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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](http://www.brenthaven.org)

## IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

I don't know if it's because I'm getting older or what, but I have noticed that things get to me a lot easier than they once did. I have never had the toughest exterior, but these days my exterior feels more like Tupperware than steel. Little things that happen can turn my eyes into bubbling springs, just waiting to fall like an opened faucet. And, it doesn't have to be something big to make it happen—it just happens.

In the last week alone, little things triggered my emotions to come to the surface and I had to fight to keep them down. I was honored to present a Bible to a young man who I have watched grow up from a precious child who read *Llama, Llama* books with Jodi to one who stood in front of the General Assembly and gave an amazing devotion. As I prepared to give him that Bible, I found myself tearing up, not out of sadness but out of joy for the person he has become and the impact he will make on the world.

The other day, as Jodi was filling me in on her conversations with the girls, she shared something that happened to Madison. One of the leaders of the school system was showing new teachers around the school and they ventured into Madison's room. The leader pointed at my daughter and said, "Ladies, if you want to know how to teach, just watch her. She's the best Math teacher in the system." As a parent, I could not have been prouder! And, once again, my vision became blurry, and not because my glasses were dirty.

Over the last month, we have been fundraising to replace the roof on the church. Truth be told, giving money to the church for a roof is not the most glamorous reason to give. But, when water damages the inside, we have to fix the outside. When the Session learned how much, you could see the energy deflate from the room, even though they knew it had to be done. And what happened? You did! Your generosity and dedication to Brenthaven made sure that the roof would be on and paid for. The day I realized it was covered was another day that I just sat in my emotions—yes, in my emotions. I sat in my office and fought back those waterfalls, waterfalls of appreciation and amazement.

This world is so overwhelmed with negativity that I worry we have forgotten to notice the little things in life. Oh, I know, the roof isn't small, but I'm not really talking about the tangible, but rather in a more ethereal or spiritual sense. Little things like saying "Thank you" or calling you by name or praising your child or giving a compliment. These are little things to many, but for those receiving them, they can be the brightest gift they have received in that moment.

I have been hearing a lot of preachers lately focusing on what we need to get right, to do right, to say right to be in true relationship with God. And I really struggle with that. Yes, I would agree there are things we should do and shouldn't do. But I also believe that before we can do any of those things the way God intended, we have to do the other thing first—LOVE.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. —1 John 4:7-8

I just think that if we take to heart these words from 1 John, then maybe we can begin to notice the little things that mean so much more than we realize. Granted, they won't all make our eyes fill with tears (that's just this old preacher), but they will fill our hearts with a warmth that reminds us that everything we hear out in this struggling, divided world is not all that's going on. There are good things, life-giving things that await us. And, they won't all be earthshattering! Some may be little trinkets of joy that offer enormous glimpses of love and grace. May we be aware, may we stop and notice, may we appreciate—the little things!

Grace and peace,

## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



**Shelby Thayer** graduated in April from The University of Pittsburgh with a BS in Psychology and minors in Chemistry and Political Science-Comparative Politics. In the fall, she will attend The University of Tennessee to study Social Work. Shelby is the daughter of Sheila and Wesley Thayer and sibling of Matthew and Emily. Congratulations, Shelby!

## KNOW A SPECIAL GRADUATE?



Do you have a special graduate you would like to tell us about? We would like to publish this information in a future newsletter, so contact the church office to leave your information. Please tell us your relationship to the graduate, any honors received, plans after graduation, and type of degree (if from a college). Thank you!

## SUMMER OLYMPICS COMING SOON...



**Run the Race** is our theme for the **2024 Vacation Bible School** at Brenthaven. We'll fill our week together with Olympic-themed games, plus science, crafts, and music. We'll study the Bible stories of "Abraham's Blessing," "Jesus Forgives a Paralyzed Man," "The Good Samaritan," and "Anna in the Temple." Each child will be on a team representing a country that Cumberland Presbyterians serve in missionary work. And yes, there will be a torch to light and opening and closing ceremonies, just like the real Olympics. It will be a fun, action-packed week full of learning. We invite children age four through sixth grade to join us. The dates are **Monday, June 24 through Thursday, June 27 from 5:30–8:30 pm**. Registration forms are now available in the narthex and will soon be on [Brenthaven.org](http://Brenthaven.org).

## 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 narthex.

## GROWING TOGETHER



### LADIES BRUNCH

**Saturday, May 11  
10:30 am–12:30 pm**

**Brenthaven Fellowship Hall**

## CPWM NEWS

Our next **CPWM** meeting will be **Tuesday, May 28**. We will be visiting the headquarters of the **Nashville Diaper Connection** near West Nashville. We will take a tour to learn about their day-to-day operations. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am to ride together. Please call the church office if you are interesting in going.

## BOOKEND BOOK CLUB



*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett is this month's selection for the **BookEnd Book Club**, meeting **Thursday, May 16** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library.

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew. Both hopeful and elegiac, *Tom Lake* explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart.

## MAH JONGG GROUP

We have a new **Mah Jongg** group meeting at Brenthaven. We will meet the first and third Fridays at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room. Our next meeting is **Friday, May 17**. Those wanting to learn to play are always welcome. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

## JUNE BLOOD DRIVE



Our next Blood Drive is coming up **June 5** from 11:00 am–4:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. To schedule an appointment, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter the code: **cityofbrentwood**. Streamline your experience by completing preliminary questions the day of your appointment. Go to [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass).

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Recent Additions

Billy Dial  
Marty Morris  
James Talley

### Members

Gladys & Charles Belew, Joan Bledsoe, Bill Blewett, Phyllis Burkhalter, Ben Davis, Jane Dowden, Marilyn Ewen, Ollie Faircloth, Fred Ford, Jr., Fred Ford, Sr., Barbara Gentry, Paul Gonzales, Madge Graves, Tommy Hennesy, Linda Lipe, Barbara Loyall, Dawn & Walter McBee, Syble Mitchell, 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*), Judy Baggett (*friend of Bob Dozier*), Merritt Brakebill (*brother-in-law of Joe Malloy*), Sierra Broome (*friend of Lorri Jean Pulley*), 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*), Patty Little (*aunt of Renee McCulley*), Walter McBee, Jr. (*son of Walter McBee, Sr.*), Sue McClelland (*mother of Rachel Campbell*), Martha Malloy (*mother of Joe Malloy*), Scott Mennen (*son-in-law of Barbara Dial*), 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

## 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!



## SPOTLIGHT



**Luke Deaton** was awarded a **Madison Award** at Brentwood High School for best documentary by a Level 3 or 4 student (juniors and seniors). He won for being part of the best newscast team and for the documentary on Paul Gonzales, called "A 9/11 story." Congratulations, Luke!

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 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
- June 30:** Children's Sunday
- Jul. 7–12:** CPYC
- Jul. 7–12:** Junior Camp
- Jul. 14–19:** Middle School Camp
- Aug. 4:** Backpack Blessing/Promotion

## ☀️ CHECK IT OUT! ☀️

### CHRISTIAN HUMOR

Lord, give me a sense of humor,  
Give me the grace to see a joke  
To get some humor out of life  
And pass it on to other folk!

**Dentist's Hymn:** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**Weatherman's Hymn:** *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*

**Contractor's Hymn:** *The Church's One Foundation*

**The Tailor's Hymn:** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

**The Golfer's Hymn:** *There's a Green Hill Far Away*

**Politician's Hymn:** *Standing on the Promises*

**Optometrist's Hymn:** *Open My Eyes that I May See*

**IRS Agents Hymn:** *I Surrender All*

**The Gossip's Hymn:** *Pass It On*

**The Electrician's Hymn:** *Send the Light*

**The Shopper's Hymn:** *Sweet Bye and Bye*

**The Realtor's Hymn:** *I've got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop*

**Massage Therapist's Hymn:** *He Touched Me*

**Doctor's Hymn:** *The Great Physician*

—Submitted by Beverly Garrett

**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**

- May 9 11:00 AM** Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- May 11 10:30 AM** Ladies Brunch (*Fellowship Hall*)
- May 12 9:30 AM** Sunday School  
**10:45 AM** Worship (Mother's Day)
- May 14 10:30 AM** Bridge Group (*Youth Room*)
- May 15 6:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)
- May 16 9:30 AM** BookEnd Book Club (*Adult Library*)  
**11:00 AM** Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- May 17 1:00 PM** Mah Jongg (*Youth Room*)
- May 19 9:30 AM** Sunday School  
**10:45 AM** Worship (Pentecost Sunday)

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 12**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter (white)*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26;  
Psalm 1;  
1 John 5:9-13;  
John 17:6-19

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR MAY 5**

**OPERATING BUDGET**

Dedicated Giving	\$ 1,700.00
Donations for Roof Repair to date	125,170.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	22,162.62
Weekly Need	10,822.00
Received Year-to-Date	231,910.19
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	232,976.70
Difference	<b>-1,066.51</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**