



# 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

## PLEASE FORGIVE ME

My family knows by now that the events that happen in our lives will likely one day end up in a sermon. I know some don't like that, but it happens and I try very hard not to delve too deeply. Most of the time they accept the fact that I've told on them or me, and we move on. But sometimes, rarely, but sometimes, I get a story wrong (unintentionally, of course), and I am reminded that it "didn't happen that way at all." And there is emotion attached to those words.

A couple of weeks ago, I shared a story about Jodi and her car and my reaction to that event. The point I was making was the hesitation we have in wanting to tell what we have done, because we don't know how someone will react. (Much like this article.) I should have stopped at her telling me. But instead, I went forward and shared my reaction of care and concern. Thankfully, and somewhat surprisingly, Jodi did not call me out then and there at that moment.

She graciously (and sternly) corrected me on how that story transpired. As she said, "You didn't ask how I was. You knew I was fine." Then it all came rushing back, and I realized, she was right. I remember the first words I said when I saw the car and I cannot write all of them here, but I am sure you can imagine. It began with "What" and ended with an exclamation point. You know, she was right. I didn't tell the story correctly and I am publicly correcting that wrong. Please forgive me.

Since that day, many have heard me say that I was wrong and have heard Jodi's side of the story. Since that day, and even that day, we could go back and laugh a little and playfully pick at each other. It was a minor thing in the big scope of life. But, I felt it was important to correct that mistake. First and foremost because it is the right thing to do. But then I was reminded that it is the Lenten season and what better time to take a look in the mirror.

I know so often we think about giving up or even taking on something for Lent. But I think Lent is also a time for serious introspection of how we live our life, how we treat each other, and even how we treat our relationship with God. What things do we get right, and what things do we get wrong? And believe me, I get a lot of things wrong (not just stories about my family). And when we realize we have done something wrong, should we not try to rectify the situation by putting our egos behind us and saying, "Please forgive me"? Or changing the way we act to better show to whom we belong?

I am fully aware that Lent is not just about repentance, but I do think it is one facet of the season. I think it was summed up really well in 2021, when Pope Francis shared his suggestions for fasting during Lent:

*Fast from hurting words... and say kind words.*

*Fast from sadness...and be filled with gratitude.*

*Fast from anger...and be filled with patience.*

*Fast from pessimism...and be filled with hope.*

*Fast from worries...and have trust in God.*

*Fast from complaints...and contemplate simplicity.*

*Fast from pressures...and be prayerful.*

*Fast from bitterness...and fill your hearts with joy.*

*Fast from selfishness...and be compassionate to others.*

*Fast from grudges...and be reconciled.*

*Fast from words...and be silent so you can listen.*

It is so easy for us to forget the call that God has placed upon our lives to live faithful in our words and actions. I don't think for one minute we intend on hurting someone, but sometimes it happens. And when it does, how will we respond? Will we choose to ignore our failure or refuse to admit we have done anything wrong? Or, will we be humble enough to look at the person before us, or the God above us, and say, "Please forgive me"? It is amazing when someone says, "Yes, I forgive you," and when God says, "I do too."

Grace and peace,

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL TONIGHT

Catered dinner from 5:45–6:25

Classes from 6:30–7:30

\*Tonight's Dinner: Pizza

## MY OWN BACKYARD

We are collecting for *My Own Backyard* before Spring Break. We would like to collect **peanut butter crackers and apple sauce or fruit cups—individually wrapped**. We will collect these donations through **Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Look for the donation bin by the church office. Thank you!

## BOOKEND BOOK CLUB



*The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin is March's selection for the **BookEnd Book Club**, meeting **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library.

Life is short. No one knows that better than seventeen-year-old Lenni living on the terminal ward. But as she is about to learn, it's not only what you make of life that matters, but who you share it with.

Dodging doctor's orders, she joins an art class where she bumps into fellow patient Margot, a rebel-hearted eighty-three-year-old from the next ward. Their bond is instant as they realize that together they have lived an astonishing one hundred years.

To celebrate their shared century, they decide to paint their life stories: of growing old and staying young, of giving joy, of receiving kindness, of losing love, and of finding the person who is everything.

As their extraordinary friendship deepens, it becomes vividly clear that life is not done with Lenni and Margot yet.

Fiercely alive, disarmingly funny, and brimming with tenderness, *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* unwraps the extraordinary gift of life, even when it is about to be taken away, and revels in our infinite capacity for friendship and love when we need them most.



Don't forget to mark your calendars for our ladies' **Growing Together Brunch**, coming up **May 11<sup>th</sup>** at Brenthaven!

## DEAR BRENTHAVEN CHURCH,

Youth ROCKS wants to express our sincere appreciation for your incredible support in helping us reach and exceed our mission trip fundraising goal. We raised \$4,700 at last week's fundraiser event! Your dedication and hard work have truly made all the difference. Thank you all for being such amazing partners in our journey! Appalachia, here we come! —Youth ROCKS



## A VALENTINE THANK YOU!

Thank you and KOK so much for my Valentine box! I hope you're resting well, Ms. Cheryl, miss and love you! — Corina Crowe (Senior, Alabama)



Hi! I just wanted to thank you for doing such a lovely job with the Valentine's boxes and letting the kids make them for us college kids! I speak on behalf of every tired college student that getting a box with silly hand-drawn stuff all over it from a kiddo is definitely an honor and something we really do treasure.

— Anna Ford (Freshman, Belmont)

## WE LOVE VBS!

**Brenthaven's 2024 Vacation Bible School** is coming **June 24–27**.

It's not too early to start planning to be a part of this awesome ministry to our children. This year's theme is the Olympics. We need volunteers to help serve in all areas, including assisting teachers, shepherding the children, decorating, administering first aid, helping in the kitchen, and cleaning up afterwards. Please contact Ms. Cheryl or the church office if you would like to help.

## ☺ CHECK IT OUT! ☺

If you have an event, a recipe, a favorite book, or some special news you would like to share with us here in *The Messenger*, please reach out by phone or email and let us know about it (and don't forget the pictures). We have a "Spotlight" feature, but we also have a newer feature called "Check It Out!" But we need your help to gather the news, interesting finds, and all of the special things that others love to see and hear about. So be on the look out and email us with all the details at [secretary@brenthaven.org](mailto:secretary@brenthaven.org). Or call the church office: (615) 373-4826. Thank you!

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### New Additions

Forrest Sutton (*brother-in-law of Ean Taylor*)

### Members

Charles & Gladys Belew, Joan Bledsoe, Bill Blewett, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, Jane Dowden, Marilyn Ewen, Ollie Faircloth, Fred Ford, Sr., Barbara Gentry, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Tommy Hennesy, Linda Lipe, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Cheryl Morris, Jack C. Phillips, Jodi Rush, Guy Sneed, Cheryl Tabor, Don Tabor, Julie Travis

### Family and Friends

Pat Allen (*mother of Greg T. Allen*), Abby Bailey and Family (*friend of Jane Dowden*), Serenity Barksdale (*great-granddaughter of Barbara & Billy Dial*), Merritt Brakebill (*brother-in-law of Joe Malloy*), Becky Brown (*friend of Becky Jones*), Michelle Burke (*daughter of Joyce Burch*), Mary Ruth Campbell (*step-mother of Barry & Darryl Campbell*), Betty Canupp (*mother of Betsy Canupp*), John Copeland (*nephew of Martha Stewart*), Steve Crawford (*friend of Carol Perryman*), Mac Crome (*cousin of Miah Faircloth*), Johnny Cunningham (*friend of Ford family*), Kevin Floyd (*son of Treva Floyd*), Seth Genes (*friend of the McCulleys*), Ann Ghianni (*sister-in-law of Tim Ghianni*), Helen James (*friend of Julie Travis*), Doug Johnson (*friend of Shali & Frank Scott*), Rex Lineberry (*brother of Pat Chesnut*), Walter McBee, Jr. (*son of Walter McBee, Sr.*), Sue McClelland (*mother of Rachel Campbell*), Martha Malloy (*mother of Joe Malloy*), Jackie Nash (*friend of Julie Travis*), Sherry Norton (*friend of Deborah Deaton*), Ayden Orr (*friend of Ollie, Baird and Miah Faircloth*), Heather Perillo (*daughter of Dawn and Walter McBee*), Melissa Pyne (*granddaughter of Doris Cantagallo*), Yvonne Reid (*aunt of Liz Strickland*), Elwanda Roberts (*cousin of Cheryl Morris*), Raymond Roman (*friend of Amity Marsh*), Rev. Teresa Shauf (*CP Minister*), Brittany Spradling, Judy Smith (*friend of Janiece Redmon*), Jim Summitt (*uncle of Blair Summitt*), James Talley, Garry Todd (*friend of Barbara Dial and others*), Bill Turner (*brother-in-law of Cheryl Tabor*), Wilma Wade (*sister of Kaye Holland*), Philip & Isabel Ward (*parents of Heather McDonald*), Hayden White (*friend of Becky Jones*), Iza Wojcik family and father John Kavouklis (*friends of Liz Strickland*), those serving our country

## YOU ARE INVITED...

A wedding shower for:

***Gwendolyn Keiser & Preston Trammell***

**SATURDAY, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**  
**At Brenthaven**

Registered at Target. Gift cards are appreciated.

## MEMORIALS

### *In Memory of Giff Jordon*

Phil Slagle

### *In Memory of Wylene Nix*

Phil Slagle

**A Memorial** by Anita & Jim Tilley was installed in the front gardens: a dry creek bed and serenity garden bench ***in memory of Anita's dad, Don Beck.***



Mar. 3 Macye Johnson  
Mar. 4 Marty Morris  
Mar. 5 Benjamin Summitt  
Mar. 6 Shelley Johnson  
Mar. 7 Suzanne Johnson  
Randy Keiser  
Bonnie Pierce  
Mar. 8 Barrett Strickland  
Mar. 9 Charlie Crowe  
Mar. 10 Hudson Rich  
Mar. 12 Julie Murphy  
Mar. 18 Darryl Campbell  
Ben Gross  
Mar. 19 Greg Allen  
Blair Summitt  
Mar. 20 Larry Davidson  
Mar. 21 Mary Alexander  
Mar. 23 Fred Ford Jr.  
Mar. 26 Otis Hallbright  
Mar. 28 David Agee  
Mar. 29 Josh Peppers  
Mar. 30 Mike Murphy  
Mar. 31 Clarke Allen

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mar. 28:** Maundy Thursday Service  
**Mar. 29:** Good Friday/Tenebrae Service  
**Mar. 31:** Easter Service/Egg Hunt

**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**

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 3**

- Feb. 29** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Mar. 3** 9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship
- Mar. 4** 10:00 AM Young @ Heart (*Adult Library*)
- Mar. 5** 7 AM–7 PM Primary Election (*Fellowship Hall*)
- Mar. 6** 5:45 AM Wednesday Night Special  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)
- Mar. 7** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Mar. 9** 2:00 PM Wedding Shower (*Narthex*)
- Mar. 10** 9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship  
**(Daylight Saving Time Ends)**

*Third Sunday in Lent (purple)*

Exodus 20:1-17;  
Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25;  
John 2:13-22

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 25**

**OPERATING BUDGET**

Dedicated Giving	\$3,830.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	5,963.44
Weekly Need	10,822.00
Received Year-to-Date	105,908.40
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	114,992.03
Difference	<b>-9,083.63</b>

**STAFF & LEADERSHIP**

**Kip J. Rush**, Senior Pastor  
**Sandra Shepherd**, Assoc. Pastor of Christian Discipleship  
**Cheryl Morris**, Children’s Ministry  
**Ean Taylor**, Assoc. Pastor for Youth/Young Adult Ministry  
**Linda Pulley**, Director of Music  
**Amity Marsh**, Organist  
**Karen Benefield**, Office Admin (secretary@brenthaven.org)

**Session** – The Elders

<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>
<b>Ben Gross</b>	<b>Fred Ford, Jr.</b>	<b>Jeri Behan</b>
<b>Bart King</b>	<b>Suzanne Ghianni</b>	<b>Jan Davidson</b>
<b>Julie Murphy</b>	<b>Mark Humphrey</b>	<b>Russ Deaton</b>
<b>Jonelle Summitt</b>	<b>Gwen Keiser</b>	<b>Joe Malloy</b>