

Deeds and Opportunities

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

809 Second Street, Brentwood CA 94513

Office: (925) 634-3093

✝ Hyesung Lee, Pastor ✝

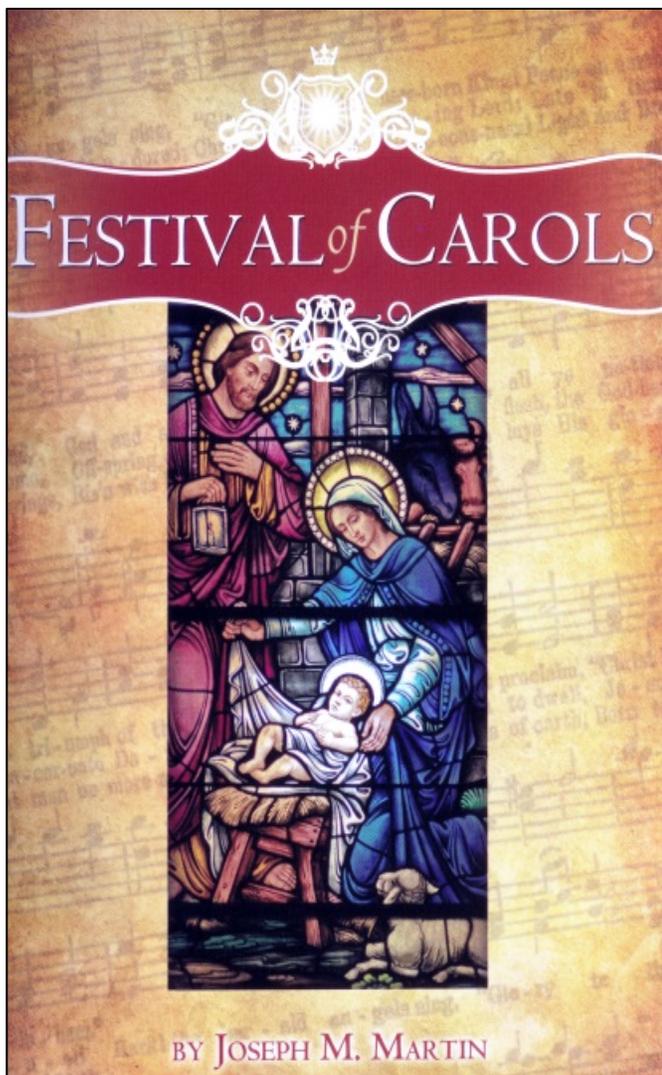
Website: Brentwoodumc.org

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Facebook:

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2015



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Saturday

December 19th

6:30 pm

*at Brentwood Community
United Methodist Church*

featuring the combined choirs of
Brentwood Community
United Methodist Church
and
Byron United Methodist Church

A free-will offering event.
Reception to follow.

2015 *DECEMBER* Worship & Preaching Schedule

SUNDAYS & others	SCRIPTURE	SERMON TITLE	WORSHIP ACTS / OTHER ACTIVITIES
Second Sunday of Advent December 6	Luke 3:1-6	<i>Dream God's Dream: View the Promise through the Present</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent Candle Lighting: Michael Ann Honea • Advent Sing-A-Long (10:10 a.m.) led by Joe Kick
Third Sunday of Advent December 13	Luke 3:7-18	<i>Dream God's Dream: View the Promise through the Future</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent Candle Lighting: Janet Kurz & grandchildren • Advent Sing-A-Long (10:10 a.m.) led by Joe Kick
Christmas Cantata December 19 6:30 p.m.	<i>FESTIVAL OF CAROLS</i>		Joint Choir by Brentwood Community U.M.C. & Byron U.M.C.
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20	Luke 1:39-45	<i>Dream God's Dream: View the Present through the Promise</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent Candle Lighting • Advent Sing-A-Long (10:10 a.m.) led by Joe Kick
Christmas Eve December 24 (Thursday) At 6 p.m.	Luke 2:1-20	<i>Dream God's Dream: From the Eyes of the Shepherds</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Sing-A-Long (5:40 p.m.) led by Dennis Buckley • Holy Communion • Candle-Lighting Service
First Sunday after Christmas Day December 27	Luke 2:41-52	<i>Dream God's Dream: From the Eyes of the Twelve Year Old Child</i>	

ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER SCHEDULE for *DECEMBER*

Date	Acolyte	Crucifer
12/6	Wren Driscoll	Sam Lukacs
12/13	Audrey Dunn	Hunter Austin
12/20	Jamie Feldermann	Trevor Austin
12/24 (Thurs)	Ogechi Ekpemero	Chineyere Ekpemiro

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

Our CONGREGATIONAL CARE NETWORK provides this list.

If you want to add names or make any changes in this list, please contact

Linda Barnhill at 634-8521 or Michael Ann Honea at 516-9541.

Diane Hutchison	Cliff Fortner	James Collins	Dorothy Leonard
Mike Logan	Adella Logan	Joan Peterson	Lou Bronzan
Barbara Bonnickson	Phil White	Geraldine Dupuich (Diana Easley's mom)	
Marsha Carlson (Joyce Sorenson's daughter)			

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

◆ Pastor's Letter ◆

Dear Friends and Members of BCUMC

Greetings in the joyful name of Jesus Christ our Lord! I pray that you may see the signs of God's Kingdom abundantly at your dinner tables, family gatherings, and places of serving others as you face the end of this year and the beginning of the next.

I am so excited to share with you the news that H.O.P.E. HOUSE is beginning its PRAYER MINISTRY in December this year. Prayer is something that most people feel so needed for themselves and others. But at the same time it is the one thing that many people have a hard time doing for others, especially for someone you don't know well. But prayer is one of the basic ministries that the Bible strongly encourages us to do it both for others and for ourselves as we see in the following verses:

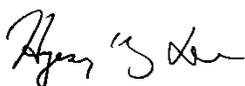
- The apostle James instructed us to "**pray** for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).
- The apostle Paul encourages us to intercede for Church members and ministers, "And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and **always keep on praying** for all the Lord's people" (Ephesians 6:18)
- Paul exhorts us again "I urge, then, first of all, that **petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving** be made for all people" (1Timothy 2:1).
- Jesus Christ commanded, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and **pray** for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).
- Jesus Christ also promised to listen to our prayers when we ask in one mind: "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they **ask** for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:19-20)

Prayer is not only spiritual breath that keeps us alive but also our responsibility and privilege to build up the body of Christ (the congregation) with the power of the Holy Spirit. When we, Brentwood Community U.M.C., started H.O.P.E. HOUSE four years ago, we promised to give this important ministry of prayer as the four letters stand for: **H**ope, **O**pportunity, **P**rayer and **E**ncouragement. I hope and pray that many people join in this ministry, a challenging but so significant one.

During the Advent and Christmas Seasons we, the believers, celebrate and try to practice the ministry of EMMANUEL (God is with Us). Prayer ministry is one of EMMANUEL ministries that make the world know and feel that God is with them also.

Please pray for this ministry and ask God if it is something that God wants YOU to do!

Merry Christmas!



Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee

**Please don't forget to come early to the church for Sing-Along Time at 10:10 am right before Advent Sunday and Christmas Eve Services!



H.O.P.E. HOUSE *PRAYER* MINISTRY

Prayer is a powerful tool that God has given us as a gift to use to help others be connected with God and to feel God's presence and mysterious work. It brings grace of forgiveness and empowerment to those who bow down and pray!

**H.
O.
PRAYER
E.**

We, the people of B.C.U.M.C., would like to offer *PRAYER MINISTRY* to those who come to H.O.P.E. HOUSE when they ask for or when we see the opportunities for prayers. Simple supplication, honest and humble touch, and loving presence with our neighbors are what we can offer!

So far we have a team of three people who committed their time for this ministry!
We have a lot of room for YOU!

Please contact Pastor Lee if you would like to join!
JUST ONE HOUR A MONTH is all we are asking for!
Anybody can pray!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

TO FRIENDS AND MEMBERS
WHO CAN'T COME TO CHURCH

December 16th (Wednesday) from 1 to 4 pm



WHAT: CONGREGATIONAL CARE NETWORK (C.C.N.) invites everyone who loves to visit home-bound members and friends, singing Christmas Carols and giving **LOVE BASKETS**

WHEN: December 16th (Wednesday) from 1 to 4 pm
*Those who want to **practice** can attend the optional rehearsal after worship service on December 13th (around noon)

WHERE: Gather at the church parking lot.

CONTACT PERSON: Please let Diana Easley (925-595-3052) or Pastor Lee (925-303-9339) know if you want to join us or are willing to drive!



THE UMW ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

in the Fellowship Hall - Sunday, December 13th

Join in the delight of filling a cookie tin with dozens of choices.

UMW invites the baker in your family to bake a batch of cookies and bring them to church

Donations go to UMW's ministry
Teddy Bears for Kids and The Angel Tree

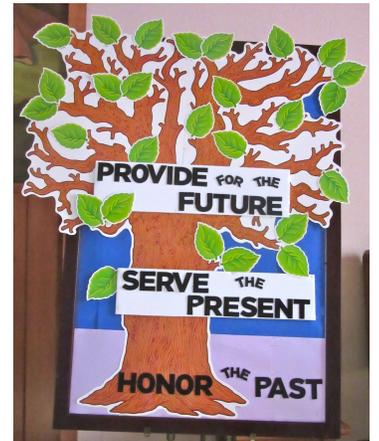
FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP UPDATE DECEMBER 2015

By Carey Hutchison, Chair

During the past few weeks we have been busy addressing our annual Pledge Campaign to raise funds that will support our church operations for 2016. We thank everyone who graciously contributes each year to maintain the day-to-day operations of our church. To date, we have pledges amounting to almost \$113,000. Amen! *This amount is 20% less than we raised last year to support our 2015 budget.* Based on our on-going financial needs for this past year and the early projections for 2016, this level of funding means that we may need to curtail some cost areas and activities.

We did see several concerning trends in this year's pledge campaign. First, we had almost 20% loss of folks who did not renew a pledge for 2016. We also had some folks reduce the size of their pledges; and thankfully others were able to increase their giving for next year. While our church is very active in many areas & ministries, and our membership is growing, it is obvious that we need to create additional ways to generate additional financial support in the future. While the Finance Committee will be addressing this issue, we do ask that all members and other church activity teams think about solutions.

If anyone did not receive a pledge card or wants to donate to support our activities for 2016, please see me or any member of the Finance Committee. As always we gladly accept your support.



SAVE THE DATE !

Trivia, Treats and Treasures
Saturday - January 23rd - 7-9 pm

UMW's 2nd annual **Trivia, Treats and Treasures** will be on **Saturday January 23rd at 7pm.** We will have many raffle baskets to **Treasure**, Tasty **Treats** to eat and of course **Trivia!** Tickets will go on sale soon. Get your team together and get ready to have a Fun time, while supporting the Missions of the UMW.

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Come home for Christmas
Follow the light
We're always welcome
There's always a place
In God's warm embrace
Where we feel just right.

Take time to be still
Amidst all the noise
In God's loving heart
We find peace - and feel strong
Come home for Christmas
We always belong.

© Joe Kick - 2015

New Address

The Bartlebaugh Family has relocated their West Coast Headquarters
To 412 DuPeru Drive, Crockett, CA 94525
Phone numbers and email remain the same: 757-9278/cell 813-0471

Thank you everyone for your on-going support of Hope House. For the month of December we are asking for cake mixes. Also, if anyone has old warm coats and blankets, we would love to have them. Thanks so much.

Robin Vaughan



- 3 Janet Kurz
- 4 Lynn Austin
- 6 Don Stirling
- 10 Nancy Vier
- 11 Diane Lee
- 16 Chinedum Ekpemiro
- 17 Griffin Slay
- 17 Aidan Dunn
- 19 Benjamin Lukacs
- 19 Joseph Lukacs
- 20 Marcie Lukacs
- 21 Pastor Hyesung Lee
- 22 Ryan Price
- 26 Kaela Scott
- 27 Teresa Kick
- 29 Valerie Umana

Happy Anniversary

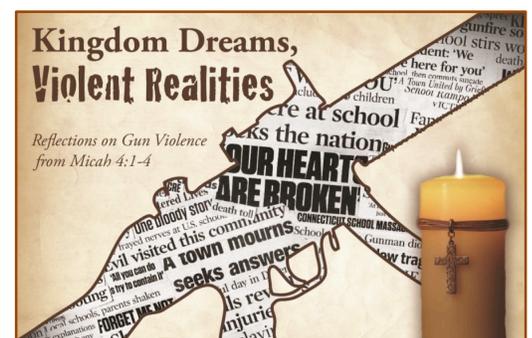
- 6 Patti Evans & Marty Jewell
- 10 Diane & Carey Hutchison
- 28 Robin & Davie Blount

and a belated 25th Anniversary
11/24 Diana & Nathan Lane

2015 ADVENT BIBLE STUDY MICAHA

Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities

- Three Sunday Mornings 8:45 to 10 am Nov 29, Dec 6 & 13
- **Free** Text Booklet by Bill Mefford, Director of Civil & Human Rights at the General Board of Church & Society of UMC (25 pages)



Rides to Christmas Cantata are Available

Do you want to attend the always-wonderful Christmas Cantata, but don't like to drive at night? UMW will provide free rides to anyone who would like to attend the Cantata on December 19th at 7pm. Please contact Patti Bartlebaugh 925-757-9278 or Roxanna Simas 925-6250464 to arrange for your ride.



RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We have completed the process of becoming a *Reconciling Congregation* and have celebrated with the hanging of the banner and the congregational rainbow picture. We needed a symbol of our status posted outside the church so Dave Funk took a picture of the banner, which Martin framed. It has been placed in the case where the time of worship is announced outside the front door. Thanks to Dave, the case and its contents have been cleaned and painted.

The Reconciling Ministries Network receives no money from the Methodist Church and relies on gifts and

donations to support conferences and support participation at major Methodist meetings. The Network requests an annual donation of \$250 from each R.C. Our Finance Committee will use part of the holiday special envelope gifts to provide the donation.

If you would care to donate you may do so by writing a check to the church and designating it for the R.C. donation. A form is available to join the witness of welcoming all people to the United Methodist Church. This form will be put into the bulletin and you can return it by way of the offering plate. Reconciling Ministries would like to achieve 50% of the congregation to support the statement.

Questions? Ask Martin (925.779.1659 or martintucker@comcast.net)



Our CONGREGATIONAL CARE NETWORK needs goodies for the Christmas LOVE BASKETS for members who are homebound or ill. We will make the baskets on December 15 and deliver them on the 16th. We are looking for:

packets of hot chocolate

small boxes of tea bags

soap

lotion

wrapped candy

crackers

Christmas favors/ornaments (to put one or two in the basket)

other personal items (individual size)

packets of cookies or if home made - in zip lock bags

Fruit such as apples/oranges

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE NARTHEX BEFORE DEC. 15.

Statement of Inclusion:

Because we believe that no one is excluded from God's love and that all may come who hear the Shepherd's voice (*John 10:1-18*), so we affirm:

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.

Resident Bishop: Warner H. Brown, Jr.
El Camino Real District Superintendent: Kristie Olah
Pastor: Hyesung Lee † Lay Leader: Julius Lukacs
Secretary: Debra Urzua

*The Mission of the United Methodist Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL

