



SEPTEMBER 27, 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

WAITING IS HARD

As I was preparing to write this, a song lyric kept bouncing around in my head. It's the refrain from a Tom Petty song, *The Waiting*, that is really about a relationship between a guy and his new girlfriend, and this article has nothing to do with that relationship. But those words have been echoing in my head, over and over:

*The waiting is the hardest part. Every day you get one more yard.
You take it on faith, you take it to the heart. The waiting is the hardest part.*

I know why it has been bouncing around. Because, while I am writing this article, we have been waiting for almost 3 weeks to get the results back from Jodi's biopsy. We all know how long it takes to get medical reports back, and we all know how hard that waiting can be. I mean, don't we wait much of our life?

Now that we have moved, my waiting in traffic has become a great reality. Concord Road at 8:00 am or 5:00 pm is a real "waiting game." We wait at appointments. We wait in grocery store lines, in concert lines, at ballgame concession stands. We wait for the light to turn green, for the oven to heat up, for the water in the shower to get hot. We wait for babies to be born, for the sun to go down, and for the sun to come up. Ok, some of those are a bit over-the-top, but still, we do wait.

I ran across a blog from 2017, and they did a logistical analysis of how much time we spend waiting. In 2017, Americans waited an average of 20 minutes a day for the bus or train, 32 minutes whenever they visited a doctor, 28 minutes in security lines whenever they traveled, 21 minutes for a significant other to get ready to go out, 13 hours annually waiting on hold for a customer service (*not this guy*), 38 hours each year waiting in traffic (those living in big cities wait in traffic more than 50 hours annually), which equals about 37 billion hours each year waiting in line somewhere. Some might say we were pretty patient people.

But we aren't. We want instant gratification, instant answers. Granted, we aren't the first nor will we be the last to want instant answers. We have for these last few months been looking at the Old Testament. And as we have seen with the Israelites in Exodus, even then they were hard pressed to wait. The minute something goes wrong or food is scarce or they get thirsty, they blame Moses or God or anyone for this fine mess they find themselves in. Waiting is the hardest part!

Why is that, though? Is it because of the unknown possibilities? The longer we wait the more our minds begin to think through all of the things that could go wrong. I know those thoughts have lingered in my mind for the last three weeks. And so I have tried to find a way to make waiting not quite so hard. I found some scripture:

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.—Romans 8:25

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

— Philipians 4:6-7

And please, I know these are great scriptures, important scriptures, powerful words, but, as powerful and important as they are, they don't always take the hard, the struggle, away. I mean, Moses couldn't do it with the Israelites. For that matter, neither could God. They still built that dang golden calf because they wanted something right away—and God saved them from those Egyptians and everything!

I guess this whole drivel of an article is my way of saying that waiting is the hardest part—until the next part comes. The only thing I can do is admit my weakness and look to the heavens and pray that God will keep loving me in spite of it all. And, if these stories are any indication, I'm pretty sure God will. I hope you will, too.

Grace and peace,

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL TONIGHT

Catered dinner from 5:45–6:25

Classes from 6:30–7:30

*Tonight's Dinner: Pizza

*Oct.4th Dinner: Potato Bar



THE REZ

We are collecting warm clothing for the **Lakota Indians on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation** in South Dakota. If you would like to donate, please bring new clothing items, such as coats, hats, gloves, or scarves to the church by **October 2nd**. There is a bin for donations in the narthex. Thank you!



SUNDAY MORNING CONNECTION PREVIEWS

So that you can make an informed choice about which class to attend each Sunday morning in October, here are some hints at what's coming for each Connections group.

Wisdom Literature (Marcus Hayes)

Oct. 1: The Book of Proverbs
Oct. 8: The Book of Ecclesiastes
Oct. 15: The Book of Job
Oct. 22: TBD

Christianity & World Religions (Deborah Deaton)

Oct. 1: Buddhism
Oct. 8: Islam
Oct. 15: Judaism
Oct. 22: Christianity

CP History & Confession of Faith (Kip Rush)

Oct. 1: Theological Positions
Oct. 8: Basic Beliefs
Oct. 15: Basic Beliefs
Oct. 22: The CoF and the Constitution

Faith in Practice (Sandra Shepherd, et al)

Oct. 1: Critter toys for CARA
Oct. 8: TBD
Oct. 15: TBD
Oct. 22: TBD

SESSION MINUTES SUMMARY AUGUST 14, 2023

- Prayer concerns were shared.
- An alternate garbage removal company is being looked for due to an increase in pricing.
- Doris Cantagallo was moved to the Active Roll.
- Reverend Rush will be traveling August 18 to August 20 to Knoxville and August 21 to August 25 to Austin.
- Program Ministry Reports were provided. Of note, Member Care Ministry proposed standards for creating meal trains to care for members when needed. The Session approved the recommendation.
- Ordination and Installation of Elder Class of 2026 will be August 27, 2023.
- Suggestions for lighting changes for the Narthex were presented. The Session requested the changes be sent to Building and Grounds for pricing.
- It was pointed out that the storage shed needs some repairs and requests that Building and Grounds evaluate.
- A request to use the ball field was approved pending signed liability waivers from the baseball team families.

SESSION MINUTES SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

- Prayer concerns were shared.
- Reverend Rush will be out Sunday, September 24, and October 5-7 for the Memphis Theological Seminary Board Meeting.
- Program Ministry Reports were provided. Of note, 2024 budgets are requested to be submitted to Stewardship and Finance Ministry by Friday October 23, and the manse inspection list is being evaluated to determine what items need to be repaired/updated and what the costs associated with those repairs would be. This will aid in determining the best course of action.
- To date, all contacted garbage removal companies quoted the same rate as current provider; additional providers will be contacted to continue to find a less expensive option.
- Upcoming Nashville Presbytery Meeting Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 9:00 am at Beech CP Church.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

Greg Allen, Joan Bledsoe, Bill Blewett, Phyllis Burkhalter, Corina Crowe, 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, Logan McCulley, Jack C. Phillips, Jodi Rush, Cheryl Tabor, Don Tabor, Valerie Thompson, Julie Travis

Family and Friends

Pat Allen (*mother of Greg T. Allen*), Abby Bailey and Family (*friend of Jane Dowden*), Tony Benefield (*brother of Karen Benefield*), 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*), 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*), Sandy Keene (*sister-in-law of Joyce Burch*), Sue McClelland (*mother of Rachel Campbell*), Bettie Mason (*friend of Barbara Dial*), Lukas Miscac (*friend of Deborah Rolman*), Johnny Murray (*son of Betty Murray*), Ayden Orr (*friend of Ollie, Baird and Miab Faircloth*), Yvonne Reid (*aunt of Liz Strickland*), Raymond Roman (*friend of Amity Marsh*), Johnny Rush (*father of Kip Rush*), Rev. Teresa Shauf (*CP Minister*), Brittany Spradling, Judy Smith (*friend of Janiece Redmon*), Jim Summitt (*uncle of Blair Summitt*), James Talley, Bill Turner (*brother-in-law of Cheryl Tabor*), Philip & Isabel Ward (*parents of Heather McDonald*), Hayden White (*friend of Becky Jones*), Al Wilburn (*nephew of Martha Stewart*), Mark Wiley (*cousin of Pastor Kip*), Danny Williams (*brother of Linda Pulley*), Iza Wojcik family and father John Kavouklis (*friends of Liz Strickland*), those serving our country



HIKE FOR SAFE HAVEN



Saturday, November 4, will be the annual **Hike for Safe Haven** at **Edwin Warner Park**. This event benefits families experiencing homelessness.

You can participate in the hike, but you can also help by sponsoring a family for the holidays. Donations are also welcome. For details, see hikeforsafehaven.org.

SACRED SPARKS NEWS

I looked around at *laundry* one day and realized we were definitely outnumbered. Sacred Sparks Ministry began the work of serving our friends experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty about 10 years ago. In that decade of service, we rarely encountered children...until recently. When we opened the Loads of Love laundry ministry in March of 2022, we re-connected with our friends at the Women and Children's Mission in Nashville. Once we discovered there are no laundry facilities at the mission, we wanted to help and scheduled a weekly pickup. We quickly added a second pickup for women at the mission who have children. Suddenly there were children everywhere. At last count, we have about 30 children we see on a regular basis. We call them our "Laundry Littles" and we just love the energy and excitement they bring to laundry day. We now maintain a **Laundry Little's Closet** where moms can pick up diapers, formula, wipes, etc., when they come to do laundry.

We need your help now more than ever! Don't forget, **Sunday November 12th** is the date for **Sacred Sparks Sunday** at Brenthaven CP, our biggest fundraiser all year BY FAR! **So, save that date!**

Next week's teaser: *Going Global in Madison, TN!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

-
- Oct. 3 Steve Moore
 - Oct. 4 Lorri Jean Pulley
 - Oct. 5 Luke Deaton
Kaye Holland
 - Oct. 6 Brenda Medlin
 - Oct. 7 Madge Graves
 - Oct. 8 David Fisher
 - Oct. 9 Katie Wattenbarger
 - Oct. 16 Bill Blewett
 - Oct. 19 Josh Malloy
 - Oct. 23 Cindy Phelps
 - Oct. 25 Jacob Malloy
 - Oct. 26 Suzanne Ghianni
 - Oct. 27 Paul Gonzales
 - Oct. 31 Larry Ennenga

BRENTHAVEN CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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 Brentwood, TN 37027-5909

Stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHOOL : 9:30 A.M.
 SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:45 A.M.

PHONE: (615) 373-4826
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UPCOMING EVENTS

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 1

- Sept. 28** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Oct. 1** 9:30 AM Sunday School (*Sunday Connections Classes*)
 10:45 AM Worship
 12:00 PM Member Care Meeting
 5-7 PM KOK Fall Party (*Ford's Home*)
- Oct. 2** 10:00 AM Young @ Heart (*Adult Library*)
- Oct. 4** 5:45 PM WNS
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)
- Oct. 5** 11:00 AM Creative Crafts (*Adult Library*)
- Oct. 10** 9:30 AM Sunday School (*Sunday Connections Classes*)
 10:45 AM Worship
 12:00 PM DMT Meeting
 5:00 PM Youth ROCKS

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)
 Exodus 17:1-7; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32;
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Psalm 25:1-9;
 Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 24

OPERATING BUDGET	
Dedicated Giving	\$4,186.62
Donations towards Budgeted Expense	6,212.00
Weekly Need	10,120.00
Received Year-to-Date	388,434.36
Actual Spend Year-to-Date	403,752.47
Difference	-15,318.11

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

<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>
Ben Gross	Fred Ford, Jr.	Jeri Behan
Bart King	Suzanne Ghianni	Jan Davidson
Julie Murphy	Mark Humphrey	Russ Deaton
Jonelle Summitt	Gwen Keiser	Joe Malloy