

Deeds and Opportunities

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

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Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2018



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!



Pastor Lee, Friend in Faith Linda Walton, new members Heidi and Jere Retzer, Friend in Faith Jerry Walton and JoAnn Funk, Membership Chairperson (10/28/18)

2018 November Worship Schedule

SUNDAY	Scriptures & Sermon theme	WORSHIP ACTS / OTHER ACTIVITIES
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 4, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ▪ Pledge Sunday Ruth 1:1-18 Mark 12:28-34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guest Preacher – Rev. John McLaughlin ▪ Stewardship Moment: Melissa van Ruiten ▪ Celebration of Ministries: Membership & Friends in Faith ▪ 5:30pm – 7 pm MTJ (Middle School) ▪ 7:30pm – 9 pm YAHS (Young Adults and High School)
Twenty-Fifth Sunday November 11, 2018	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Mark 12:38-44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebration of Ministries: Finance, Ad Council & Small Group Ministry (Upper Room) ▪ Sunday School Teachers' Lunch ▪ 5:30pm – 7 pm MTJ (Middle School) ▪ 7:30pm – 9 pm YAHS (Young Adults and High School)
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost November 18, 2018	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY 1 Samuel 1:4-20 Mark 13:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebration of Ministries: SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) & Reconciling Ministry Team ▪ Joint Church Conference of East Contra Costa Circuit 4pm – 6pm at Church on the Rock UMC in Antioch ▪ 5:30pm – 7 pm MTJ (Middle School) ▪ 7:30pm – 9 pm YAHS (Young Adults and High School)
Reign of Christ Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost November 25, 2018	YOUTH SUNDAY 2 Samuel 23:1-7 John 18:33-37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebration of Ministries: Nomination, Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Youth Committee ▪ 5:30pm – 7 pm MTJ (Middle School) ▪ 7:30pm – 9 pm YAHS (Young Adults and High School)

WORSHIP MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday	Acolyte	Crucifer
11/4	Christian Belino	Robin van Ruiten
11/11	Robin van Ruiten	Zeke Canonica
11/18	Grace Charpentier	Madeline Charpentier
11/25	Maggie Monsef	Christian Belino

CELEBRATION OF LAY MINISTRIES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Each ministry team/committee will share for 2 minutes during Sunday Worship Service the following contents: (1) what they do as a team; (2) their greatest achievement in this year and (3) their joys of serving in the committee/team

Sunday	Presentation Group 1	Presentation Group 2
November 4	Membership	Friends in Faith
November 11	Finance	Ad Council Small Group Ministry
November 18	SPRC	Reconciling Ministry
November 25	Nomination	Sunday School Youth Ministry Youth Committee
December 2	Music Committee/Choir	Sunday Night Live

◆ Pastor's Letter ◆

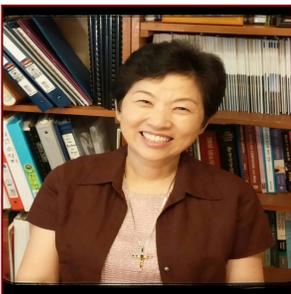
Dear Friends in Ministry

It is a season of harvest. I am very happy to see a great deal of harvest this year in terms of “witness” by lay ministers in our church! As we received 20 “*new*” members this year, we have heard from every one of them why they want to join us. I remember most of them said one common reason of their joining - our **OPENESS** to all God’s children not just in words but also in clear action of welcoming everyone regardless of any difference. Three of them came from the LGBTQ-plus community. And they are actively participating in the life of our church. (Please read “Why do I want to be baptized” by Zeke Canonica, printed on this Newsletter.) Another common reason for their joining is our **FRIENDLINESS**. They joined us because they felt genuinely welcomed and cared. I am so thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit in our church family that has brought out the best of us in challenging times.

Another group of “witness” comes from chair persons of each committee/team of a particular ministry. From October 7th to December 2nd, a total of twenty one leaders are presenting their ministry during Sunday Worship Service. All these reports and presentations have been well received by the congregation. It has brought us a time of celebration, learning and recruiting. I am so proud of each and every ministry that has planted and grown in Brentwood Body of Christ.

Another witness of lay ministry came from two of our church friends, Fran and Den Bowman, who delivered an inspiring message on Prison Ministry to all of us during the Laity Sunday Worship Service on October 21. Please read their summary message printed in this Newsletter!

Let us continue to WITNESS to the work of our God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer through our words and actions as often as we get a chance! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



With Gratitude,

Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee

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 or Michael Ann Honea at 516-9541)

Homebound: Barbara Bonnickson, Lou Bronzan, Cliff Fortner,
Diana Easley, Joyce Heflin

Prayer Chain: Beverly Hendrix, Fred Schults, Jerry Walton, Debra Urzua,
Diane and Carey Hutchison, Gabriel Charpentier, John D. Moore,
Heather Lawrence (Larry Schaffer's stepdaughter),
Jamie Feldermann, Rick Graham, Galen Tidrick, Bob Clarke,
and Byron United Methodist Church

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER



Wednesday Night Prayer continues to 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!

Your Contribution

“What is your contribution? It is the sum of all you say and do each day.

So give all you can to whomever you can. Leave the world better than you found it.” John C. Maxwell

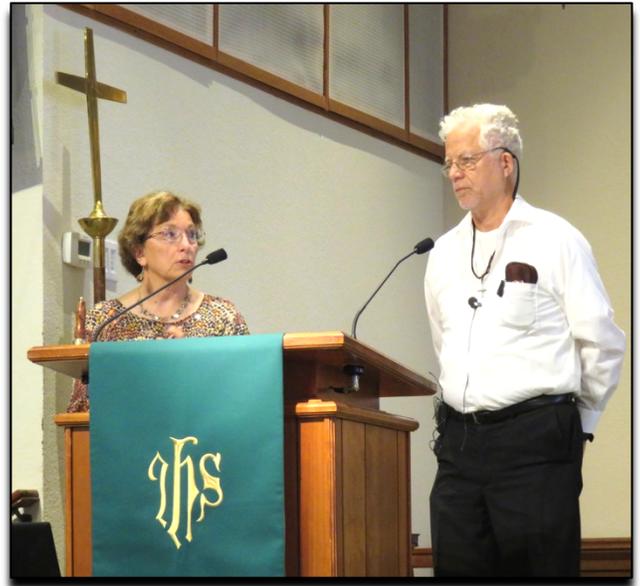
This is the message that Jesus gives to each of us about stewardship. It is a message that we hear each Sunday and then we try to “walk the talk” the rest of the week. It is a challenge for each of us. We get caught up on daily routines and sometimes we forget to praise God for our health, family, and good fortunes. We are so busy that we forget to eat a meal as we go along with our multitude of activities. But God never forgets us, and is constantly looking over us, taking care of us.

Our ministry here at BCUMC is vibrant, exciting and fruitful for Brentwood and beyond. It is because of your generosity and passion to be disciples of Jesus and to make this a Better place and to bestow our Contribution!

Finance/Stewardship

“WHEN GOD CALLS”

*Fran and Den Bowman
Message on Prison Ministry
Laity Sunday -- October 21, 2018*



Saying “yes!” to God is always a good strategy. Our experience of saying yes has been an experience of God pouring down His grace and mercy on us. Some time ago we started serving monthly meals at the Richmond Shelter for the homeless. After some years we were asked to take over the ministry.

It was easy to say yes. Easy to do the ministry as well. We never did it alone. Always a team, us and members from our church congregation and always with His help. God pours down grace and mercy and love everywhere in abundance. Our cup overflowing.

And again, at St Luke’s in Walnut Creek when another opportunity was provided through a member of the congregation. We were invited by a friend to be a part of his team for a 3 ½ day retreat at the men’s prison in Vacaville. We were tentative going inside the prison. We trusted our friend, Tony, and God, so we said “Yes”. God called us into prison ministry and we began this journey. We now serve in the California Youth Correctional Center in Stockton. The ministries we have served in have never been a hardship. God has always gone before us. Blessings overflowing.

Kairos translates to “God’s Special Time” and through Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch, teams bring the love of Christ to those men, women, and young men and women who are incarcerated. **Kairos Torch** is a program for youthful offenders. A team of dedicated Christians spend 2 ½ days inside the Stockton Youth Prison bringing Christ’s love, mercy, and forgiveness to the young men. We call this faith in action. When we do this, we care for and love all the young men openly and with Christ like love and we reflect Jesus’ love and compassion. What we do are acts of kindness, mercy, compassion, and justice. During the weekend the team gives talks like, “Who ya Gonna Trust?” “You are Not Alone.” “Choices.” “God Squad.” After the talks table families discuss questions and start the process of learning to trust each other.

After the weekend is over the team members and young men start a six-month mentoring program. It is a one-on-one, once-a-week session. The mentors have a workbook that has been developed for youthful offenders and we spend time talking about who they really are behind the mask they wear, anger and how to deal with it, issues around moms and dads, and goal setting. One of the most important things that happens during the mentoring sessions is the relationships that develop. Some of the young men have never had someone who shows up for them every single week.

We know God called us for this ministry. We heard His voice calling us to serve these young men and we were convicted and committed with a passion to answer “yes” to our God of Love. Like anything we do and anytime we say yes to His calling it is as much a blessing for us as for those we are called to serve. We are thankful for the opportunity to make a difference by bringing love to these guys. Please keep us in your prayers, but more importantly keep these young men in your prayers.

You may contact Fran and Den Bowman at franbowman@gmail.com to know more about this ministry.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday -- November 3rd – 8:00-9:00 am

FIRST SATURDAY of each month - All men are invited to breakfast and fellowship.

Please call Dave Funk (925-513-0020) with any questions.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

“All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful, all that is beneficent, be it great or small, be it perfect or fragmentary, comes from God!” John Henry Cardinal Newman

We are in the fourth quarter of the year (which has the most expenses) and we have many blessings to celebrate. We are ahead of last year with our finances. At this time in 2017, we had a deficit of **\$9,795** and this year we have only had to borrow **\$1,884** from our reserve account. We have paid all the bills including our apportionments. We celebrate this blessing with your generous giving to our (BCUMC) ministries.

The budget for this year is approximately \$203,000, or \$16,400 per month. We are anticipating a small increase of 2-3% for 2019. On November 4th and November 11th we will celebrate our Stewardship theme “GROW WITH GOD IN 2019”. Please bring your stewardship envelope to either of those Sundays, or just use the return envelope to mail back to the church. Please keep our church ministry in your prayers!

Jerry Walton, Finance Chair



NEW MEMBERS (holding certificates) Dorothy Pontsler, Margo Wentz. Linda Torrello and Rene McCarter
With Friends in Faith Dolores Hauan, Michael Ann Honea and JoAnn Funk
And Lay Leader Julius Lucas and Pastor Lee (9/30/18)



“WHY DO I WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?”

My name is Zeke Canonica and I want to be baptized. If I told myself this two years ago, I would've been confused-- not only because of my new name, but because I was dead set on being anti-Christianity. The friends I used to have always talked about how awful Christianity must be, of their experiences with it, and all the bad news they'd seen online about it- bigotry, hatred, and fakers pretending to love Jesus just to get by. I never thought I'd be Christian in a million years. But now I don't know how I would live if I didn't love our Lord.

My upbringing was mostly amazing and I couldn't have asked for a better mother. It was full of love and support from my mom, who I love with all my heart, and who was raised in a strict Catholic household when she was little. She didn't want that for her own kids. She wanted us to decide for ourselves what we believed and never took me to church since I wasn't old enough to understand. I wish I had gone as a younger kid, though, because I missed out on fourteen years worth of time I could've spent learning about and worshipping God. My dad claimed to still believe but he was so much more distant, never caring for me and always staying in his room (or even trying to take me to church). When he and my mom got divorced, he moved back to his hometown on the east coast and I only see him twice a year.

So as a member of the LGBT community, surrounded by people who didn't believe in God, I thought Christians would never accept me and that I'd never like or be part of them. Despite that, though, I always got a little distant when my friends and I would talk about God before I believed. Something inside me told me we were wrong, something strange. Kind of a feeling like no other.

It was sort of like the feeling you feel when you know you're sinning, but you're not exactly conscious of it and make excuses for it (trust me, I've been there) but much more intense. Yet I ignored it and didn't let the Holy Ghost in further, even though somewhere in my soul I knew it was Him. Maybe I was afraid, maybe I was just stubborn, I don't know, but I wasn't willing to pray or even learn more about the God I'd learned to avoid.

I met my best friend in May of 2016, online. His name is Ethan and he lives in Michigan, over 2000 miles away, but somehow we connected more than anyone closer than that. He's the one who set me on the right path and helped me start my lifelong journey with Jesus. After a long time of battling him when he tried to talk about God, I finally gave in and accepted his request to read Matthew even though I thought the bible was crazy talk. I thought that if I could just get it over with, he wouldn't bug me anymore. Ethan planted the seed that would grow into faith, and I'm so glad he helped me. Learning about God was the best thing to happen to me because it let me to finally accept him into my heart, soul, and mind.

An excuse my old friends made was “Christians try and lure people who are hurting and try and trap them in their religion.” This isn't true at all, at least not for United Methodists and many other denominations. And for me? I wasn't hurting- in fact, it was a very high point in my life that I became Christian. My birthday had just passed, I let go of old friends who hurt me, and my family was in a good place financially and socially. So my faith journey isn't as interesting as a lot of others. I thought I didn't need anything else anymore, that my life was complete. But I still needed Jesus.

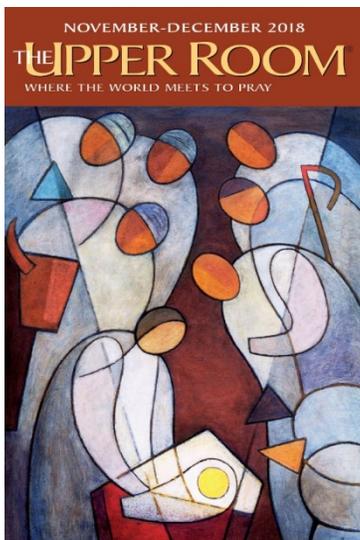
The feeling I get when I pray, or when I feel the Holy Spirit resonate inside me, is a feeling like no other. It's indescribable. And I want everyone to be able to feel the joy that I do when it happens. Every time I feel it I'm almost moved to tears- it never gets old, ever. I love Jesus with all my heart and I will never deny that. His love is something I often forget about in bad times in my life, but it's always there, never faltering, for everyone. I wish I had known Him for my whole life. I love and fear God so much, but I know everyone's faith in Him can be improved. I didn't want to just stay home and read the bible alone. I wanted to go to church and meet other people who knew the feeling of the Holy Spirit like I did. Unfortunately, my mom didn't want to come and I didn't know how to convince her, but she was willing to drop me off.

An obstacle I had when trying to find a church was trying to find one that would accept me for who I am. I wanted to find a family in Christ, not people who would judge and ridicule me for parts of me I can't control. I wanted somewhere where I could love God and be myself, a place where people understood. I spent a long time searching online and I finally found the Brentwood United Methodist Church. The second I walked through the door, I felt welcome in a way I never had before. I knew that people all around me knew God too. It was something I'd never experienced before and it was extremely comforting knowing others shared the love for Him that I did. Nowhere have I seen more positive, friendly, and welcoming people in my life- a true family in Christ, my brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers. Another one of my best decisions.

I want to be baptized not only into this church, but into this family, because I understand God's undying love for me and the people here who love and welcome me as well. "Open hearts, open minds, open doors" are words to live by. Going to church means the world to me, hearing the sermons and prayers connect me to God and everyone who loves Him.

Thank you so much Pastor Lee, thank you to the United Methodist Church, and thank you to the Reconciling Ministries who helped me get to where I am today: growing in faith, loving and learning more about Jesus, and part of a whole community of fellow Christians.

Baptized Disciple of Jesus Christ, Zeke Canonica (9/16/2018)



THE UPPER ROOM – SMALL GROUP

The November/December issues of the Upper Room should be arriving soon and available in the Fellowship Hall. Regardless of whether you have a copy of the booklet or not, please consider joining our small group on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Quiet Room. We share the readings from the week and discuss what moved us, got us thinking, etc.

This is a low-key, no pressure, come when you can group; a time of fellowship to discuss the devotionals. I hope you'll join us on Sundays at 9:30am in the Quiet Room.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Stark at 925-216-4709 or hstark@cobaltc.com.



1. Linda Torrello
2. Joyce Heflin
4. Rebecca Feldermann
5. Eileen Newill
6. Adella Logan
7. Chinyere Ekpemiro
8. Jason Funk
10. Joy Brown
10. Alvin Simas
10. Kim Fraley
11. Diana Lane
11. Sarah Zamjahn
12. Lou Bronzan
12. Kayla Gallagher
18. Darby Gray
20. Maeci Scott
21. Judy (Sorenson) Doversa
22. Jamie Feldermann
22. Joanie Johnson
22. Hisako Suzuki
22. Trevor Austin
23. Briana Price
24. Carlos Malagon
25. Becky Johnson
25. Dan Hanel
27. Patricia Evans
28. Phyllis Schippers
29. Joe Kick

Happy Anniversary

3. Linda and Don Barnhill
5. Jan and Chuck Nixon
13. Connie and Mark Azevedo
17. Rebecca and James Feldermann
21. Shirley and Kevin Gray
24. Diana and Nathan Lane
26. Jane and Sam Travale

ALL SAINTS DAY

Oh the challenges of today
First I got the sun to rising
Our green truck just got a smog test
Life finds a way to be surprising
Places to go – errands to do
Buy cat food for our black and white cat
Am I really in charge of my life?
Sometimes I like to think that.
All Saints Day is coming
Oh when the saints go marching in
I hope someday – if I pray
Maybe I'll be one of them.
I breathe and find some quiet time
To remember who's really in charge
God's loving peace is yours and mine
In matters small and large.

Joe Kick - 2018



Wednesdays During Advent

December 5, 12 and 19

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Sanctuary of Brentwood Community UMC

Taizé (pronounced "teh-ZAY") prayer is an ecumenical form of prayer, for Christians of all traditions. It is a very different experience from a 'normal' church service. No one stands up front; there is no sermon. The church is lit by candles. The service is meditative in character, using singing, Scripture and silence.

The special intention of each of these Advent Taizé Services is for **peace**, within our hearts, which can lead us to reconciliation and peace among all people. We pray with compassion, without taking sides or pointing fingers. Christ gave us the gift of peace, but it is our responsibility to accept it and use it.

2018 JOINT CHURCH CONFERENCE

EVERYONE IS INVITED to attend the Annual Church Conference

Sunday, November 18th – 4-6pm

at Antioch Church on the Rock UMC (50 Walton Lane, Antioch).

***with the four other UMC churches in East Contra Costa County Circuit
Worship Service with Rev. Schuyler Rhoads, District Superintendent, preaching.***

We will also take care of our important church business:

Approval of Membership Report, Nomination Report, Pastor 2019 Compensation Package

“Caught” in Stewardship in Action

- Did you know that if you missed Sunday worship service, you can watch it on our church website? Dennis Buckley tirelessly spends 4-5 hours every Sunday recording the service so you never have to miss out!
- Our retired pastor John McLaughlin refuses to retire from doing stewardship. You can find him at Hope House on Sunday afternoons to unload the White Pony delivery truck, or on Tuesdays to give out fresh fruit & vegetables from the CC Food Bank to our community folks in need.
- Our garden looked and produced wonderful vegetables for Hope House this year thanks to Nick Luoma. All the work was thanks to his giving hands.
- Every Sunday when you enter our Social Hall you can find some delicious cookies and desserts made by Delores Hauan. She also makes great jams & jellies to raise funds to contribute to our many ministries.
- Did you know that our Hope House Outreach serves over 500 families every month? Robin Vaughan has been directing all the activities that support Hope House since we started this great outreach in 2010.
- Our UMM (United Methodist Men) and the UMW (United Methodist Women) are constantly doing projects to that support stewardship locally and globally. Find out how you can help.

A Letter from the Pastor Regarding Sunday School



Dear Parents and All

We are so blessed to have two dedicated regular Sunday School teachers, Marcie Lukacs and Becca Feldermann. They have served Sunday School more than 10 years with loving hearts and experienced knowledge. They are here almost every Sunday for the kids. As a pastor I have listened to their concerns and plans and worked with them to address any issue that arises in Sunday School.

Recently, we have a little bit of surge in the number of children who come to Sunday School, which is an amazing blessing to us. So, we need to be prepared for this new situation. I would like to call your attention to the basic policies of our Sunday School so that everyone may be respected and effectively able to work for the blessing of Sunday School.

Here are some important policies of Sunday School!

(1) Respect age limit to each class! – Please let the teachers know how old your children are!

Sunday School I: Kindergarten to 2nd Grade

Sunday School II: 3rd Grade to 5th Grade (6th Grade and up may join if desired)

**Nursery is open for child from 0 years old to 4 years old

(2) Appropriate behavior is required to respect the church, teachers and fellow classmates! – Please understand that if any child's behavior becomes too much to handle in the class, he or she will be sent back to the parents in worship service.

(3) Extra help is needed for large classes and classes with special needs kids! – Please let the pastor know if you are willing to be in the list of assistant teachers to help out any class with extra needs.

Thanks for your prayers, understanding and helping hands!

Pastor Hyesung Lee



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

El Camino Real District Superintendent: Rev. Schuyler Rhoads

Pastor: Hyesung Lee † Lay Leader: Julius Lukacs

Secretary: Debra Urzua

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL

