

HELLO February



EBPC February Newsletter

East Brentwood Presbyterian Church strives to be a campus of connection with an open seat for all to gather, worship, and respond to Christ's urgent call to address the hunger of God's people with action, love, justice, and mercy.

Pastor John's Message

Mutual Aid

We made it. (I know it is only February but last week's epic ice storm was a lot!!!) What a stretch these past weeks have been. Ice. Outages. Cold homes. Kids out of school. Linemen working nonstop. Neighbors checking on neighbors. All of us doing what we could.

And in the middle of it all, something steady and strong showed up again. **Mutual aid.**

We saw it everywhere.

People meeting linemen from Florida who came to restore power.

A church taking in residents from a nearby assisted-living facility when the heat went out.

Neighbors with chainsaws clearing driveways.

Folks sharing food, batteries, blankets.

This is what good citizens do.

We look out for one another.

We step in when someone is struggling.

We don't wait for permission.

But it's also what Christians do.

Mutual aid isn't just a civic instinct — it's a way of following Jesus.

He taught us to carry one another's burdens.

To feed the hungry.

To welcome the stranger.

To love our neighbor not in theory, but in practice.

We're seeing that same spirit far beyond Tennessee.

In Minneapolis, ordinary people are escorting frightened children into school.

Delivering food.

Showing up when something feels unjust.

Citizenship and discipleship woven together in many reports I am getting from churches in the Twin Cities.

In this issue, you'll see some of the ways our church is offering mutual aid right now. As February begins and we enter Lent, we'll return to the heart of Jesus' teachings — the living, breathing stories that push back against the heaviness of the world and call us to act with courage and compassion.

We are making it. And we're making it together — as neighbors, as citizens, and as followers of Jesus.

— Pastor John



Grounding
ourselves in
the good news
this Lent

Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Onsite or virtually (Facebook/ You Tube)

(10:00 a.m) East Brentwood Presbyterian Church

February 8

Good Intentions gone wrong...

"Everyone's Favorite Heresies" Beloved, Not a Banner

Pastor John visits examples in history of the tie between the Christian religious faith and political military power, and what we are seeing today in what's being referred to as Christian nationalism and where Christianity is being sought to be essentially the religion of the state, and that things that are done, whether it's policing our own citizenry or being involved militarily with other nations, is increasingly being done in the name of the church, in which the message of Jesus, which is one of compassion, reconciliation, humility and human dignity, gets corrupted, leading many spiritual seekers to reject the church for these reasons.

Reminder: The Session has called a brief Congregational Meeting following our worship service to address changes in the pastor's terms of call.

February 22

First Sunday in Lent: the good news is...so good it catches us by surprise

John's Gospel doesn't begin with a temptation story but instead opens Jesus' ministry with a wedding miracle. It may feel a bit lavish to start the season of Lent with a wedding banquet, but the good news begins with joy. This week we focus on the subversive and

playful nature of the good news. The kin-dom of heaven is so good it should catch us by surprise! Like a mustard seed, the good news can grow from the smallest seed into the tallest tree. Like an unruly weed, or fine wine saved for last, the good news is abundant and cannot be contained. As we sink into Jesus' teachings throughout the season, we may not always be comfortable, but we can trust that these teachings are good, rooted in love, and worthy of celebration.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Do you want to be part of something bigger and help bring positive change?



Call Leticia Tyler
585-319-7999

For More Information
www.ebpctn.org



Volunteer at East Brentwood Presbyterian Church

There's a seat for you and a way to serve.

At EBPC, we believe everyone can make a difference. Our mission is to gather, worship, and respond to Christ's call to meet the hunger of God's people-with action, love, justice, and mercy.

Volunteering is one way we live that out together.

Why Volunteer?

When you serve, you help:

- Feed and care for our neighbors
- Create welcoming worship experiences
- Support children, youth, and families
- Advocate for justice and compassion
- Build a stronger, more connected community

Ways to Get Involved

- **Sunday Teams** – Greeters, choir, tech support & more
- **Outreach & Missions** – Food bags, service projects & more
- **Children & Youth** – Helpers, mentors, event support
- **Creative Roles** – Photography, writing, social media
- **Care Teams** – Meal trains, prayer, visitation

Have a gift you'd like to share? We'd love to hear about it.

Ready to Serve?

Complete our [Volunteer Interest Form](#) or contact us directly. We'll help you find a role that fits your time, talents, and heart.

Together, we respond to Christ's call. Together, we serve.

COFFEE & COMMUNION

Join us before worship on
Communion Sunday for a time of
connection and community.

9:30 AM
Prayerground
Pastries, Fruit, and Hot Coffee/Tea



Children and Families

🍷🍷 Communion & Coffee - Communion Sundays 🍷🍷

Join us before worship for a time of connection, conversation, and community. We'll have pastries, fruit, and hot coffee waiting-just bring yourself and a heart ready to connect.

Let's keep building something beautiful together. 🧡

Youth Events

Save the Date: February 21st

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY @ EPBC

For more information contact Kayla or Chris



Youth

Join us for Youth Events **every third Saturday of the month!** We invite all youth to join us for a time of connection, fun, and meaningful conversation. Each month we will get together for games, bonding activities, and guided discussions that will help our youth to grow in friendship, confidence, and faith.

It's a great space to unwind, build community, and explore real-life topics in a supportive environment.

Save the date: February 21st



Mission and Service

GRACE Table

2/10, 6-7:30 p.m. Dinner

2/24, 7-8:30 p.m. Dessert & Coffee

The Grace Table - February Theme: "Safety: Creating a Stable Psychological Container"

The Grace Table is beginning a year-long healing and formation journey for those in recovery or seeking deeper healing and wholeness. Meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays and gathering around a meal, The Grace Table offers thoughtful teaching, reflective dialogue, and creative, embodied practices that support honesty, emotional regulation, relational repair, and meaningful spiritual growth. This is a slow, grounded space where grace meets real life—no fixing, no performing, just faithful presence around a shared table.

Please Mark Your Calendars:

On March 31 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, EBPC will host a community, panel-led discussion titled "*Generation to Generation: How Parent-Child Relationships Impact Our Lives.*" We will explore how many challenges, including substance misuse and mental health concerns, are rooted in our early years and can continue to affect us if they are not fully addressed. Together, we will consider how it is never too late to pivot, break these patterns, and adapt our parenting and grandparenting styles in healthier ways.



ROOM
IN THE INN



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

RITI WINTER SHELTER & LUNCH SERVE
3RD FRIDAY EACH MONTH FROM 11:30AM TO 1:30 PM

CARPOOL LEAVES CHURCH AT 10:30 A.M.

Contact Erin Morrow to sign up at (615) 275-7518

Mission and Service

Room In The Inn: Winter Shelter and Lunch Serve

EBPC's Winter Shelter program launched - and we need your heart, your hands, and your hope.

🏠 Whether you're preparing a meal, offering a warm smile, or simply showing up with love, there's a place for you in this ministry of compassion. 🙌

We also serve lunch every 3rd Friday of the month - join us! Carpool leaves EBPC at 10:30 AM.

👉 Together, let's keep showing up with love in action.

🔗 Visit ebpctn.org/serve or contact **Erin & Louis Morrow** at **(615) 275-7518** to get involved.

To **Volunteer** go to:

handson.unitedwaygreaternashville.org

NUEVA VIDA

LOOKING TO DONATE? WE'RE CURRENTLY COLLECTING THESE ITEMS:

CANNED
TOMATOES



MASA



OIL



CANNED
BEANS



CANNED
CORN



CANNED CHILIES



Collection box in office hallway
ebpctn.org

Mission and Service

Nueva Vida

Nueva Vida needs YOU!

If you'd like to volunteer, head to the Hands On Nashville website: <https://handson.unitedwaygreaternashville.org/>. On the homepage, click "Find a Volunteer

Opportunity," then search using the keyword "**Nueva Vida**" and the city "**Brentwood.**"

Choose the date and time that works best for you, sign up, and a team member will follow up to confirm. It's that easy!

If you're looking to donate, check out the flyer for the items we're currently collecting.
Thank you for always showing up with such generosity.

Help us stock the shelves with culturally familiar groceries for our neighbors in need.

We're collecting:

- 🍅 Canned Tomatoes
- 🌽 Canned Corn & Beans
- 🌶️ Canned Chilies
- 🌾 Masa (Maseca)
- 🛢️ Cooking Oil

Drop donations in the collection boxes in the office hallway.

If you're ordering through Amazon, please have items delivered to the church and addressed to **Leticia Tyler**.

Let's continue to show love and nourishment-one item at a time! ❤️



Mission and Service

Glenview TCAP Snack Collection

We're gathering snacks to support our Glenview students during TCAP!
February 22-March 15

- 🛒 Drop donations in the partner bins in the church admin hallway
- 📦 Sending deliveries? Please address them to Leticia Tyler

We're collecting:

- Granola bars
- Mini muffins
- Chips
- Fruit gummies
- Popcorn
- And more!

Thank you for supporting our students and showing up with love! ❤️



LADIES OPEN SEAT CLUB

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH EVENING

WED. 3/18, 6:30 - 8 P.M.

**WE WILL GATHER FOR A LIGHT MEAL
AND ASSEMBLE SUPPLIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**

EBPCTN.ORG

Women's Ministry

Ladies Open Seat Club

Wednesday, March 18: Ladies Open Seat Club *Missions and Outreach* evening at EBPC from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We will gather for a light meal and assemble supplies for our community partners, purchased with the proceeds from Nate's February 28 *Community Cares* concert.



WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT

Developed around "Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No To Take Control of Your Life" by Henry Cloud and John Townsend.

MAY 2
8:30-12:30
The Beatty's Home

Interested in helping to plan this event?

Contact:
Leticia Tyler
(585) 319-7999



More Information www.ebpctn.org

Women's Ministry

Women's Wellness Retreat

Saturday, May 2, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM: Women's Wellness Retreat at Liz Beatty's home, centered on *Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Leticia Tyler (lt Tyler@ebpctn.org) or Liz Beatty (aybeatty@comcast.net).

EBPC PRESENTS

COMMUNITY CARES

BENEFIT CONCERT

Come hear Nate Strasser, vocalist Piper Jones, bassist Louis Morrow, and drummer Joe Ennis Saturday, February 28 at 7:00 PM.

This concert recognizes our music director Nate Strasser's decade of service to EBPC and is a fundraiser to support its mission and outreach projects.



Music

Community Cares Concert

Honoring MLK Day, we reflected on the call to “*speak now*” for justice and transformation. The song we shared features **Piper Jones**, who will join us for our **Community Cares Concert** on **Feb 28 at 7 PM** at EBPC, alongside **Louis Morrow** and **Joe Ennis**.

This special night celebrates **Nate Strasser’s 10 years** of service and raises funds for our mission partners, supporting their 2026 needs. Expect an inspiring mix of jazz, pop, Broadway, and film spanning the 1930s to today.

[Community Cares Concert FB event](#)



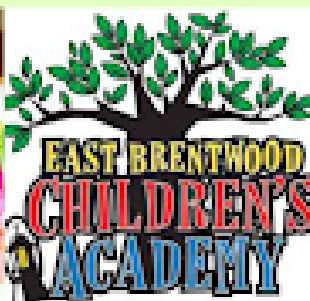
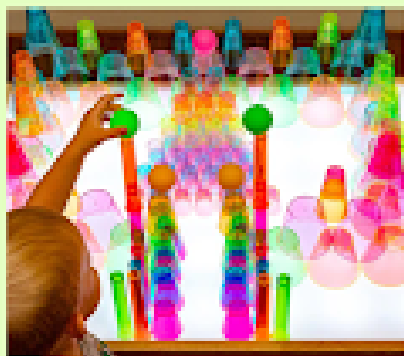
Music

9 to 5 the Musical

As you all know, we bring in six of Nate's Belmont students to join our choir on select Sundays throughout the semester. Now we're inviting YOU to come see some of them in their element! We're looking into going to lunch together on March 22nd after church then catching the performance of "9 to 5 the Musical" at the Fisher Center at 2PM!

Let us know if you are interested and we'll look into buying a block of tickets! Ticket prices range from \$32-\$50. 9 to 5 is generally recommended for ages 13 and up due to mature themes

Let us know soon because they're selling fast! Reach out to Nate or Becky if you're interested!!



Enrollment is now open for the 2026-2027 preschool year!

2026 Enrollment Dates:

Church Members: January 12th

Current Preschool Families: January 20th

Community: February 9th

Tours are held on Thursdays at 10:00am

Hours are 9am-2pm with Before & After care offered

**Rated a 3 star preschool for excellence where
children learn, make friends and have fun!**



9000 Concord Road Brentwood, TN 37027

www.ebchildrensacademy.org/

615.370.4296



EBCA

EBCA registration is underway for the 2026-2027 school year. If you'd like to schedule a tour or want more information please contact: Acook@ebpctn.org

Registration dates are:

- 1/12 Church and Preschool members
- 2/9 Community Members
- 3/2 Summer Camp Registration opens



Staff Picks

What are we reading/listening to?

Nate:

Recently read *Daisy Jones and the Six*

Recently listened to *The Outsiders*, the Musical cast album

Leticia:

Reading *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr

Listening to Emotionally Healthy Leader Podcast, *Embracing Holy Interruptions*

Kayla:

Reading *Getting to Happy* by Terry McMillan

Listening to Tasha Cobbs Leonard

Becky:

Reading *Fourth Wing* (again)

Listening to *Paper Ghosts* Podcast

John:

Leading the Church in a Changing World by Gil Rendle

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

American Heresy: The Roots and Reach of White Christian Nationalism by John Fanestil

True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary, edited by Brian Blount - will be referring to this during Lent

Hope: A User's Manual by MaryAnn McKibben Dana - very readable, very helpful



Sara Chang

East Brentwood Presbyterian Church

