



DECEMBER 6, 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

A NEW AND GLORIOUS MORN! CELEBRATING THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF CHRISTMAS

Each August, when summer is coming to an end, and temperatures in Nashville are normally in the eighties, I begin the search for a Christmas cantata for the choir. While there are many talented composers and arrangers who produce various cantatas, I sometimes feel like Goldilocks searching for the one that is “just right” for our choir and congregation.

This year we will be singing *A New and Glorious Morn!* by Lloyd Larson on Sunday morning, December 17th. I'd like to share with you the Foreword in our cantata.

In recent months I had the opportunity to experience one of my bucket-list trips: a visit to Israel, the Holy Land. Following that trip of a lifetime, I returned home with the plan to tackle this Christmas musical. As I sat down to write the music and craft the narrative script, I could not help but find myself mentally returning to Bethlehem, to sites I had visited that are believed to have been the locations where Jesus was born and where Judean shepherds received the angelic news about the Messiah's birth.

The incarnation story never grows old. The fact that God would choose to descend from the heights of heaven to dwell among us through Jesus is truly a remarkable realization for me, as I suspect it is for all believers. That miraculous event is indelibly imprinted on my heart and mind as a result of my recent visit to Israel.

A New and Glorious Morn! focuses on the reality that in Christ the old is gone and all things are made new. (II Cor. 5:17) Old Testament Israel had yearned for the promised Messiah for generations. When Jesus came, it wasn't how they had envisioned God's redemption plan would unfold. Yet, it followed the prophets' road map to a T as He was divinely conceived and born in the tiny village of Bethlehem. With His birth came the promise of a new day of hope and life for those who embraced God's message through this newborn King.

But the dawning of this new day of promise did not end with the life and death of Jesus. It continues through the generations to each of us as we anticipate the fulfillment of His second Advent—the return of the conquering King—when He will one day take us home to live in a place where there will be no more darkness, where the Lord God will be the source of everlasting light!

Through a blending of new and familiar lyrics and ageless melodies, I pray that singers, instrumentalists, and congregations alike will experience anew the reality of God's incomparable love. The birth of Jesus is not just a series of historical events discovered in the archaeological findings of Israel. It is experiencing the reality of His love through the embrace of a child, the legacy of an elderly saint, and a cup of water offered in love. In each of these acts we experience the reality of the Christmas message and the promise of an eternal day that is yet to come! —Lloyd Larson

I pray that as you worship with us on December 17th, you experience the birth of Jesus anew, through song and word. Wishing you a joyous Advent and Christmas season as we celebrate together the first and most precious Christmas gift, Jesus.

Linda



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Everyone is invited to the Brenthaven **Christmas Lunch, Sunday, December 17th** immediately following *A New and Glorious Morn!*, presented by the Brenthaven Choir. Meat and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry and everyone is asked to bring a covered side dish or two and/or desserts to share with our church family and guests. Come and be blessed with the music of Christmas and enjoy a festive lunch with family and friends.

2023 Live Nativity
Brenthaven CP Church
Sunday, December 17th, 5:00–8:00 pm



Come hear the story of the birth of Jesus at this walkthrough nativity, complete with live animals. Warm beverages and snacks will be provided.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Jonelle Summit at jonellesummit@gmail.com. (615-414-4550)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Brenthaven members, family, and friends are invited for a service celebrating the arrival of God's gift to ALL. This candlelight service is a meaningful tradition for many and is a time for all ages.

Please joins us for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** at 6:00 pm.



2023 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thanks to everyone who made our Children's Christmas Play a big success. We are so proud of our children!



PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Martha Malloy (*mother of Joe Malloy*)
Wylene Nix
Elwanda Roberts (*cousin of Cheryl Morris*)
Don Tabor
Wilma Wade (*sister of Kaye Holland*)

Members

Greg Allen, 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, 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 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*), 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*), Bettie Mason (*friend of Barbara Dial*), Lukas Miscoe (*friend of Deborah Rolman*), Johnny Murray (*son of Betty Murray*), Sherry Norton (*friend of Deborah Deaton*), Ayden Orr (*friend of Ollie, Baird and Miah Faircloth*), Yvonne Reid (*aunt of Liz Strickland*), 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*), 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, prayers for the Middle East

Deaths

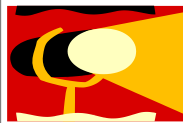
Family of Don Beck (*father of Anita Tilley*)
Family of Johnny Murray (*son of Betty Murray*)



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Don Beck

Bart King, Becky & Ronny Jones



SPOTLIGHT!



Caleb Marsh is a seventh grader who goes to Oliver Middle School. He auditioned for mid-state this past weekend and he made it into the gold band (he was the only seventh-grade trumpet player to make it into the gold band). His band directors and the seventh-grade band congratulated him with balloons and a card at school this week. **Congratulations, Caleb!**



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 DECEMBER 10

- Dec. 7** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Dec. 10** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
5:00 PM Youth ROCKS
- Dec. 12** 10:30 AM Bridge Group (*Youth Classroom*)
6:30 PM Session (*Adult Library*)
- Dec. 13** 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
- Dec. 14** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Dec. 16** 9:50 AM Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
- Dec. 17** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship (Sanctuary Choir Cantata)
12:00 PM Christmas Luncheon
5:00-8:00 PM Live Nativity

Second Sunday of Advent (Blue)

Isaiah 40:1-11;
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 3

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$1,402.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	13,550.00
Weekly Need	10,120.00
Received Year-to-Date	490,375.27
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	519,797.61
Difference	-29,422.34

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