive groups are superior to our traditional colleagues. It simply means that we walk at different paces, but we will walk together until the end.

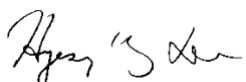
When the Israelites arrived at the Transjordan, 2 and a half Tribes out of 12 decided to stay there. They were the Gadites (peach), the Reubenites (pink), and the half-tribe of Manasseh (green). Moses was angry at them first, thinking that they did not want to be a part of the journey and that they wanted to discourage the whole nation. However, when Moses found out that those two and half tribes were still willing to journey together till the end through up-coming wars and other projects, Moses allowed them to have the land of Transjordan. (see Numbers 32). **The financial agreement in the protocol** is like the agreement between Moses and the two and half tribes concerning the "land of Transjordan." The Methodist denomination pursuant to the protocol will use the money to vitalize the new Methodist denominations.

Whether we are on the east side of Jordan or on the west side, we will continue our journey together. The protocol allows ecumenical support between the post-separation UMC and the Methodist denomination pursuant to the protocol, because the Boards and the Agencies will be shared by Methodists of all expressions and we are all going to continue to participate together in global mission and ministries.

This protocol is a compromise and is one way how we keep unity with diversity. If adopted, some groups will stay at the Transjordan. Some groups will cross over the Jordan River. Different areas will be assigned to different groups for God's mission and ministry. Everybody has a difficult job to do. However, there is God's blessing for all of us.

Jesus invited John's two disciples, saying "Come and See." We too have responded to his invitation. Jesus is the most radical teacher and the extremist in the matter of accepting **all** into his community. It is very hard to keep up with him on our journey when he accepted abominable sinners, adulterers, outcasts, demon-possessed and eventually erased all kinds of boundaries for God's beloved community. So many of us feel out of breath! When his disciples were out of breath, Jesus sat down with them and explained where he was going by using parables and easy examples. So we His disciples have kept following his Way. Some Christians didn't want to go beyond Jerusalem but just wanted to stay in that region without fully accepting Gentile brothers and sisters. But they were still the Body of Christ. Some other Christians, like Paul, Peter, and so many, had crossed over numerous boundaries time after time and reached to the end of the world with open arms and open doors. And they were tremendously blessed by God.

Brothers and sisters in East Contra Costa Area, Our journey will continue toward Jesus' community. Let us be kind to one another on our journey! That is the right thing to do because our Jesus has been doing it for us! Amen!



Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee

Let us rejoice in all circumstances, pray without ceasing, and give thanks always!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER

Individual Prayer with quiet music on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Wednesdays

*Taizé Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday*

Wednesday Night Prayer continues to open  
and welcome anyone who would like to sit in the sanctuary  
for a time of prayer. You may stay as long as you want between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm!  
Candles will be provided for those who wish to light a candle for someone or for some causes.  
You may leave your prayer request in the basket for which prayer team will pray!



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## 2019- 2020 Confirmation News

Sept 2019 through May 2020  
for kids 7<sup>th</sup> and up



- **Confirmation Class 10:** Sunday February 9th at noon in Sunday School Room  
“Theology: Who God Is” (Teacher: Julius Lukacs)
- **Confirmation Class 11:** Sunday 29 February 23rd at noon in Sunday School Room  
“Our Faith” (Teacher: Pastor Hyesung Lee)

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## NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 pm to 1 pm

In Quiet Room (behind the choir room/fireside 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](mailto:hslee3@gmail.com). Or you may just show up! This time is always very enjoyable and spiritual.



## Let Us Pray for the Following Members and Friends of BCUMC!

This list is provided by our Congregational Care Network of Brentwood Community UMC.

If you want to add names or make any change in this list,  
please contact Linda Barnhill at 634-8521.

Linda Walton, Jamie Feldermann, Susan Kent, Jerry & Rosalynn Bize, Diana Easley,  
Gordon Fong, Cliff Fortner, Judy Bieger, Esther Graham, Rene Miller, Jessica Davis,  
Jo Merritt, Murphy Slay (stationed in US), Becca Feldermann's mother, Curt Patten,  
Peggy Sheehan, Finley Boag, Bob Briggs, Carey & Diane Hutchison,  
Paul Gamache, and Joyce Sorensen's friend Cathy and  
The United Methodist Church Reconciling Ministry Post-General Conference.

*We pray for you and your caregivers that God may fill you every day  
with strength, faith, love and peace!*



- 1 Steve Bronzan
- 2 Jan Nixon
- 8 Jeff Schults
- 9 Kevin Gray
- 11 Mary Jean Spediacci
- 13 Blake Kurz
- 14 Hannah Bartlebaugh
- 14 Veronica Hanel
- 16 Mark Azevedo
- 18 Marsha (Sorenson) Carlson
- 19 Nancy Schaffer
- 22 Eugene Davis
- 25 Jerry Walton
- 28 Martin Tucker



- 11 Lian & Luther Belino
- 14 Marcie & Julius Lukacs
- 14 Melissa & Chris van Ruiten

### A VALENTINE FROM GOD

A valentine arrived from God today  
Not by U.S. mail or Facebook or email  
Not by Fed Ex, UPS, or Amazon delivery  
Not by iphone text or any of the rest.  
No – God's ways - while often mysterious  
Are simpler – sublime, yet subtle.  
An intuitive feeling – a prompting of the heart  
An unexpected phrase in a book or song  
That intrigues – or beckons to us  
A feeling of peace – or curiosity – maybe humor  
An inner knowing – the still small voice:  
"I am here. You are my beloved.  
Do not be afraid – do not be troubled.  
I am with you always  
Guiding you – loving you always."  
Oh wonderful God – You are our treasure  
You are our wisdom – our peace  
You are our path forward  
You are our sacred home  
Our journey and our destination.  
Our heart's true desire  
Our true Valentine. Only You.

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## It's time for the United Methodist Men's annual Bean Feed!



Mark your calendars for **February 23rd at 5pm** in Fellowship Hall. There will be a lot of yummy food, including Tri-tip and chicken, raffles and auctions and so much fun!! It is a great night of fellowship and entertainment all for a wonderful cause- scholarships! Single tickets are \$8 or bring the entire family for only \$20. Talk to Rick Dunn, Bob Clark, Larry Schafer, Jerry Walton, Dave Funk for tickets. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

## THE VOTE IS IN AND THE BANNERS ARE UP!



With a whopping 65 votes counted, Option 1, the Rainbow Heart with cross inset, was the winner with Option 2, Floating Rainbow Hearts around the cross coming in a very close second. Thanks to Dave Funk and Trustees, the Rainbow Heart is now hanging on the front of the church and the Floating Rainbow Hearts will soon be displayed above the fellowship hall window facing Maple Street.

We will display these for all of 2020, while we continue to listen to input and work on developing a crystal-clear message. We want to be sure the message communicated on the exterior of our building matches the warm welcome everyone will find inside!

Please share any thoughts you may have with the Reconciling Committee: Jennifer D, Dave F, Koo, Dennis, Zeke, Martin, Vanessa or Jeannette.



### *Calling all women!* *A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial* *Sunday, March 1, Noon*



Mark your calendar for Noon on Sunday, March 1 for a Soup and Salad Luncheon hosted by BCUMC UMW. This event is A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial – *We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities*. This program is our opportunity to rise to meet God and make a difference in local and global communities. We are called to be something more; we are called to help create opportunities for all.

Come and learn about UMW and how we are helping to change the world for the better. The special offering collected at the luncheon helps to sustain the work of UMW all around the world. 100% of the money given through *A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial* goes directly to women, children and youth. Please join in our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance because together our offerings make a difference in the world! We Rise, We Give, We Make A Difference!

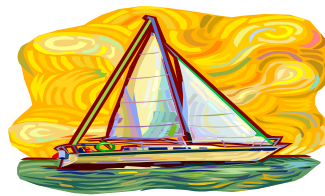
To RSVP for the luncheon, please contact Donna Baker at 925-240-7093 or [deltadonn@gmail.com](mailto:deltadonn@gmail.com) or Cheryl Breitenbucher at 925-550-0895 or [cbreitenbucher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbreitenbucher@sbcglobal.net). There will also be a sign-up sheet available on the UMW bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

by Heidi Stark

### THANKS from UMW for our Alternative Christmas - Heifer Project

The BCUMC UMW Alternative Christmas Heifer Project was an amazing success! Many thanks to all the generous donors. Our hope was to fund all eight Heifer options at \$1,082 – not only did we meet that goal, but we exceeded it! \$1,720 was raised! These donations will provide 2 Sheep, 2 Hives of Bees, 3 Pigs, 1 Goat, 4 Flocks of Chicks, Ducks or Goslings, 1 Community Animal Health Worker Kit, 2 Healthy Home Kits which provide home building materials, and 1 Community Clean Water Kit. These donations have been sent to Heifer International and will provide needy families all over the world with hope for the future.

from Heidi Stark



### VOYAGERS

Saturday - February 1st - 3pm

Rick Dunn will be speaking about his walk on the Camino. The **Camino** is a roughly 800 km walk across the North of Spain. It is a Christian pilgrimage route which goes back hundreds of years. In English, it is known as the Way of St James.

Tacos will be provided!

## **Thailand NOW 2020 VIM Team**

- **When:** August 6-17, 2020
  - **What:** to help with various needs for **BLESSING HOMES** (ministry to provide educational opportunities for children at risk of human trafficking) and **PIONEER PASTORS** (New church planting ministry-seeking to plant churches in every county in Thailand that has never had a Christian congregation)
  - **Total Cost of Trip:** \$2800 includes flights, ground transportation in Thailand, lodging, meals, project supplies, and insurance.
  - **With Whom:** Revs. Mike and Sherri Morrissey (UM Missionaries to Thailand. Their website is here <https://thailandmethodist.org/>) and Kentucky Conference UMC; Rev. Sungho & Hyesung Lee will join the team.
  - Registration Deadline: April 30, 2020
  - Please click on this link for more information and for your application to participate in this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and grow in faith >> <http://www.mlumc.org/thailand>
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## **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED *WINTER NIGHTS*!**



BCUMC had a blessed opportunity to serve 9 families, 34 guests, 14 adults and 20 children (7 weeks to 17 years old) on January 11th for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was an ecumenical endeavor to lift up homeless neighbors in our County. A total of 12 Churches participated. From BCUMC, over 30 people participated all day long. Special thanks to Polly Gallagher for coordinating the whole day with UMM, UMW, YOUTH and others! Ad Council has decided to do this again next year!

UMM morning crew serving pancakes, sausages.

## **Midtown Faith**

The perfect Valentine's Day date is a dance night out!

***'Valentine's Day Salsa Dance & Paint'!***

February 14th 7-9:30pm

Beginner Salsa Lesson and Dancing + PAINT - \$50

Beginner Salsa Lessons and Dancing Only - \$20

Learn how to dance and take home a beautiful work of art!

\*A variety of wines, beer and champagne will be available for purchase.\*

***Tickets available at [starrynitestudios.com](http://starrynitestudios.com); for Valentine's Day Paint and Salsa event.***

***Or call 925-308-9150 for tickets and any questions!***





The middle school group, otherwise known as MTJ, and the young adult/high school group, also known as YAHS, have continued to get together on our regular Sunday nights and have had a busy November and December and beginning of January!

We have had some wonderful discussions on some important topics (like nuclear war, decision-making, school, romance...to name a few!) as well as some general fun chit chat! Their growth continues to be awesome—we have quite a fantastic group of young adults.

In November we had our annual Youth-led Sunday service where over 15 youth participated! Throughout November, December, and January, youth participated in “Hanging of the Greens”, the Brentwood Community Chest Food Sort, ice skating, visiting the “Walk through Bethlehem”, having our Secret Santa gift exchange, having a YAHS BBQ, an MTJ Fast Food Progressive Dinner, and served at Winter Nights with a discussion get together after at Sip n’Scoop. Phew!

Upcoming for February we have some regular Sunday meetings, a movie day for MTJ, Glide service for MTJ, our annual Fat Tuesday Pancake feed, and the YAHS Fast Food Progressive Dinner.

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth. 😊 Becca Feldermann



## SAVE THE DATE!—FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm-7:00pm @ BCUMC

Come support the youth program and enjoy a delicious breakfast for dinner!

### *TALE OF TWO WINDOWS*

by Dave Funk

A few months ago, while attending a meeting in the Pastor’s office, I sat in a chair next to the two single-hung windows on the Maple Street side of the building. The sun was shining brightly and the heat coming through those single-pane 1930’s windows was extremely uncomfortable. It was just like the windows were open! Dennis Buckley, Trustee Chair, pointed out that the glass pane on one window had fallen down about 1/2 inch in the glazing compound, leaving a space to the outside.

Trustees investigated the cost of replacement energy efficient double pane windows for these two windows to improve comfort and impact the PG&E costs to heat and cool the office. During the solicitation for bids, we met a young executive/owner of a family-owned window dealer business from Livermore who admired our Sanctuary and the story of our Church history. He graciously offered to donate the windows we needed. Trustees decided to get a bid to also replace the large single pane picture window in front of the secretary’s desk at the outside entrance to the office.

WOW! The Lord has angels around us at all times! Thanks to this generous donation, we replaced the three windows in the office as well as a broken slider window in the Youth Theater Room downstairs for a total of \$1,750 dollars installed, including building permit costs and installation of a carbon monoxide/smoke detector in the office, required by the city building code inspection process. The value of the project was about \$5,000.

The project was completed January 21, 2020.





Have you wondered what United Methodist Women (UMW) is and what it does? UMW was initially formed in 1869 with 8 women – today there are 800,000 members. Since General Conference's action in May 2012, United Methodist Women is organized as an independent agency of The United Methodist Church with a modified board structure to meet the changing needs of women organized for mission. You can learn more at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

The official mission statement of United Methodist Women is:

**United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.**

The entire program and organization of United Methodist Women focuses on mission. The mission initiatives include:

- **Providing opportunities to grow spiritually**
- **Equipping women & girls to be leaders**
- **Providing transformative educational experiences**
- **Organizing for growth & flexibility**
- **Working for justice through service & advocacy**

At BCUMC UWM has two Circles that meet to enjoy fellowship, grow spiritually, learn about global and local mission needs, and provide support through the sharing of our time, talents and treasures. The Jesse Lee Circle meets for fellowship and program at 10am on the second Tuesday of the month in the Quiet Room at the Church. The Priscilla Circle meets for dinner fellowship and program at 6pm on the third Monday of each month at Panera, 5897 Lone Tree Way. All women are welcome; please consider joining us at a Circle meeting, combined event or fundraiser. Upcoming UMW dates:

- ☐ February 11 – 10am Jesse Lee Circle – Church Quiet Room
- ☐ February 17 – 6pm Priscilla Circle – Panera
- ☐ March 1 – Noon – Church Fellowship Hall - Call to Prayer and Self-Denial – *We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities* – Soup and Salad Luncheon hosted by Jesse Lee and Priscilla Circles for all women of the church
- ☐ March 10 – 10am Jesse Lee Circle – Church Quiet Room
- ☐ March 15 – 11:30am – Church Fellowship Hall – Potato Bake Fundraiser for UMW missions hosted by Jesse Lee Circle
- ☐ March 16 – 6pm Priscilla Circle – Panera

.....from Heidi Stark

PUBLISHED

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

- 2/1 Voyagers Program on Rick Dunn's Camino walk – 3 pm
- 2/14 Midtown Faith Valentine's Day Salsa Dance & Paint 7-9:30 pm
- 2/23 UMM Bean Feed - 5 pm
- 2/25 Youth Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner – 6-7 pm
- 3/1 UMW Call to Prayer and Self Denial –luncheon - noon
- 3/11 UMW Potato Bake



*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

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Los Rios District Superintendent: Rev. Schuyler Rhoads

Pastor: Hyesung Lee † Lay Leaders: Julius Lukacs and David Funk

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Carrillo

Brentwood Community  
United Methodist Church  
809 Second Street  
Brentwood, CA 94513

TIME DATED MATERIAL

