



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

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas! As you read this article, you are in the midst of the twelve days of Christmas. The twelve days of Christmas in Christian tradition fall between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Magi.

The Twelve Days of Christmas, also known as *Twelvetide*, is a festive Christian season celebrating the birth of Jesus. In 567 AD, the Council of Tours proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season, and established the duty of Advent fasting in preparation for the feast.

These twelve days were not only tied to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church but a host of other denominations also celebrated them. Even in the Dark Ages, in some Eastern European churches, the twelve days of Christmas meant attending daily church services. For Christians living during this extremely difficult time, these days were a time of rededication and renewal. It was also a period when children were given small, simple, and usually symbolic gifts of faith. The twelve days were considered a holy period in both coded poems and public worship.

The Twelve Days of Christmas is an English Christmas carol that lists a group of increasingly superb gifts given on each of the twelve days of Christmas. The song, published in England in 1780 without music as a chant or rhyme, is thought to be French in origin. The standard tune now is derived from a 1909 arrangement of a traditional folk melody by English composer Frederic Austin.

Many scholars deem *The Twelve Days of Christmas* a very important surviving example of a time when they used codes to disguise their teachings. Originally a poem, this song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the twelve days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs.

A Partridge in a Pear Tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

Two Turtledoves are the twin birds that represent the Old and New Testaments, the complete story of the Christian faith.

Three French Hens represent faith, hope, and love. They also represent the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Four Calling Birds represent the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Five Golden Rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament or Torah—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Six Geese a-Laying refer to God's creation in Genesis 1. The first day, the heavens and the earth were created; the second day, the sky and seas; the third day, the land and plants; the fourth day, the sun, moon, and stars; the fifth day, fish and birds; and the sixth day, land animals and mankind.

Seven Swans a-Swimming refer to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion.

Eight Maids a-Milking represent the gift of salvation that Christ offers to everyone. During this period of time, being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England. This code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of wealth. They also represent the eight Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3–10.

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Nine Ladies Dancing refer to the gifts known as the Fruits of the Spirit. They are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

Ten Lords a-Leaping refer to the Ten Commandments.

Eleven Pipers Piping represent the eleven disciples who carried out the gospel message: Simon (Peter); Andrew; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called the Zealot; and Judas, son of James.

Twelve Drummers Drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. (1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. (2) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. (3) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. (5) He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again. (6) He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. (7) He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (8) I believe in the Holy Spirit, (9) the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, (10) the forgiveness of sins, (11) the resurrection of the body, (12) and the life everlasting.

May you continue to enjoy this wonderful Christmastime,

Linda



ORGAN CONCERT

This **Sunday, January 4**, at 3:00 pm, Brenthaven Church is hosting an organ concert. This special event will showcase the remarkable range of the organ from powerful, majestic passages to gentle, prayerful melodies that speak to the heart. Whether you are a devoted lover of sacred music or looking for a meaningful and beautiful way to spend the afternoon, this concert promises to be both inspiring and memorable.

Reception following the concert.

CAN YOU DIG IT

Are you dig'n a farm-to-table feast? Then join our Dig'ers table for delectable vittles and lively mustard seed discussion, sure to nourish your body and soul. We will gather **Saturday, January 24** from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (location TBD). We are dig'n you joining us, and we promise you'll dig it too. Hosts are Donna Kirby and Anita Tilley. Please RSVP to one of the hosts if interested.

VBS WINTER OLYMPICS

Brenthaven Church is hosting a one-day winter **Vacation Bible School** event with a Winter Olympics theme. This event will take place on **Saturday, January 31** from 10:00 am–3:00 pm. Look for registration information to come.



LIVE NATIVITY 2025

It was a really lovely evening at Brenthaven, probably the best yet! This was the 16th year we have undertaken this event, and each year has gotten better and better. It's hard to imagine a Christmas season without it. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a wonderful success!

Folks who attended shared their feelings of Brenthaven's Live Nativity:

"Loved it! We attend another church but enjoyed this special Christmas activity."

"Thank you for putting this on, it was a great Christmas activity for our family."

"This is a tradition in our family—we have been going for over 10 years. It is so nice to have a hands-on reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Our children loved the animals when they were little. Now they are college age, and they appreciate the story and hospitality of Brenthaven Church."



PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

Ty Allen, Jeri Behan, Joan Bledsoe, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, David Dowland, Bob Dozier, Marilyn Ewen, Carol Ford, Barbara Gentry, Tim Ghianni, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Suzanne Hawkins, Tommy Hennesy, Mac Holland, 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*), Harriet Gilliam (*friend of the Rushes*), Bill Garrett (*son of Beverly Garrett*), Miklos Gerendas, Amy Glenn (*daughter of Becky & Ronny Jones*), 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*), Jenny Rowe (*sister of Liz Strickland*), Johnny Rush (*father of Kip Rush*), Marjorie Shepherd (*mother of Sharon Malloy*), Bill Shouse (*uncle of Larry Pulley*), Judy Smith (*friend of Janiece Redmon*), Brittany Spradling, Caden Sullivan (*grandson of Nina Sullivan*), 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*), those serving our country

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Bill Jones

Brenda & Ron Medlin

In Honor of Jackson & Isabel Draper-Hasty

Brenda & Ron Medlin

In Honor of Ame Satterwhite

Anita and James Humphreys



Barrett Strickland auditioned as an 8th grader at mid-state recently on percussion with the 7th-8th graders. He made first alternate. Congratulations, Barrett!

Caleb Marsh auditioned as a 9th grader at mid-state recently on trumpet competing with 9th-10th graders. He made 10th chair gold band. He will be performing with the gold band on January 17. (The location is TBD.) Congratulations, Caleb!

Leah McCulley auditioned as a 12th grader at mid-state in late November with the 11th-12th graders. She made the 19th chair gold band. She will be performing with the gold band on January 17. (The location is TBD.) Congratulations, Leah!



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

- Jan 1-2** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Jan 2-4** YOUTH WINTER RETREAT
- Jan 4** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
3:00 PM Organ Concert (*Sanctuary*)
- Jan 5** 10:00 AM Young @ Heart (*Adult Library*)
- Jan 7** 6:30 PM Choir Practice (*Choir Room*)
- Jan 8** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Jan 11** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
5:00 PM Youth ROCKS (*Youth Room*)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY 4

Epiphany (*white*)

Isaiah 60:1-6;
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
 Ephesians 3:1-12;
 Matthew 2:1-12

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR DECEMBER 28

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$10,600.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	18,282.92
Weekly Need	10,468.00
Received Year-to-Date	656,544.84
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	601,523.11
Difference	55,021.73

*Wishing you a happy New
 year! May this year be filled
 with hope, peace, and love!*

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

Class of 2026

Jeri Behan
Jan Davidson
Russ Deaton
Joe Malloy

Class of 2027

Chris Fleming
Renee McCulley
Mike Murphy
Ame Satterwhite

Class of 2028

Rachel Campbell
Bill Dobbins
Frank Scott
Scott Strickland