



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

THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

This Sunday is Youth Sunday, and I hope you all can be in attendance! Churches and denominations often talk about how important youth are, and yet refuse to hear their voices. We agree that youth are the future of our churches, but refuse to discuss their involvement in the present. Below you will find two different reflections on Genesis 32:22-32 where Jacob wrestles with God. One of these reflections is written by an adult, and the other by a high school senior.

“I am not a competitive person. When you are as goofy of a person as I am, competitions just don't fit. I don't mind simply quitting a game when it is no longer fun or turning it into a joke to make it more enjoyable. Jacob and I are opposites. Jacob finds himself in a competition, wrestling with a strong opponent who turns out to be God. Jacob refuses to let go or give up. The wrestling competition lasts all night long, and Jacob never changes goals or chooses to make a joke out of it. He keeps on pushing even when it is no longer fun.

When I wonder how I would fare in a wrestling match with God, I know what would happen. I would have gotten bored with the activity, made a joke about it, or decided to let go and find something new to do. The more I consider it, I think faith is an everyday wrestling competition, and sometimes when God is pressing against me, trying to make me grow, I give up and refuse to participate in the process. There are times I refuse to engage in the challenging parts of faith with God and times I ignore the stressful process of faith. There are times my faith becomes stationary because I am not like Jacob who was prepared to hold onto God and not give up even when it was difficult. I believe the challenge of this scripture is to understand that the growing pains in faith are necessary, and we should feel compelled to engage in the struggle so our faith can grow.”

“Jacob’s wrestling with God can be perplexing. It challenged me for many years, which is interesting considering I have few under my belt. Jacob, as a figure, sort of got the short end of the stick in life and used underhanded strategies in an attempt to rectify what he felt he had been shorted. This culminated in some degree of anxiety as he was crossing the river to go see Esau, the individual of whom he had taken advantage. Here on the banks of the river, he was left alone. Only himself, God, and his thoughts kept him company. There, great strife emerged, as he doubtlessly faced some remorse and fear for how his brother might act. Wrestling with God culminates in God's low blow and subsequent blessing of him. In my opinion, this sequence of events shows our relationship with sin. The holy low blow demonstrates the sting of sin, whereas the subsequent limp represents its lasting effects. On the other side, his blessing and rebranding represents the forgiveness of God as he is freed from his cursed past and born again in the name of the Lord, ready to face his brother.”

I pray that you will hear both of these valuable voices, that God might speak through them. Please consider attending Youth Sunday to hear six sermons around the theme “This Is My Story,” presented by the Youth ROCKS’ senior class. I can guarantee that you will be blessed by God through the lives of these youth.

Love ya,

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday	March 24	10:45 am	<i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>
Thursday	March 28	7:00 pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Service</i>
Friday	March 29	7:00 pm	<i>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</i>
Sunday	March 31	10:45 am	<i>Easter Service</i>





SPOTLIGHT



Caleb Marsh competed with the Oliver Middle School 7th and 8th grade bands on March 7th. They did their Concert Performance Assessment and earned Superior ratings (the highest rating) from all four judges for their concert performance on stage and for sight-reading. **Congratulations, Caleb!**

Anna Grace Wooten's robotics team at Brentwood Academy were the tournament champions at the Vex Robotics Tennessee State championship held recently in Brentwood. They will now advance to the Vex Robotics World Championship to be held in Dallas in April. **Congratulations, Anna Grace!** (Anna Grace pictured center with certificate)



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL TONIGHT
Catered dinner from 5:45–6:25
Classes from 6:30–7:30
* **Tonight's Dinner: Italian**

EASTER CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

We still need donations of candy or special prizes that can go into the **Easter Treat Bags** for our **Easter Egg Hunt**, coming up on **Easter Sunday, March 31**. It will follow after our service around noon for children through 6th grade, including visitors. A collection basket is outside the church office for your donations through **March 27**. Monetary donations are welcome.



SAFE HAVEN FAMILY SHELTER

Safe Haven relies on donations of household items to help make families feel at home as they move into their own housing. They helped 400 families this last year, and we have been made aware of an immediate need for **new essential household items**. Please see the list below for some needed items. Look for the donation table set up in the narthex. Thank you!



- 16-20oz. Plastic Cups
- Pot holders/Oven Mitts
- Pots & Pans with Lids
- Mops & Buckets
- Brooms & Dust Pans

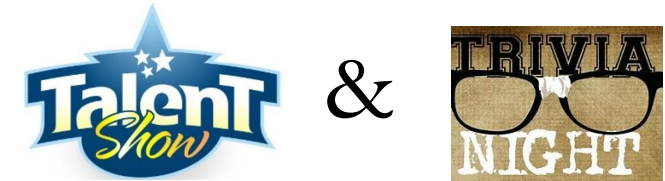
CPWM NEWS
Our next **Women's Ministry meeting** is coming up **Tuesday, March 26** at 10:30 am in the Willing Workers Room. Our special guest speaker this month will be **Ean Taylor**. We hope you will join us.



TWO GREAT NIGHTS AT BRENTHAVEN!
Take the Stage!
What: **Wednesday Night Special Talent Show**
When: **April 3, 2024 at 5:45 pm**
Where: **Brenthaven Fellowship Hall**

LADIES' SMALL-GROUP LUNCH

Another one of our small groups met recently and had a wonderful time getting better acquainted. Pictured from left to right: Phyllis Lewis, Linda Lipe, and Libby Ennenga. This is a great opportunity to make connections with people you may see every week.



Also...
Trivia Night...coming up April 10 at 5:45 pm!
For meal reservation and inquiries, contact Sandra Shepherd or the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Charles Belew
Billy Dial
Syble Mitchell

Members

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*), 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*), 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 Miab Faircloth*), Heather Perillo (*daughter of Dawn and Walter McBee*), Melissa Pyne (*granddaughter of Doris Cantagallo*), 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*), Forrest Sutton (*brother-in-law of Ean Taylor*), 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

Deaths

Family of Mike Cecil (*brother-in-law of Scott Shepherd*)



PRAYER LIST

Please take a look at the current prayer list, and if there is someone on this list ready to be removed, contact the church office. This would allow us space to add others in the future. Thank you!



YOUNG @ HEART SPECIAL LUNCH

Young @ Heart enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day lunch of corned beef and cabbage and mint brownies, thanks to Joan Bledsoe and others who contributed.



2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is coming **June 24–27**. This year's theme is the Olympics. You are invited to be a part of this important ministry to our children. We need volunteers to 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 can help.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Mar. 24:** Palm Sunday/Youth Sunday
- Mar. 28:** Maundy Thursday Service
- Mar. 29:** Good Friday/Tenebrae Service
- Mar. 31:** Easter Service/Egg Hunt

Summer Activities

- Jun. 2–7:** Senior Synodic Camp
- Jun. 8–15:** Youth Mission Trip
- Jun. 17–20:** General Assembly
- Jun. 24–27:** Vacation Bible School
- Jul. 7–12:** CPYC
- Jul. 7–12:** Junior Camp
- Jul. 14–19:** Middle School Camp
- Aug. 4:** Backpack Blessing/Promotion

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

- Mar. 21** 9:30 AM BookEnd Book Club (*Adult Library*)
11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Mar. 24** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship (*Palm Sunday/Youth Sunday*)
- Mar. 26** 10:30 AM CPWM (*Willing Workers*)
- Mar. 27** 5:45 PM WNS
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)
- Mar. 28** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (*Sanctuary*)
- Mar. 29** OFFICE CLOSED
7:00 PM Good Friday Service (*Sanctuary*)
- Mar. 31** 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship (*Easter /Resurrection Sunday*)
12:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 24

Palm/Passion Sunday (purple)

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16;

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;

Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR MARCH 17

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$500.50
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	6,170.94
Weekly Need	10,822.00
Received Year-to-Date	142,225.35
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	152,651.22
Difference	-10,425.87

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