



MAY 14, 2025

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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

BE STILL AND KNOW

I'm not sure how you usually approach your weeks, but I have a tendency to appreciate them when life flows as it was planned. However, as you all know I am sure, life never happens exactly as you plan it. It happened again last week when we had to take Jodi to the hospital. Thankfully, as I write this, she is home and doing much better and I can't thank you enough for the prayers.

A day that had plans like getting ready for worship, washing clothes, and packing for the Festival of Homiletics and a board of trustees meeting for Memphis Seminary, ended up becoming a long day in the Williamson Medical Emergency Room, followed by trying to focus on worship and waiting to see when she may get to come home. Needless to say, my mind was racing and getting rest was almost non-existent.

And then, in last week's sermon, I talked about listening for the voice of God. In the midst of the chaos, had I lost my mind? The distractions and concerns had so invaded my mind that trying to discern God's voice was not only the last thing on my mind, but it seemed impossible.

I am sure you have had those days and weeks and I am not suggesting anything I went through is unique. It is just life. Life throws all sorts of things at us and we struggle to keep our wits about us and trying to hear the voice of God is all but impossible.

So today, when I went to my first session this morning in Atlanta, I found myself in the chapel, which is a designated quiet space for the Festival. I sat down in a pew and just listened. I noticed the stained glass windows, the overwhelming lack of sound, and a spirit filled presence of quiet. For a few moments, I was just following the psalmist's call in Psalm 46: *"Be still and know that I am God."*

Psalm 46 is a reminder of God's faithful presence in the midst of life's storms. It begins with words that anchor the soul: *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* That simple truth leads to a bold conclusion: *"Therefore we will not fear."*

The verses that follow reveal a world in turmoil. The psalmist describes a scene where mountains fall into the heart of the sea, and roaring waters threaten to engulf everything. This is not calm, peaceful imagery—it is chaos. And for many of us, it mirrors how life can feel. Sometimes, it all feels like the ground beneath us is shifting. And yet, in the midst of this whirlwind, God speaks a word that is both simple and profound: *"Be still."*

Be still? When the world is burning? Be still? When systems are breaking down? When difficult decisions loom? Be still? When the pressures of life are mounting? Shouldn't we be doing something? Well, yes—and no.

Yes, we are called to faithful action. But Psalm 46 reminds us that faithful action must be rooted in holy stillness. It is in stillness that we "know" God—not just intellectually, but intimately. This kind of knowing shapes how we live, how we discern, and how we endure.

Too often, busyness becomes our default response to uncertainty. We fill our days with stuff, hoping that doing will bring clarity. But the truth is, busyness can drown out the still, small voice of God. When we allow ourselves brief moments of stillness, we gain a fresh perspective. We might realize we've been expending energy in the wrong areas. We might notice things we had previously overlooked.

Stillness isn't inactivity—it's intentional surrender. It's the quiet place where we are reminded that the weight of the world doesn't rest on our shoulders. It's where we remember that God is still God, even in the storm.

As faith-filled followers of Jesus, as people trying to navigate busy lives, let's not neglect the sacredness of stillness. Make space for it. Guard it. For in the quiet, God reveals—and in knowing God, we find strength to move forward.

Grace and peace,

GRADUATION NOTES



Please take a moment to fill out a note card on the display for **Luke Deaton** and **Lilly Van Allen**. Include your wishes, prayers, or your support and guidance as they prepare to take the next steps in their journey. You may also bring your own cards. We will present these special youth with a Bible during worship on **Sunday, May 25, Graduate Recognition Sunday**.

BRENTHAVEN VBS 2025

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World is the theme for our **Vacation Bible School Program** this year. Each night, Bible stories and scripture will be taught to our children to help them understand that we can always trust Jesus because he's always there, rock solid and dependable. For example, every day has a *Bible Point* to make, and some pretty cute animals will help us do that. Such as:



PONDER: When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.



CLAWDIA: When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus.



KODY: When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus!



BRUCE: When we need help, we can trust Jesus.

While the kids learn to follow God as their compass, adults are invited to explore a deeper, more mature take on the same theme. It all starts **June 23** and goes through **June 26** from 5:30–8:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm for all attendees and volunteers. **Registration forms** are in the narthex and also at Brenthaven.org. **Sign-up sheets** for the adult class are in the office.

We need volunteers for all areas, including assisting teachers, shepherding the children, administering first aid, decorating, helping in the kitchen, and cleaning up. Please contact Ms. Cheryl or the church office if you would like to help.

BOOKEND BOOK CLUB



The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon is May's selection for **BookEnd Book Club**, meeting **Thursday, May 15** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library.

This is a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

MISSIONS MINISTRY NEWS

Loads of Love—The Missions Ministry is collecting laundry detergent for Sacred Sparks Loads of Love Ministry throughout the **month of May**. Please bring your donations and leave them on the Sacred Sparks table in the narthex.

Youth ROCKS Missions Trip—The Missions Ministry is also collecting items **through June 15** for the Youth ROCKS Missions Trip. Place the items below in the basket next to the church office. (You may bring the gas cards to the church office and place them in the basket on the front desk.)

- ◆ **Garden or Work Gloves**
- ◆ **Individual-Size Snacks for Treat Bags**
- ◆ **Gas Cards (for those who deliver goods)**
- ◆ **Boxed/Bagged Brownie or Cookie Mix**

Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering—You may give anytime throughout the year, but we will be collecting a special offering on **Pentecost Sunday, June 8**. The Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering is the only way the Cumberland Presbyterian Church supports Cumberland Presbyterian Missionaries. Your contribution goes to support their salaries and benefits as missionaries.

CPWM NEWS



Our next meeting will be **May 27**, and we will meet at the church at 10:00 am to sign cards and to car pool to the **Nashville Diaper Connection**. Every year we volunteer to help pack diapers to be distributed to those in need throughout our area. Nashville Diaper Connection is an organization dedicated to ensuring that every baby in Nashville has enough diapers to remain clean, dry, and healthy. Please join us!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Joyce Burch

Members

Charles Belew, Joan Bledsoe, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, Bob Dozier, Marilyn Ewen, Carol Ford, Barbara Gentry, Tim Ghianni, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Brooke Gross, Suzanne Hawkins, Tommy Hennesy, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Cheryl Morris, Marty Morris, Bill Moser, Rose O'Hara, Keith Perryman, Jack Phillips, Jodi Rush, Phil Slagle, Guy Sneed, Cheryl Tabor, James Talley

Family and Friends

Jon Bates (*nephew of Kaye Holland*), Sierra Broome (*friend of Lorri Jean Pulley*), Michelle Burke (*daughter of Joyce Burch*), Mary Ruth Campbell (*step-mother of Barry & Darryl Campbell*), Betty Canupp (*mother of Betsy Canupp*), Claire Cheek (*friend of Becky Jones*), Lauren (*friend of Ame Satterwhite*), Brenda Copeland (*niece of Martha Stewart*), John Copeland (*nephew of Martha Stewart*), Steve Crawford (*friend of Carol Perryman*), Mac Crome (*cousin of Miab Faircloth*), Melody Dobbins (*daughter-in-law of Kathy & Bill Dobbins*), David Dowland (*husband of Tere Dowland*), Kathy Dozier (*daughter-in-law of Bob Dozier*), Mary Dale Edwards (*mother of John Edwards*), Charlotte Galambos & Michael Gerandas, Jamie Travis Gallimore (*sister of Julie Travis*), Seth Genes (*friend of the McCulleys*), Ann Ghianni (*sister-in-law of Tim Ghianni*), Gregg Gross (*father of Ben Gross*), Rev. Tommy Jobe (*father of Renee McCulley*), 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*), Rev. Dwight Liles (*CP Minister*), Rex Lineberry (*brother of Pat Chesnut*), Walter McBee, Jr. (*son of Walter McBee, Sr.*), Greg McEwen (*friend of Kaye Holland*), Bettie Mason (*friend of Barbara Dial*), Shari Mehok (*sister of Karen Benefield*), Kathleen Murphy (*daughter of Julie & Mike Murphy*), 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*), Rev. Buddy Travis (*father of Julie Travis*), Bill Turner (*brother-in-law of Cheryl Tabor*), Lynn Underwood (*daughter of Dawn McBee*), Philip & Isabel Ward (*parents of Heather MacDonald*), Matt West (*friend of the Flemings*), Hayden White (*friend of Becky Jones*), Joyce Malone Wilding (*sister of Marilyn Elliott & Peggy Phelps*), Iza Wojcik family and father John Kavouklis (*friends of Liz Strickland*), those serving our country



GET READY...

FOR A NIGHT OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL!

Join us on **Wednesday, June 11** at 7:00 pm for a toe-tapping, soul-lifting concert with **Southridge Gospel Music!** This talented quartet brings rich harmonies, heartfelt lyrics, and energy that's contagious. Bring a friend and get ready for a joyful night of music that will have you smiling and singing along. You won't want to miss it!



HAVE A SPECIAL GRADUATE?

Do you have a special graduate you would like to tell us about? If so, please contact the church office by email: secretary@brenthaven.org or by phone: 615-373-4826 to leave your information. We would like to know your relationship to the graduate, any honors received, plans after graduation, and type of degree (if from a college).

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

May 25: Graduate Recognition Sunday

Jun. 1-6: High School Synodic Camp

Jun. 16-21: Youth ROCKS Mission Trip

Jun. 23-26: Vacation Bible School

July 6-11: CPYC

July 6-11: Junior Camp

July 13-18: Middle School Camp

MAY BLOOD DRIVE

The next **Blood Drive** will be on **Tuesday, May 27** from 12-5 pm. There will be a bus from **Blood Assurance** in the church parking lot. You can schedule your donations: bloodassurance.org/ brentwoodcommunity.org/. Walk-ins are welcome.

We will be partnering with Blood Assurance, as well as the American Red Cross, throughout the year for our blood drives. We will indicate in the newsletter where to register if you would like to schedule your donation ahead of time.

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 MAY 18

- May 15** **9:30 AM** BookEnd Book Club *(Adult Library)*
 11:00 AM Creative Crafts *(Adult Library)*
- May 18** **9:30 AM** Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship
 5:00 PM Youth ROCKS *(Youth Room)*
- May 19** **10:00 AM** Young @ Heart *(Adult Library)*
- May 21** **6:30 PM** Choir Practice *(Choir Room)*
- May 22** **11:00 AM** Creative Crafts *(Adult Library)*
- May 25** **9:30 AM** Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship (Graduate Recognition)

Fifth Sunday of Easter *(white)*

Acts 11:1-18;
 Psalm 148;
 Revelation 21:1-6;
 John 13:31-35

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR MAY 11

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$50.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	10,236.44
Weekly Need	10,468.00
Received Year-to-Date	210,116.62
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	241,363.29
Difference	-31,246.67

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>
Fred Ford, Jr.	Jeri Behan	Chris Fleming
Suzanne Ghianni	Jan Davidson	Renee McCulley
Mark Humphrey	Russ Deaton	Mike Murphy
Gwen Keiser	Joe Malloy	Ame Satterwhite