



JULY 30, 2025

VOL. 21, NO. 31

# 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)

## THE GIFT

A church receives many gifts. When a church receives a gift, it's typically tangible—a donation, new equipment, or perhaps a significant financial contribution. However, one of the most transformative gifts a church can receive is a person. Brenthaven received one such gift over 20 years ago in the person of **Cheryl Morris**.

When Cheryl began as the Children's Coordinator of the former Brookhaven Church, she brought more than just her resume. She and her family were already members of the church, and as such, knew the children and the adults with whom she would work. We had begun the new Workshop Rotation Model for our Sunday school program just a couple of years before, and needed someone to administer it. This provided the impetus for the new position of Children's Coordinator. Cheryl came in with fresh ideas and unique skills of compassion and dedication. She provided the spark we needed to revitalize the children's program at Brookhaven.



Following the merger of the Brookhaven and Brentwood churches, Cheryl stayed on staff as Children's Ministry Director for the new Brenthaven Church. In this fledgling congregation, she was invaluable in her ability to build relationships. She had strong emotional intelligence and communication skills that allowed her to foster collaboration between the two churches, thus building a more cohesive, engaged community. She took the reins of the new Sunday school program for the new church, helping to sustain the program for the 25 years it has been in use.

Needless to say, Cheryl has been a gift that keeps on giving. She has led the community in directing the Kids of the Kingdom program and the Vacation Bible School program. She has led the community in directing Christmas plays and children's services. But she hasn't done all this alone. She has the unique capacity of elevating the capabilities of those around her, drawing on members of the congregation to use their own talents in service to the community. That is a sure sign of a strong leader.

Finally, let me be a little selfish and tell you what a gift Cheryl has been to me, not only as a friend but also as a co-conspirator in the design and writing of lessons for our kids. As a member of the Curriculum Design Team for our children's Sunday school, Cheryl has been an invaluable asset to the other writers and me in tackling complex problems we have run into during the course of these 25 years. Each year, we writers get together and evaluate the upcoming year's lessons for usefulness, interest, and adherence to the year's theme. We depend on Cheryl to tell us what lessons worked, what lessons need to be tweaked a bit, and what lessons need to be completely thrown out and replaced. And she does! But no matter what, she is willing to try whatever we throw at her. She makes our job much easier as she bridges the gap between a theoretical good lesson and an actual, working good lesson. I thank her for that.

Yes, the church receives many gifts. While material gifts are necessary for the operation of the church, they are temporary. But the gift of a dedicated person is a lasting investment in the community. Cheryl has been, and remains, that gift to us. She leaves behind a legacy of learning and dedication, leaving this community stronger and more capable than before. Although she is leaving her post, she is not leaving us. I thank God for that.

Grace and peace,

Jan Marshall

## A NOTE OF THANKS

So many of you have expressed your thanks and best wishes to me as I prepare to retire. I thank you. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. It has been a privilege to serve the families and children of this church for 22 years, and I will continue to serve when and where I can. Marty and I are not going anywhere and will be around. And we both thank you for your concern and prayers for our health. We've certainly needed it.

There are so many people to thank who have helped me with the Children's Ministry. I pray that somewhere along the way I made sure to let you know how much I've



appreciated your help—all the writers of the Workshop Rotation Team, the teachers and shepherds, the VBS volunteers—the list goes on. But if you will allow me, there is one person to thank who helped make all my crazy imaginations and dreams come true. **Suzanne Ghianni**, with her gift of art, brought her creative genius to the church countless times to enhance the experience for the children. I can barely draw a stick person correctly, while Suzanne can make magic happen. There have been so many Vacation Bible School sets with so many different themes—from the rainforest to a spaceship, from the Olympics to Alaska. Every Christmas play had a set that the children delight-

ed in. And if they needed a special part to their costume or a secret hiding place for their lines, she made it happen. And each year, the children lead a Children's Service that often had different themes, and she helped make their imaginations come to light.

If two or twenty-two children or youth were involved, it didn't matter, because each child was going to get the best we could give. She encouraged and pushed me when I was frustrated and took any idea I had and made it better. (And thanks to Tim Ghianni for putting up with all those sets and props in his house, his car, and literally everywhere he turned. Thank you, Tim!) I'm so thankful and so very appreciative, and I know I speak for the children—Thank You!



*Ms. Cheryl*

*Pictured top right: Sunday School Prayer Garden; Middle left: River Rampage VBS; bottom right: Suzanne Ghianni, Kira Sutton, and Cheryl Morris. Note: there are too many pictures to show the years of Suzanne's work. Come Sunday to see more!*

## RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



Help us celebrate **Cheryl Morris** this **Sunday, August 3!** We invite you to honor her during the service and stay afterwards for a celebration luncheon.

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

The **Missions Ministry** is collecting for several ministries that have an immediate need: **Sacred Sparks**, **GraceWorks**, and our very own **Allie Crawford**, a teacher at **Norman Binkley Elementary School** (a Title I school). We will collect for the school **through Sunday, August 17**. Look for a list of needed items in the narthex. Thank you!

## BACKPACK BLESSING

This **Sunday, August 3**, during **worship**, we will have our annual **Backpack Blessing**. Bring your backpacks, diaper bags, briefcases, tote bags, purses, or sports bags to be blessed. Join us to be blessed, regardless of your age or stage of life!



## AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE



The next Blood Drive is **August 5**, from 10 am to 3 pm, in the church fellowship hall. To schedule an appointment, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter the code: **cityofbrentwood**.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Recent Additions

Bill Garrett (*son of Beverly Garrett*)

### Members

Ty Allen, Jeri Behan, Joan Bledsoe, Phyllis Burkhalter, 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 Hennessy, 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*), Marcine Cook (*friend of the Rush Family*), 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*), 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, Texas floods



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting to elect the elder class of 2028 will be held on **Sunday, August 17**, following worship.

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### *In Memory of Guy Sneed*

Jane Dowden

The new TV in the Children's wing theater is placed in **honor of Cheryl Morris** by Jan Marshall.

### CPWM YARD SALE

Our profit for the 2025 Yard Sale is 2,426.00!

Again, we want to thank everyone who helped to make this event a success.

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y	Aug. 2	Isobel Dobbins
	Aug. 4	Russ Deaton Anna Ford
	Aug. 5	Liz Strickland
	Aug. 6	Joan Bledsoe Joy Ewen Ollie Faircloth
	Aug. 8	Melinda Fleming
	Aug. 11	Heather MacDonald
	Aug. 12	Suzanne Hawkins Peggy Phelps
	Aug. 14	Sharon Malloy
	Aug. 15	Frank Scott
	Aug. 16	Dan MacDonald
	Aug. 17	Jacob Johnson
	Aug. 18	Carol Perryman
	Aug. 21	Emily Ghianni
	Aug. 22	Lisa Cook
	Aug. 23	Mark Humphrey
	Aug. 25	Barbara Gentry Gina Wattenbarger
	Aug. 27	Jennie Ford Deborah Rolman
	Aug. 29	Harper Dandrea
	Aug. 30	Betsy Canupp Ronny Jones Ian MacDonald
		Renee McCulley
	Aug. 31	Kate Humphrey Kennedy Kip Rush

**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**

- July 31**     **11:00 AM** Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Aug 3**       **9:30 AM** Sunday School  
**10:45 AM** Worship (Backpack Blessing)  
**12:00 PM** Celebration for Cheryl Morris
- Aug 4**       **10:00 AM** Young @ Heart (*Adult Library*)
- Aug 5**       **10 AM-3 PM** Blood Drive (*Fellowship Hall*)
- Aug 7**       **11:00 AM** Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Aug 10**      **9:30 AM** Sunday School  
**10:45 AM** Worship

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST 3**

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (*green*)

Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9,43  
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 and Psalm 49:1-12;  
Colossians 3:1-11;  
Luke 12:13-21

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR JULY 27**

**OPERATING BUDGET**

Dedicated Giving	\$498.49
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	5,267.11
Weekly Need	10,468.00
Received Year-to-Date	310,626.05
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	351,651.20
Difference	<b>-41,025.15</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

*Class of 2025*

**Fred Ford, Jr.**  
**Suzanne Ghianni**  
**Mark Humphrey**  
**Gwen Keiser**

*Class of 2026*

**Jeri Behan**  
**Jan Davidson**  
**Russ Deaton**  
**Joe Malloy**

*Class of 2027*

**Chris Fleming**  
**Renee McCulley**  
**Mike Murphy**  
**Ame Satterwhite**