



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

STEWARDSHIP

It was over 24 years and a few months ago when Deborah and I, still dating and not yet engaged at the time, were looking for a church home and wandered into Brookhaven at the behest of my aunt, Jan Marshall. It remains one of the key moments in our lives, as we have called this our church home ever since. That moment has been on my mind recently as I have now spent half of my life as a member of this congregation (yes, I am staring down 50 next year). It is a catalyst for numerous reflections but among the most visceral and impactful to me is the long line of great people that we have gotten to know as part of this church, whose lives have touched us and this congregation. Many of them are still with us, still serving, still pursuing God alongside us in the pews each Sunday, but many have passed away. In many ways they are the architecture of this church's culture and their voices echo through the church halls and in our hearts. The impact that people like Guy Sneed, Billy Dial, Charlie Floyd, Ed and Jackie Bryan, Leroy and Dot Satterwhite, Hardy and Sandra Moyers, Dot Slagle, Myra Agee, Em Ghianni, and scores of others had on this church are immeasurable.

Along with these saints, there are so many others who have and still have a profound impact on so many aspects of this church and its congregation. Within that legacy is their long stewardship of this church's financial health. Brenthaven is blessed to have a strong financial foundation via our church property and manse, for which we have no debt. All of us who are currently part of the Brenthaven family stand on the shoulders of the generations who came before us who shepherded this congregation for decades past and who passed a legacy on to us of a thriving church in good financial standing.

It is with awe of their devotion and recognition of our responsibility now that the current Stewardship & Finance Committee works to strengthen Brenthaven and develop annual budget recommendations for the Session's consideration. For 2026, the Committee is doing its best to do just that by taking care of our staff, providing funding for numerous ministry opportunities, taking care of our property, and saving for a rainy day (or the inevitable broken HVAC unit, as it were). These things are only possible because of the faithful tithing of the Brenthaven family for which we are all incredibly grateful.

The church budget faces some higher costs, such as property insurance rates that have nearly tripled in three years. We also have benefited from consistent manse rental income, which helps contribute to our budget needs. Many of you observe our monthly Treasurer's Report, which summarizes our savings in the bank of about the equivalent of six months of our annual budget. While that number is reasonable, for a relatively small church, we hope to grow those reserves to about a year's worth of expenses so we can ensure that we can weather any rainy day.

Finally, any discussion of the church budget and finances must include a salute to the folks who toil on our behalf as Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Many thanks to Megan Gregali and Jan Marshall for their weekly work in taking care of the church bills and banking needs. Their dedication and expertise are a blessing and a source of great comfort. Our heartfelt gratitude to them, and the many faithful servants of today and days gone by who have served this church in so many ways.

—Russ Deaton



SHEPHERD/STEWARDSHIP LUNCH

The **Session** would like to invite everyone for a time of food and fellowship this **Sunday, November 16**, for our **Shepherd/Stewardship luncheon**. Everyone will sit with their group and their shepherds. This is a time for sharing and caring, for talking about the church and the ministry taking place, and for the church family to get together for a time of thanksgiving to God. Please make plans to be here and bring a tasty dish or two!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY – A CHILD IS BORN: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO NATIVITY STORIES

This Advent, you are invited to join as we study *A Child Is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine. In this study, you will discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this four-week Advent study. The book discusses the births of Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the Christmas story in the final chapter.

Pastor Kip will be leading the study. Beginning **Tuesday, December 2** at 9:30 am, we will meet in the Adult Library. An evening session will also be scheduled if there is interest and can be done online. That would likely begin on Monday, **December 1**. Each session will be one hour.

We can order books for you, or you can go online and get them on Amazon. Just let the church office know. We so hope you will join us. Please call the church and let us know if you are participating. If you are interested in the Monday evening, let us know this, as well.



THE GIVING TREE



The CPWM would like to invite you to participate in this year's **Giving Tree**, making it a special Christmas for the 15 children from the **Sacred Sparks laundry ministry**, the "Laundry Littles."

Look for the tree in the narthex with names, ages, sizes, and the wishes of the family. Choose an ornament, purchase the gift, and return it 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, made out to *Brenthaven Church*, marked for *Giving Tree*.

CPWM CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Our CPWM Christmas luncheon is **Tuesday, December 2**, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to join the celebration, which will include a fun program and a favorite carol or two. Please bring a covered dish to share.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Make a difference in a child's life with **Operation Christmas Child**. We are extending our collection of the shoeboxes until this **Sunday, November 16**. Look for the display in the Narthex.

BOOKEND BOOK CLUB

Searching for Sylvie Lee by Jean Kwok is November's selection for the **BookEnd Book Club**, meeting **Thursday, November 20** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library.

JOIN US!

Wine Sippers—2nd meeting **November 15** at 2:00 pm at Arrington Vineyards (Hosts: Jodi Rush and Nancy Humphrey). Enjoy an afternoon of good conversation and good company.

Sacred Grounds—2nd meeting **November 29**, 10:00 am at First Watch, Brentwood. (Hosts: Ean Taylor & surprise guest host). Bring your faith questions for discussion and lively conversations.

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 straight out of the Tennessee Smart Yard program 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 **December 7** at 5:00 pm. There will be a reception following. Everyone is welcome, and we hope you will come out and support our children.

We will have practice for this program on **November 30** from 4:30–7:00 pm in the sanctuary. All children are encouraged to participate.

LOAVES & FISHES



This is a reminder that we are participating in the Loaves & Fishes offering this month and will take up the boxes during worship on **Sunday, November 30**. If you need a box, come by the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Bill Jones (*brother of Ronny Jones*)

Gary Tessar (*friend of Jan Marshall*)

Members

Ty Allen, Jeri Behan, Joan Bledsoe, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, David Dowland, Bob Dozier, Marilyn Ewen, Carol Ford, Beverly Garrett, Barbara Gentry, Tim Ghianni, Carol & Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Suzanne Hawkins, Tommy Hennessy, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Marty Morris, Rose O'Hara, Jack Phillips, Larry Pulley, Jodi Rush, Phil Slagle, Cheryl & Don Tabor, 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*), 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*), Anne Walker (*friend of Tere Dowland*), 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*), churches in Haiti, those serving our country

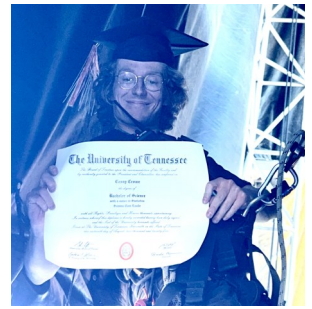
Deaths

Family of Joyce Wilding (*sister of Marilyn Elliott & Peggy Phelps*)



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

After receiving an associate's degree from Pellissippi State in Dec 2022, **Casey Crowe** graduated summa cum laude in May with a degree in statistics and minors in nutrition and English (technical communication) from the University of Tennessee. He has been hired



by Moo TV as a videographer and video wall engineer for Jason Aldean. He took his last exam in mid-May, then jumped on a tour bus and just wrapped the summer/fall tour this past weekend (and finally took this picture for his mom since he couldn't attend graduation). He is the son of Charlie and Kimberly Crowe, brother of Corina Crowe, and grandson of the late Don and Harvey Crowe, known by all as G'ma and G'pa. Congratulations, Casey!

SCENES FROM TRIVIA NIGHT...

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated and made our Sacred Sparks fundraiser a big success! (We will post the total amount raised once we have a final count.)



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

- Nov 13** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Nov 14** 5:00 PM Youth Lock-In (*Pick Up Sat. at 9:00 am*)
- Nov 15** 2:00 PM Wine Sippers (*Arrington Vineyards*)
- Nov 16** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
12:00 PM Shepherd Luncheon (*Fellowship Hall*)
- Nov 17** 10:00 AM Young @ Heart (*Adult Library*)
- Nov 19** 6:30 PM Choir Practice (*Choir Room*)
- Nov 20** 9:30 AM BookEnd Book Club (*Adult Library*)
11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Nov 22** 10:00 AM KOK Play Day
- Nov 23** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
12:00 PM Choir Practice (*Sanctuary*)

[Nov 26–28 Church office Closed for Thanksgiving]
(No newsletter for this week.)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 16

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (*green*)

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12;
Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13;
Luke 21:5-19

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 9

OPERATING BUDGET

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Dedicated Giving | \$5,341.05 |
| Donations towards Budgeted Expense | 7,085.30 |
| Weekly Need | 10,468.00 |
| Received Year-to-Date | 523,077.80 |
| Actual Spend Year-to-Date | 510,204.79 |
| Difference | 12,873.01 |

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 |