



JUNE 14, 2023

VOL. 19, NO. 24

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

WHAT IS OUR WHY?

One of the words that we first learn as children is the word—WHY? You've seen those parents (or been one) that is almost exhausted from hearing that repetitive chorus of curiosity. First a question: "What is that?" And following a very brilliant parental response, "Why?" "Well, because ..." "But why?" And thus begins the merry-go-round of fun and frustration. Now, truth be told, we love the fact they are trying to figure out things. That's good. We want them to be curious, and since it is the shortest of the adverbial questionnaires, it can flow so easily. Almost too easily.

But sometime ago, in a seminary pastoral care class, it was suggested that we refrain from using the word "why." Why you may ask? (See what I did there.) Well, the professor, a very wise pastor and counselor, said that the word "why" has a tendency to put the listener on the defensive, and if the goal is to ascertain information in a positive manner, maybe there were better ways to frame a question. I will admit it sounded a little ridiculous to me. Except that he was proven correct when I realized I made a friend mad after simply asking the reason they chose to do what they did. You would have thought that I had slapped them! So, I have tried really hard to watch how I frame questions, and yes, I fail miserably sometimes.

But that three-letter word came back to haunt me again at a recent conference I attended. This time it wasn't the adverbial usage of the word, but the noun usage. The speaker talked about asking ourselves what was our "why" and staying focused on that as our goal. And though this conference was for seminaries, I immediately began thinking of the church. What is our why? What is the reason for Brenthaven? The easy answer is to spread the Good News of God's grace through Jesus Christ. But we are one of 30–50 churches just on Franklin Road, and that's what they are all doing. So, to be a part of that group is great, but why us? Why here? Why Brenthaven?

Some of you will be expecting me to answer this question right now, but I won't. Why? Because I think it is a question for all of us to consider. One of the best and most frequent comments I ever heard about Brenthaven Church was—"That is the friendliest and most welcoming group of people I've ever seen." That warmed my heart to know people felt the genuine warmth that you project. What a precious gift!!

So, what is our reason for being here? What should we focus on? I don't think it is simply numbers. I don't think it is to be the only Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Brentwood, because most people have never heard of Cumberland Presbyterian, unless they are one. With no disrespect to any church, I have always felt that a church should be available to the community it serves, and I think we do a good job of that. Blood drives, voting precinct, support groups, and a homeschool group are ways we serve. But what else?

As I said, I don't have answers, but challenge you to think through this question with me. I have scriptures that immediately come to mind when I quietly ponder:

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' - Matthew 22:37, 39

Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ... - Ephesians 4:15

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. - 1 John 4:7

Granted, none of these talk about definitive programs or studies or activities. But they help me focus on the importance of where I believe we are to start—a place of love and grace.

If you have lasted this long in reading, my hope is that you have begun to struggle with our purpose, our mission. What is our *why*? What brings you here? How can we live better into the call God has for Brenthaven? I hope this will open the lines for dialogue as we focus on the future of Brenthaven Church.

Grace and peace,

VBS: CHANGEMAKERS LAB

Brenthaven Vacation Bible School is next week, Monday, June 19 through Thursday, June 22, 5:30–8:30 pm. Registration forms are located in the church narthex and on the church webpage. We hope to see you there!



And everyone, please join us Thursday evening at 8:10 pm in the church sanctuary to hear some of our songs and what we have learned about being a changemaker. You will be amazed to see what we have discovered in our labs about working together, making a difference, and letting our light shine.



We still need your help in collecting items for snack bags that the children will be filling for the Sacred Sparks Ministry (individual food items only). A donation bin is located by the office in the narthex.

Items requested are:

- * Soda cans or juice boxes
- * hard candy (no chocolate)
- * pudding or fruit cups
- * granola or breakfast bars
- * chewing gum
- * chips
- * crackers



ATTENTION: THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!



Yard Sale

Starting Sunday, July 2, the Brenthaven Women's Ministry will be accepting treasures for their Yard Sale happening on Friday, July 28 at 8:00 am–2:00 pm and

Saturday, July 29 at 8:00 am–12:00 pm.

Requested donations are household items, working electronics, children's toys, seasonal items, books, CD's DVD's, VCR tapes, furniture, and miscellaneous items. You are requested to place your donations on the stage. Please **DO NOT** bring clothes or shoes.

BOOKEND BOOK CLUB



Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell is this month's selection for **BookEnd Book Club**, meeting **Thursday, June 15th** at 9:30 am in the Adult Library. Come join the fun and adventure!

JUNE GARDEN PARTY

The Ladies Snack and Chat Garden Party was hosted by Anita Tilley, Becky Jones, and Donna Kirby. With an array of delicious hors d'oeuvres and punch to delight the 22 in attendance, there was perfect weather, Anita's gorgeous gardens, and heartwarming conversations flowing in the June air.



Brenthaven Consignment

August 10–12

We are having a consignment sale **August 10, 11, and 12**. We need your stuff and your volunteer hours. Contact **Jonelle Summitt** for details (brenthavenconsignment@gmail.com), and watch *The Messenger* for more information.

GRACEWORKS MINISTRIES

GraceWorks accepts food donations, as well as personal hygiene items. However, diapers are among the most expensive items in budgets of families with small children. They are in constant need of sizes 4, 5, and 6, especially. If you would like to donate any of these items, there is a basket in the narthex.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Recent Additions

Beverly Garrett

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*), Matt Anglin (*friend of Becky & Ronny Jones*), Abby Bailey and Family (*friend of Jane Dowden*), Merritt Brakebill (*brother-in-law of Joe Malloy*), 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*), Ayden Orr (*friend of Ollie, Baird and Miab Faircloth*), George Peay (*father of Trent Johnson*), Joan Peay (*mother of Trent Johnson*), Raymond Roman (*friend of Amity Marsh*), Dawn Rush (*sister of Kip Rush*), 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*), those serving our country

IMPORTANT DATES

Summer Activities:

June 19–22: Vacation Bible School

June 24–29: Youth Mission Trip

July 2–7: CPYC, completed grades 8–12

July 2–7: Junior Camp, completed grades 2–5

July 9–14: Middle School Camp, completed grades 6–8

July 15: Children's Fest, K–6



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!

LIBRARY BOOKS

Please check your bookshelves for any children's or adult library books that need to be returned to the church (also, see the list below). Place returned books in their respective baskets in both libraries.



Please check for these books that belong to the library:

Dark Summer by Iris Johansen

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Seeds of Doubt by Kristen Eckhardt

Romans: A Letter for Today by Calvin Roetzel

Parables of Jesus and Their Flip Side by Jerry L. Schmalenberger

Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering to help catalogue or reshelve books in the library, please see Barbara Dial.



REMINDER...

If you are looking for some fun and fellowship during the week, the church has several weekday activities that you are welcome to check out. Here are a few...

Young @ Heart meets every first, third, and fifth Monday at 10:00 am in the Adult Library. Bring a lunch.

Bridge Group meets every second Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Youth Classroom. Contact Beverly Garrett if you are interested in making a reservation.

BookEnd Book Club meets every third Thursday at 9:30 am in the Adult Library. Please check the newsletter for current books being read.

Creative Crafts meets every Thursday at 11:00 am in the Adult Library. See Barbara Dial for details.

CPWM, our **Women's Ministry**, meets every fourth Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Willing Workers Classroom.

Call the church office if you have any questions or want to learn more.

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

- June 15** **9:30 AM** BookEnd Book Club (*Adult Library*)
 11:00 AM Creative Craft (*Adult Library*)
- June 18** **9:30 AM** Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship (Father’s Day)
 12:00 PM VBS Set-Up (until we’re done)
- June 19** **10:00 AM** Young @ Heart (*Adult Library*)
 5:30–8:30 PM VBS
- June 20** **5:30–8:30 PM** VBS
- June 21** **5:30–8:30 PM** VBS
- June 22** **5:30–8:30 PM** VBS
- June 23** **10:00 AM** VBS Clean-Up
- June 25** **9:30 AM** Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 18

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)
Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Exodus 19:2-8a;
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Psalm 100;
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR JUNE 11

OPERATING BUDGET

Dedicated Giving	\$975.00
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	7,197.00
Weekly Need	10,120.00
Received Year-to-Date	238,950.36
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	229,986.55
Difference	8,963.81

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

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
Deborah Deaton	Ben Gross	Fred Ford, Jr.
Melinda Fleming	Bart King	Suzanne Ghianni
Jay McCulley	Julie Murphy	Mark Humphrey
Christi Peppers	Jonelle Summitt	Gwen Keiser