



JULY 19, 2023

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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

STRIVING TO BE THERE

It's raining. There is no question we need the rain these days, but the deluge we are getting is a bit much. I mean, if we could spread the amount out over a few days, it sure would be helpful. But instead, we get a deluge. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the rain, but there are two things that happen to me when it falls like it is now: I get sleepy (rainy sleep is AMAZING!) and there is a sense of melancholy as I look out my office window to a dark, dreary day. In some ways, it reminds me that everything isn't always sunshine and lemonade for everyone.

I get emails from a writer who I've mentioned before, Kate Bowler. I signed up for them, and they tell about her podcast and book and offer uplifting blessings and thoughts. The one today began this way: "If someone you love is going through a difficult time, I am so sorry." As I read that and watched the dark clouds roll through, I felt an overwhelming sense of concern. Because I do know people who are going through a difficult time and quite frankly, I don't know how to help them. You may be one of those people. And while I offer "thoughts and prayers," I can't help but think it's not enough. What else can I do?

In an interview Bowler did with author Ann Patchett, Patchett shared this about being there for a friend battling addiction, but it applies in all situations of struggle:

"You can't effect change, but you can witness it. You can't change the outcome, but you can sit with someone while they're going on their journey and just say, I see you and I'm here with you. And I know you're suffering. I just want to be there. I can't change it, and I can't stop it. But I can be there. That's it."

There is such wisdom in those words. We can't change the situation (and for me, that is so frustrating), but we can sit with someone, talk with someone, listen to someone — we can be there.

I have realized that for a while now, I have been so wrapped up inside my own issues, my own struggles, my own needs, that it has taken me away from the struggles and needs of others. I guess I'm guilty of being human because it happens to all of us at one time or another. Thankfully, I am a work in progress and striving to do better.

I think my prayer is that we (or maybe this is just for me) become more aware of the needs of those around us. That we look into the mirror less and more into our surroundings and the people around us. That when we sit in the pew on Sunday morning, we look into the eyes of our neighbor and see them, really see them, and offer a prayer for them. Or, maybe we take time to look at the pictures of those in the directory and offer a prayer or a word of encouragement. Or, maybe we sit in the silence of the moment, when all we can hear is the sound of rain drops in the midst of a dark morning, and lift names to God and ask for the empathy to walk with them in their struggles.

In one of Kate Bowler's books, she writes blessings, I share parts of this one with you:

Blessed are you who have realized that life is hard. And it's hard for everyone.

Blessed are you who gave up the myth that the good life is one of happiness, success, perfection.

The life that looks beautiful on Instagram, but isn't real.

Blessed are all of us who struggle, for we are in good company, and we'll never walk alone.

Grace and peace,

REV. KIM MOORE – SUNDAY, JULY 23

You are invited to come and listen to the newest missionary for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Rev. Kim Moore. Rev. Moore will be headed to Haiti and serving the Cumberland Presbyterian churches in the region. She will be sharing her work during Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall and then bringing God's word during worship. We are asking all adult classes and anyone else to come and hear her testimony and call story.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

On Sunday, August 13, we will have a congregational meeting to elect the elder class of 2026. All members of the church are requested to remain after worship for the meeting.

BACKPACK BLESSING

When our children, youth, and teachers return to school in August, they do not go alone. They go with the grace of God, the love of Christ Jesus, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit! They also go with the love and support of the Brenthaven Church family.

On Sunday, August 6, during worship, we will celebrate our annual Backpack Blessing. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks. Toddlers are invited to bring their diaper bags. Adults are encouraged to bring their backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, purses, sports bags, or other forms of conveyance for their daily “stuff” to be blessed, as well. Join us to be blessed, regardless of your age or stage of life!



WORKSHOP ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

We love our visitors in the Children's Wing for Sunday School. Our thanks to **Renee McCulley** who joined us in our study of the Parables of the Talents with the reading of *The Quiltmaker's Gift*.



BRENTHAVEN WOMEN'S MINISTRY

YARD SALE! Friday, July 28, 8–2
and Saturday, July 29, 8–12



Come on out and find those treasures!

In our July meeting, July 25th, we will be preparing for our Yard Sale. Lunch will be provided on Tuesday's work day, so come out and enjoy some fellowship while we work.

In our August meeting, we are planning to take a meal to share with our friends at *Loads of Love* at St. Luke's CP church in Madison, which is part of **Sacred Sparks Ministry**. Instead of meeting on the usual 4th Thursday, we will be meeting on the 5th Thursday, which is **August 29th**. Look for more details to come.

Brenthaven
Consignment
SALE
August 10–12

Thurs. 12–6, Fri. 10–6, Sat. 8–2

The fall **Consignment Sale** needs you, your friends, your stuff, and your time. We are now planning our fall sale. There are lots of slots where you can volunteer your time; there's something for everyone! We will have **setup on Sunday, August 6**, immediately following service. We will feed you if you volunteer to help. Then, consignors begin bringing in items to be sorted and placed on racks and tables. If organizing is your thing, here is a great place to help. On Wednesday, the sale begins. That evening, we open our sale to consignors and volunteers for the first look and chance to buy. From there, the sale continues until half-price day on Saturday, and break down that afternoon.

Would you like to help in other ways? Invite some people you know to consign, shop, and volunteer for our sale. Have too much of your own stuff cluttering your home? Sell it! Sign up to be a consignor and make 70% of everything you sell. The other 30% goes to support our youth and children's programs. So everyone wins! Need some help finding your place? Call me and I'll help: Jonelle at 615-414-4550.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Sandy Keene (*sister-in-law of Joyce Burch*)

Members

Joan Bledsoe, Phyllis Burkhalter, Corina Crowe, Ben Davis, Jane Dowden, Marilyn Elliott, Marilyn Ewen, Baird Faircloth, Ollie Faircloth, Fred Ford, Sr., Barbara Gentry, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Brooke Gross, Tommy Hennesy, Barbara Loyall, Jay McCulley, Dawn & Walter McBee, Jack C. Phillips, Jodi Rush, Cheryl Tabor, Don Tabor, Julie Travis

Family and Friends

Pat Allen (*mother of Greg T. Allen*), Abby Bailey and Family (*friend of Jane Dowden*), 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*), Mac Crome (*cousin of Miab Faircloth*), Johnny Cunningham (*friend of Ford family*), Christi Dale (*friend of Jonelle Summitt*), Ann Ghianni (*sister-in-law of Tim Ghianni*), Shirley Jansma, Patti Jobe (*sister-in-law of Renee McCulley*), Doug Johnson (*friend of Shali & Frank Scott*), David Katz (*brother of Dan MacDonald*), John McArthur (*brother-in-law of Larry Davidson*), Sue McClelland (*mother of Rachel Campbell*), Bettie Mason (*friend of Barbara Dial*), Joe Moore (*neighbor of Becky & Ronny Jones*), Johnny Murray (*son of Betty Murray*), Ayden Orr (*friend of Ollie, Baird and Miab Faircloth*), George Peay (*father of Trent Johnson*), Joan Peay (*mother of Trent Johnson*), Bill Rolman (*father of Deborah Rolman*), Raymond Roman (*friend of Amity Marsh*), Johnny Rush (*father of Kip Rush*), Rev. Teresa Shauf (*CP Minister*), Brittany Spradling, Jim Summitt (*uncle of Blair Summitt*), Jane Talley, James Talley, Bill Turner (*brother-in-law of Cheryl Tabor*), Hayden White (*friend of Becky Jones*), Danny Williams (*brother of Linda Pulley, those serving our country*)



*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

The last of the summer camps has come and gone, but it was a fun and enriching time for our campers. A Big Thank You to our **Youth Pastor, Ean Taylor** (and our volunteers), for guiding our youth through another summer of building faith and friendships.



BRENTHAVEN T-SHIRTS

If you would like a Brenthaven T-Shirt, we still have some available for purchase—Only \$5.00 while they last! We have extra-large to small sizes available. See the display in the narthex. That's a great deal!

MY OWN BACKYARD

As school will be starting soon, there is a greater need to help children with school lunches. **My Own Backyard Ministry** is in need of non-perishable snacks to stock their pantry. They could use peanut butter crackers, fruit cups, cookies, chips, raisins, etc., as long as they are individually wrapped. For your convenience, there is a bin for **My Own Backyard** set up by the office to drop off your donations. We appreciate your help in assisting this ministry.

THE LEAST COIN OFFERING



The Least Coin Offering began in 1956 and has helped millions of people from all over the world. When you give your offering say a prayer for peace and reconciliation at home and abroad. All monies collected will be sent to **Church Women United** through the **Brenthaven Women's Ministry**. Look for the donation jar in the church narthex.

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 20** **9:30 AM** BookEnd Book Club *(Adult Library)*
 11:00 AM Creative Crafts *(Adult Library)*
- July 23** **9:30 AM** Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship
- July 25** **10:30 AM** CPWM (Work Day w/Lunch)
- July 27** **11:00 AM** Creative Crafts *(Adult Library)*
- July 28** **8 AM-2 PM** CPWM Yard Sale
- July 29** **8 AM-12 PM** CPWM Yard Sale
- July 30** **9:30 AM** Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY 23

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)

Genesis 28:10-19a;
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Psalm 86:11-17;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR JULY 16

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$1,626.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	5,300.00
Weekly Need	10,120.00
Received Year-to-Date	286,934.06
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	284,763.29
Difference	2,170.77

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Kip J. Rush, 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

Class of 2023

Deborah Deaton
Melinda Fleming
Jay McCulley
Christi Peppers

Class of 2024

Ben Gross
Bart King
Julie Murphy
Jonelle Summitt

Class of 2025

Fred Ford, Jr.
Suzanne Ghianni
Mark Humphrey
Gwen Keiser