



DECEMBER 20, 2023

VOL. 19, NO. 50

# 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)

## CLOSING TIME FOR 2023

2023 is almost over! Can you hear the song “Closing Time” playing in your mind, or is that just me? I am so thankful for the year that we have had together and all of the memories we have shared. This year we: worshiped together every Sunday, blessed the new nursery and preschool, had summer camps, presented VBS, held a Backpack Blessing, enjoyed a WNS Kickoff Event, had fun at Trunk or Treat, displayed a Live Nativity, and much, much more. We did so much this year! But with Christmas just ahead of us and 2023 coming to a close, I want to share some of the specific moments that made my time at Brenthaven so special in 2023, and that I expect will be a good roadmap for my hopes for 2024.

I remember being greeted at the front door before worship. It sounds like such a small thing, it is called *small talk* after all, but it is so meaningful to be approached for nothing more than a conversation. Brenthaven is a place where people can feel welcome and valued for simply walking in the front doors.

I remember moments of empathy and support being offered to members of our community going through hardship and sorrow. Receiving bad news or going through a particularly hard time is much more difficult when you feel alone. It is so beautiful that Brenthaven is not just a place for small talk, but a community built for honest, meaningful support and love.

I remember moments where teenagers were surprised that someone at Brenthaven knew their names and wanted to know more about their lives. It's not uncommon for churches to view teenagers as an added expense, potential disruption, or at best a built-in workforce. Yet at Brenthaven, teenagers are not only cherished and valued as an investment in the future, but they are acknowledged for their diverse gifts and inherent value. Brenthaven has fostered a unique sense of belonging for teens.

I remember cheers and applause after the children's play. I remember the smiles on the faces of children who were not only glad that the stress of the play was over, but also happy to realize how much their congregation appreciated their efforts. Brenthaven has chosen not only to celebrate children in every step of their journey, but to celebrate anywhere that creativity and growth are present.

I remember many moments this year when Brenthaven's Session rolled up their sleeves, made tough decisions, and led this congregation. I think of how many churches have Sessions filled with people who are too busy to care. Brenthaven is a place where everyone is willing to work hard, offer themselves and their abilities, and build something beautiful with God.

I pray that as we approach 2024, we cherish the beauty in the everyday actions that come naturally at Brenthaven. I pray that our actions in 2024 are like those in 2023—filled with unity, compassion, kindness, shared moments, shared responsibility, and worship of the God who is with us in it all. If this coming year at Brenthaven is similar to the one we had in 2023, I will feel blessed.

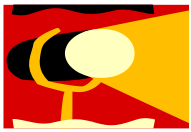
Love ya, *Ear*

PS. Here is a gentle reminder that this email, [brenthavenyouth@gmail.com](mailto:brenthavenyouth@gmail.com), is my preferred email for correspondence about Brenthaven related matters.



**Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Communion Service  
6:00 pm**





# SPOTLIGHT!



**Leah McCulley** was selected as a member of the Tennessee Midstate Gold Band for ninth and tenth graders. She was 16<sup>th</sup> out of over 200 clarinet players from middle Tennessee. Congratulations, Leah!



**Amanda Mennen** graduated from North Carolina State with a Master's in Business Administration. She is the daughter of **Marji and Scott Mennen** and granddaughter of **Barbara and Billy Dial**. Congratulations, Amanda!



## CPWM NEWS

Our annual Christmas Luncheon offered an array of delicious salads and desserts. The ministry focus was on collecting paper products for Safe Haven Family Shelter. Jan Marshall brought an inspiring devotional and prayer. An interactive program of Christmas Carols plus brain teaser games (with prizes) was presented by Linda Pulley, Brenda Medlin, and Jan Davidson.

We ALL wish you a meaningful Advent and Joyful Christmas season of Love and Hope!



## A GREAT WEEKEND AT BRENTHAVEN!

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this last weekend a great success. We could not have done this without you, so thanks for all your hard work and support for our ministries!



## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Recent Additions

Wylene Nix

### Members

Charles & Gladys Belew, Joan Bledsoe, Bill Blewett, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, Jane Dowden, Larry Ennenga, Marilyn Ewen, Ollie Faircloth, Fred Ford, Sr., Barbara Gentry, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Tommy Hennesy, Linda Lipe, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Jack C. Phillips, Jodi Rush, Guy Sneed, Don Tabor, Cheryl 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*), Steve Crawford (*friend of Carol Perryman*), Mac Crome (*cousin of Miab 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*), Shirley Jansma, Patti Jobe (*sister-in-law of Renee McCulley*), Doug Johnson (*friend of Shali & Frank Scott*), Rex Lineberry (*brother of Pat Chesnut*), Sue McClelland (*mother of Rachel Campbell*), Martha Malloy (*mother of Joe Malloy*), Bettie Mason (*friend of Barbara Dial*), Lukas Miscal (*friend of Deborah Rolman*), Sherry Norton (*friend of Deborah Deaton*), Ayden Orr (*friend of Ollie, Baird and Miab Faircloth*), 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, Sacred Sparks Ministry & St Luke Church

### Deaths

Family of Giff Jordon

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



Our church office will be closed **Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**, but we will **not** have regular office hours the rest of the week. Also, we will not be publishing a newsletter next week, **December 27<sup>th</sup>**. We will be closed again on **Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**. We hope you have a safe and joyous Christmas season!

## HONORARIUMS

### *In Honor of Ame Satterwhite*

Jeri Behan, Anita & Jim Humphreys

### *In Honor of The Member Care Ministry*

Jeri Behan



## YOUTH ROCKS NEWS

**MLK Weekend Retreat** in Pigeon Forge, TN is **January 12<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>!** The cost is \$200.00, paid to Brenthaven. Registration closes January 5<sup>th</sup>! Register at <https://forms.gle/KP85AMYaiXJ8yEU17>

If you need assistance registering a teenager you know, or if there are any barriers to a teenager's attendance to this event, please contact **Ean Taylor**.



- Jan. 3 Anita Tilley
- Jan. 6 D'lyn Keiser
- Jan. 7 Scott Shepherd
- Jan. 8 Marilyn Ewen  
Cheryl Twitty
- Jan. 9 Larry Pulley
- Jan. 15 Scott Bowker  
Jonelle Summitt
- Jan. 17 Libby Ennenga  
Ryan Lipe  
Leah McCulley
- Jan. 19 Emily Thayer
- Jan. 20 Colleen Winslow  
Jenny Wooten
- Jan. 21 Garrett Scott
- Jan. 22 Joyce Burch
- Jan. 24 Jan Marshall
- Jan. 25 Joe Malloy
- Jan. 26 Ame Satterwhite
- Jan. 27 Jack C. Phillips
- Jan. 29 Jane Allen
- Jan. 31 Cynthia Bowker  
Baird Faircloth

**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**

- Dec. 21** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Dec. 24** 9:30 AM Sunday School (*Breakfast & Fellowship*)  
 10:45 AM Worship  
 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
- Church office closed December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**(No Newsletter on December 27<sup>th</sup>)**
- Dec. 31** 9:30 AM Sunday School (*Sunday School Sabbath*)  
 10:45 AM Worship
- Church Office Closed January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 24**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent (Blue)*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16;  
 Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;  
 Romans 16:25-27;  
 Luke 1:26-38

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 17**

<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>	
Dedicated Giving	\$3,470.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	23,469.41
Weekly Need	10,120.00
Received Year-to-Date	542,829.68
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	547,643.49
Difference	<b>-4,813.81</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

*Class of 2024*

**Ben Gross**  
**Bart King**  
**Julie Murphy**  
**Jonelle Summitt**

*Class of 2025*

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

*Class of 2026*

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