



THE MESSENGER

BRENTHAVEN CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A welcoming community of Christian disciples seeking to love and serve God and neighbor

615-373-4826

www.brenthaven.org

TRADITION, TRADITION! TRADITION!

In the opening song of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye and the chorus introduces the cultural and social norms of the village of Anatevka, explaining the various roles within the community by singing the song, *Tradition*. Tevye explains how tradition dictates every aspect of life for the villagers. And while it may be much more pressing for the villagers than it is for us, it is this season of Advent that makes me evermore aware and thankful for tradition.

A few weeks ago, the staff decided that we would change a “tradition” and decorate the church (Hang the Green) on Sunday morning instead of Sunday night. We did this because it would give more people an opportunity to be involved and it would give us a great way of talking about the different pieces, explaining their meanings and history. To say I was excited and yet anxious would be an understatement. Hey, it’s different and I worry that when you do something so drastically different, you never know how people will react. In fact, Ean informed me the week before that he had told the youth what we were doing. They were horrified! They commiserated that we do that at night, not during the day, and they said, “It’s tradition!”

I was shocked AND I was so overjoyed! This seemingly inconsequential event holds a special place for them and that was a special gift to learn, even if we were getting ready to blow it up! So, as we got closer to Sunday, my prayers were “let it go smoothly” and “may at least one person find a blessing in this time together.” Those prayers were answered in more ways than I am at liberty to explain. I got to watch as a bland sanctuary came alive with color and a spirit of God inside all those who gathered and participated. The paraments, the poinsettias, the Chrismons, the Advent wreath—they all looked amazing. But the best was hearing voices come together in song and watching people work together to bring beauty to life.

I have heard many positive things from the service, even from those who watched it from home. Some have even suggested that it become—wait for it—a new TRADITION! It was an awareness, that old traditions are important, but maybe new ones can be started with just as much importance.

I am sure that your family, like mine, have traditions you have done for ages during this season and even others. However, we all know that life happens where some of those traditions can’t continue or are forced to change. When things like moving to a new home or facing the season without a family member occur, it’s not as easy to get excited for the season. Sometimes, we just feel numb and doing something like cooking or decorating or even shopping seem too exhausting. It is so understandable.

I do want to suggest this. It’s ok. It’s ok if you need to change a tradition, or if you need to start a new one. Traditions are gifts that have been shared with loved ones or in special places. We should cherish those gifts. But can we not also begin new ones? You don’t give the same gift every year do you? (Well, I do ask for shower gel every year and get it.) So I would invite you to not be afraid to try something new—but only if you want. Because even in the midst of change, we can still find joy in those old traditions as well. May your season be blessed!

Grace and peace,

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Brenthaven members, family, and friends are invited for a service celebrating the arrival of God’s gift to ALL. This candlelight service is a meaningful tradition for many and a special time for all ages. Please join us for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** at 6:00 pm.



THE GIVING TREE



The CPWM would like to thank everyone who has participated in this year's **Giving Tree**, making it a special Christmas for the 15 children from the **Sacred Sparks laundry ministry**. Please return the gifts to the tree by **December 10** (unwrapped and labeled with child's name, or if wrapped, labeled with contents). Or, you may make a donation to *Brenthaven Church*, marked for *Giving Tree*.

There is also a **Merry Meals Drive** for holiday food items the families may enjoy. Please see the sign by the Sacred Sparks table for suggestions.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Sunday, December 14, the Sanctuary Choir will present this year's cantata, *Glory to the New Born King! Celebrating the Light of Christmas* by Lloyd Larson. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the Brenthaven **Christmas Lunch**. Meat and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry, and everyone is asked to bring a covered side dish or dessert to share. Come and be blessed with the music of Christmas and enjoy a festive lunch with family and friends.

CPWM NEWS



The Brenthaven Women's Ministry welcomed a guest speaker at our October meeting who spoke on **Friends of Adziwa Christian School**.

Adziwa means *He knows!* **Emily Wright** shared personal stories about her experiences with the Adziwa school in Malawi, Africa. Emily attends Church of the City in Franklin, Tennessee. Eighteen years ago their pastor sought out ways to help widows and orphans and heard of Adziwa. As a result of the 1980s HIV epidemic, many children became orphaned. This school was founded to help care for and educate them.

They now have kindergarten through high school, plus a technical school that not only educates but offers health care. Friends of Adziwa is a standalone nonprofit. Emily is on the Board of Directors as well as a part of the missions team that "travel alongside" the children. They aid the guardian homes, helping 137 families through the program. She says you see the Fruits of the Spirit in every child. They are a joy!

JOIN US!

Can You Dig It—2nd meeting **December 6**, 10:00 am–12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Hosts: Donna Kirby and Anita Tilley). We'll offer simple ideas to repurpose "found" materials in your landscape.

Please **RSVP** to the hosts or the church office.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Children's Christmas Program will be this **Sunday, December 7**, at 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be a reception immediately following. Please bring some finger foods to share.

HELP US FINISH THE PRAYER GARDEN

We're almost there, and we need your hands and hearts to help finish the Prayer Garden project! Join us for a Church Workday on **Sunday, December 7** after worship to lay the pavers together. We'll keep it simple—pizza for lunch and plenty of good company as we work side by side. The children's program is that evening, but we hope to finish early enough for everyone to head home, clean up, and return for the celebration. If you're able, come to worship dressed in your work clothes and let's finish this together.

LIVE NATIVITY

Our **Live Nativity** is **Sunday, December 21** from 5:00–8:00 pm. This is a church-wide event and an opportunity to welcome our neighbors and remind all about the *Christ* in Christmas. We will need volunteers for set up, welcome tables, cooking and bringing soups, working in the kitchen, serving guests, hosts for walking groups of people through the live nativity, actors in the live nativity, and clean up after the event. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jonelle Summitt (615-414-4550 or jonellesummitt@gmail.com). Thank you!



YOUTH ROCKS WINTER RETREAT

Join us for an unforgettable **Winter Retreat** in Nashville from 4:00 pm on **Friday, January 2** through 2:00 pm on **Sunday, January 4**. The cost is \$200.00 per youth, covering all activities, meals, and lodging.

Please note: Space is limited to 20 youth, so first come, first served. Once the spots are filled, they're gone! Don't wait to sign up!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Judy Rebner
Johnny Rush (*father of Kip Rush*)

Members

Ty Allen, Jeri Behan, Joan Bledsoe, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, David Dowland, Bob Dozier, Marilyn Ewen, Carol Ford, Barbara Gentry, Tim Ghianni, Carol & Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Suzanne Hawkins, Tommy Hennesy, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Marty Morris, Rose O'Hara, Jack Phillips, Larry Pulley, Jodi Rush, Phil Slagle, Cheryl & Don Tabor, Jane & James Talley

Family and Friends

Jon Bates (*nephew of Kaye Holland*), Sierra Broome (*friend of Lorri Jean Pulley*), Mary Ruth Campbell (*step-mother of Barry & Darryl Campbell*), Betty Canupp (*mother of Betsy Canupp*), Lauren (*friend of Ame Satterwhite*), Waylon Cogbill (*great-grandson of Pat Chesnut*), Brenda Copeland (*niece of Martha Stewart*), John Copeland (*nephew of Martha Stewart*), Chrissy Deaton (*sister-in-law of Russ Deaton*), Melody Dobbins (*daughter-in-law of Kathy & Bill Dobbins*), Mary Dale Edwards (*mother of John Edwards*), Rev. Tim Ferrell, Harriet Gilliam (*friend of the Rushes*), Bill Garrett (*son of Beverly Garrett*), Miklos Gerendas, Eddie Grant (*friend of Becky & Ronny Jones*), Gregg Gross (*father of Ben Gross*), Chazz Jones (*friend of the Crafting group*), Hudson Jones (*friend of Joan Bledsoe's family*), David Kirby (*stepson of Donna Kirby*), Dianne Lyons (*aunt of Shali Scott*), Walter McBee, Jr. (*son of Walter McBee, Sr.*), Greg McEwen (*friend of Kaye Holland*), Bettie Mason (*friend of Barbara Dial*), Butch Mayes (*friend of Walter McBee*), Rick Prentice (*son-in-law of Ben Davis*), Troy Rhone (*nephew of Scott Shepherd*), Marjorie Shepherd (*mother of Sharon Malloy*), Bill Shouse (*uncle of Larry Pulley*), Judy Smith (*friend of Janiece Redmon*), Brittany Spradling, Jim Summitt (*uncle of Blair Summitt*), Gary Tessar (*friend of Jan Marshall*), Sarah Thomas (*friend of Megan Gregali*), Pat Travis (*mother of Julie Travis*), Bill Turner (*brother-in-law of Cheryl Tabor*), Lynn Underwood (*daughter of Dawn McBee*), Sandi Walter (*sister of Jim Tilley*), Matt West (*friend of the Flemings*), Danny Williams (*brother of Linda Pulley*), Iza Wojcik family and father John Kavouklis (*friends of Liz Strickland*), those serving our country

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

There is still time to join the Advent study *A Child Is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine. In this four-week study, you will discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus. We meet on **Tuesdays** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bill Jones

Joyce Burch, Jan & Larry Davidson, Sandra Moyers, Ame Satterwhite, Anita & Jim Tilley



THANK YOU!

We want to give a big thank you to **Jan Davidson** and **Jodi Rush** for hosting our son Calvin's baby shower a few weeks ago. This is a hugely overdue thank you to everyone for the amazing new baby supplies given to us. They sure are coming in handy right now in the middle of our baby madness! We appreciate the support and love from our Brenthaven family.

Kristin, Chris, and Calvin Dufresne

PROMISE KEPT

A night at the Nashville Zoo Illumination display was a promise kept for **Jackson Campbell, Leah McCulley, and Grady Deaton**. Seniors in high school now, these three missed out on some of the Step-UP activities when they were in 6th grade due to Covid restrictions. One such activity was a special outing. But **Ms. Cheryl** promised to make that date up, so last week was a night at the zoo with lights and laughter. Promise kept!



COMING SOON... ORGAN CONCERT

On **Sunday, January 4**, at 3:00 pm, we will be hosting an organ concert, featuring guest organist **Brenda Johnson** and our own **Amity Marsh**. You won't want to miss this special event!

BRENTHAVEN CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

516 Franklin Road
Brentwood, TN 37027-5909

Stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHOOL : 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:45 A.M.

PHONE: (615) 373-4826

FAX: (615) 373-4869

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UPCOMING EVENTS

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 7

- Dec 4** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Dec 6** 10:00 AM Can You Dig It (*Fellowship Hall*)
- Dec 7** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
12:00 PM Prayer Garden Project
5:00 PM Children’s Christmas Prog. (*Sanctuary*)
- Dec 9** 10:30 AM Bridge Group (*Youth Room*)
6:30 PM Session (*Adult Library*)
- Dec 10** 5:45 PM Youth ROCKS (*Fellowship Hall*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice (*Sanctuary*)
- Dec 11** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Dec 12–13** Young Adult Christmas at the Springs
- Dec 13** 9:30 AM Choir Practice (*Sanctuary*)
- Dec 14** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship (Choir Christmas Cantata)
12:00 PM Christmas Luncheon (*Fellowship Hall*)
5:00 PM Youth ROCKS (*Youth Room*)

Second Sunday of Advent (*blue*)

Isaiah 11:1-10;
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 30

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$11,125.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	6,011.00
Weekly Need	10,468.00
Received Year-to-Date	573,045.84
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	562,432.12
Difference	10,613.72

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Kip J. Rush, Senior Pastor
Ean Taylor, Associate Pastor
Linda Pulley, Director of Music
Amity Marsh, Organist
Karen Benefield, Office Admin (secretary@brenthaven.org)

Session – The Elders

<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Class of 2028</i>
Jeri Behan	Chris Fleming	Rachel Campbell
Jan Davidson	Renee McCulley	Bill Dobbins
Russ Deaton	Mike Murphy	Frank Scott
Joe Malloy	Ame Satterwhite	Scott Strickland