



AUGUST 6, 2025

VOL. 21, NO. 32

# 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](http://www.brenthaven.org)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Whew! What's next? These last couple of weeks have been filled with a variety of unique activities. I spent last week in Louisville at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a youth event that is supposed to happen every three years, though it's been six years since the last one. It brings Presbyterian (CP and PCUSA) youth from all over the country for a time of worship, study, and fun. Brenthaven was represented by Ean Taylor, Jackson Campbell, Sophie Silvas and myself.

This was the 15<sup>th</sup> Triennium, and I have attended all but the first two. It was amazing that I reconnected with folks who were once in my small group and who now are leading small groups or serving in some other capacity. Janine was in my small group in 1992. She was an adult advisor then, and now has become a mainstay at Triennium. Christian was also an adult advisor in my group in 1998. I hadn't seen him since then, and we recognized each other in the hallway and caught up.

The worship was amazing, the youth were awesome, and the event, held in Louisville for the first time, was a great success. I am praying that 2028 will once again afford our youth an opportunity to attend.

As soon as I returned to town, I changed gears for worship and celebration on Sunday. It was truly a special day as we recognized Cheryl Morris for her 23 years of service to Brenthaven. As you read the newsletter, you will see just how special the day was and how special Cheryl has been. I know I have picked at her for many moons now, but it is only because I know she can handle it and because she is a treasured colleague and friend. And now, every time we walk into the children's wing, it will remind us all of her dedication to the church—the *Cheryl Morris Children's Wing*. It just sounds right!

The week continued with a new TV show renting the parking lot for three days. Monday and Wednesday have seen cars and trucks come and go. But on Tuesday, a little town was created in our parking lot as over 120 people were in and out. They fed all of those folks in the Fellowship Hall (including our staff). It was a delight to meet the chef and his staff and watch as hungry folks came here to be nourished.

AND—while that was going on, the narthex area was being used to give blood for the Red Cross. They were here from 10–2 and had a somewhat steady stream of persons donating their blood. Tuesday was a crazy day at Brenthaven! Whew!

So as I take a breath and type one finger at a time, one question runs through my mind—what's next? What's the next activity to get into? What's next for the children's ministry? What's next now that school has started back? What's next?

I'm glad you asked! On the one hand, there are those groups and activities we do every year on the horizon: Trunk or Treat, Youth ROCKS, Christmas Eve, potlucks, CPWM, Creative Crafts, Young @ Heart, etc. But on the other hand, that same question is filled with wonder and uncertainty. Who will work with our children? What should we be doing at the church? And likely you have other burning questions about Brenthaven.

I think we have an opportunity to really look at what we do, how we do, and why we do things at the church and maybe venture down different roads. Now, let's be clear, going different directions means we leave our comfortable ways and venture into unfamiliar territory. Maybe Wednesday nights looks different. Maybe we make some adjustments to worship. Maybe what's next is something you have in mind.

So I ask two things of you. First and foremost, be in prayer for Brenthaven Church—praying that we are guided to make the right decisions for the church and that God will send someone to assist working with our children. And second, make plans to attend the ENGAGE lunch, after worship on August 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be led in a discernment process as we look to answer that question—What's next?

Grace and peace,

## A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION



Over 30 KOKers and alumni attended the **Retirement Celebration for Cheryl Morris**. Cheryl was presented with a plaque naming the “Cheryl Morris Children’s Wing.” She also was given a stained glass window, a card from KOK kids, and a scrap-

book of her 22 years of ministry where people wrote her notes. The fellowship hall was filled with props and costumes from past children’s adventures, and there was even an ice cream bar in honor of Cheryl’s sentiments that kids should never go home without ice cream.



## MANY THANKS!

Boy, you guys know how to throw a girl a party! Sunday’s outpouring of thanks, gratitude, and love was so amazing for me and my family. Thank you! To see so many faces of former KOK’ers and parents, so many church members wishing me well, the decorations in the Fellowship Hall, and all those pictures of times past, spent with people I love so much—my heart was truly filled and I thank you so very much. The naming of the *Cheryl Morris Children’s Wing* is an honor I never expected and still can’t believe. I am so grateful. It’s time now for me to take some time and visit family and friends and rest; but then I’ll be back at church ready to worship and volunteer where I can. Thank you all for the blessing you are to me.

Love,

*Ms. Cheryl*

## BOOKEND BOOK CLUB



*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus is August’s selection for the **BookEnd Book Club**, meeting on **Thursday, August 21** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library.

## PASS THE PLATE?



Because many of us now transfer money to the church electronically, we have nothing physical to put in the offering plate. It has made for some awkward moments on Sunday mornings when it’s time for tithes and offerings. Should we change how this is done?

Let’s think about why we even pass a plate. In the service, it is a time for us to reflect on what we have been given by God—**life, the day, love, and grace**. Without these we are nothing. So, in return, we are moved to give back. It can be our time, our talents, our reflection, or our desire to move closer to God. We may not have cash or checks in hand, but when we touch the plate and pass it to our neighbor, we can remember all that we have been given. In doing so, we share the experience with other people in the pew. The whole congregation is united in this ritual.

So.....pass the plate?..... **Absolutely!**

—A church member

## SESSION MINUTES SUMMARY JULY 15, 2025

Prayer concerns were shared.

Program Ministry Reports were provided.

Next All Ministry Meeting: September 7.

Plans are underway for celebration of Cheryl Morris’ retirement.

ENGAGE will be onsite August 24<sup>th</sup>. Following lunch, all are invited to stay and participate.

Ministry Brands will be updating the church website over the next few months.

Quotes are being collected for a new insurance provider for the church.

Session prayed over the prayer squares prepared by the Creative Ministry so they can begin to be distributed to those in need/on request.

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

The **Missions Ministry** is collecting hygiene products for **Norman Binkley Elementary School** (a Title I school). We will collect for the school **through Sunday, August 17**.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Recent Additions

Shania Bragg (*requested prayer*)  
Phyllis Burkhalter

### Members

Ty Allen, Jeri Behan, Joan Bledsoe, Ben Davis, David Dowland, Bob Dozier, Marilyn Ewen, Carol Ford, Barbara Gentry, Tim Ghianni, Carol Gonzales, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Garrett Gross, Suzanne Hawkins, Tommy Hennesy, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Marty Morris, Rose O'Hara, Jack Phillips, Jodi Rush, Phil Slagle, Cheryl Tabor, 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*), Brenda Copeland (*niece of Martha Stewart*), John Copeland (*nephew of Martha Stewart*), CPL Andrew Dial (*grandson of Barbara Dial*), Melody Dobbins (*daughter-in-law of Kathy & Bill Dobbins*), Mary Dale Edwards (*mother of John Edwards*), Jamie Travis Gallimore (*sister of Julie Travis*), Bill Garrett (*son of Beverly Garrett*), Miklos Gerendas, Ann Ghianni (*sister-in-law of Tim Ghianni*), Gregg Gross (*father of Ben Gross*), Doug Johnson (*friend of Shali & Frank Scott*), Chazz Jones (*friend of the Crafting group*), Hudson Jones (*friend of Joan Bledsoe's family*), David Kirby (*stepson of Donna Kirby*), 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*), Troy Rhone (*nephew of Scott Shepherd*), Rev. Teresa Shauf (*CP Minister*), 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*), Bill Turner (*brother-in-law of Cheryl Tabor*), Lynn Underwood (*daughter of Dawn McBee*), Matt West (*friend of the Flemings*), Joyce Malone Wilding (*sister of Marilyn Elliott & Peggy Phelps*), Iza Wojcik family and father John Kavouklis (*friends of Liz Strickland*), those serving our country

### Deaths

Family of Marcine Cook (*friend of the Rush Family*)



Prayers

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### *In Memory of Guy Sneed*

Amy & Stephen Glenn, Syble Mitchell

### *In Honor of Anna Grace Wooten*

Joan Bledsoe



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately following worship on **Sunday, August 17**, Brenthaven Church will hold a congregational meeting to elect the Elder class of 2028. This meeting will be for in-person attendees. The four members nominated are: **Rachel Campbell, Bill Dobbins, Frank Scott, and Scott Strickland**. We are thankful to these members for their willingness to serve.

A special thanks goes to **Fred Ford, Jr., Suzanne Ghianni, Mark Humphrey, and Gwen Keiser** for their service, which will come to a close at the end of August. Brenthaven is blessed to have so many faithful persons who answer the call to serve.

## CHOOSING A JOYFUL LIFE

**Worship with all your heart.**

**Pray genuinely.**

**Love your church.**

**Believe that God loves you.**

**Remember the stories of Jesus.**

**See Christ in the people around you.**

**Share God's love with someone who has forgotten it.**

**Delight in God's good gifts.**

**See that all of life is holy.**

**Open your heart to the spirit.**

**Search for something deeper and better than your own comfort.**

**Live in the joy beneath it all.**

**Let God make your life wonderful.**

(Submitted by Beverly Garrett)

**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

www.brenthaven.org

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Aug 7**      **11:00 AM** Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Aug 9**      **2:00 PM** Missions Ministry Meeting (*AL*)
- Aug 10**     **9:30 AM** Sunday School  
**10:45 AM** Worship
- Aug 12**     **10:30 AM** Bridge Group (*Youth Room*)  
**6:30 PM** Session (*Adult Library*)
- Aug 13**     **6:30 PM** Choir Practice Begins (*Choir Room*)
- Aug 14**     **11:00 AM** Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Aug 17**     **9:30 AM** Sunday School  
**10:45 AM** Worship

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST 10**

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (*green*)  
 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Psalm 50:1-8,22-23;  
 Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22;  
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16;  
 Luke 12:32-40

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR AUGUST 3**

**OPERATING BUDGET**

Dedicated Giving	\$400.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	13,426.00
Weekly Need	10,468.00
Received Year-to-Date	324,452.05
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	352,685.30
Difference	<b>-28,233.25</b>

**STAFF & LEADERSHIP**

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

**Session** – The Elders

<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>
<b>Fred Ford, Jr.</b>	<b>Jeri Behan</b>	<b>Chris Fleming</b>
<b>Suzanne Ghianni</b>	<b>Jan Davidson</b>	<b>Renee McCulley</b>
<b>Mark Humphrey</b>	<b>Russ Deaton</b>	<b>Mike Murphy</b>
<b>Gwen Keiser</b>	<b>Joe Malloy</b>	<b>Ame Satterwhite</b>