



# THE BEACON

*"Making disciples for Jesus Christ to share God's love."*

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church November 2022

## ***THE JOURNEY TO DAWSON SPRINGS, KY (PART 2)***

*Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-8*

When I arrived in Dawson Springs, I was surprised that I didn't see mass destruction and chaos. I was expecting to see the scenes that I had seen so many times on the news depicting the aftermath of such a terrible natural disaster. It was only after discussions with the survivors and volunteers, that I realized why the town looked so "normal." They shared with me that after all the debris had been removed – nature took over and grass began to grow over all the scenes of destruction. It was only then did I remember that there are three distinct phases of disaster relief – nothing reinforces training like actually experiencing it!

In my Early Response Team training, I was taught that the first phase in disaster recovery was the Rescue Phase. During the Rescue Phase, the focus is on saving lives, providing the essential needs for those that have lost everything - shelter, clothing and food. Providing for emergency medical needs, and yes, mortuary needs as well. Once this phase has been completed. It is time for the Relief Phase to begin.

During the Relief Phase, clean-up of massive amounts of debris begins throughout the community. Homes that have been condemned are torn down and the construction debris is hauled away. Streets are cleared and utilities are restored for the homes that managed to escape damage or destruction. Those homes that were damaged are assessed and action is taken to protect them from further damage by tarping roofs and covering broken windows with plywood. Damaged furnishings are discarded and tons more of debris is removed from the community in preparation

for the third and final phase which is the Restore Phase.

This phase, which is the longest phase, is where the community is restored. Homes are rebuilt, survivors begin to see an end to the misery they had endured for so long. They slowly begin to rebuild their lives that had been disrupted for so long. In Dawson Springs, many families were living in temporary shelters constructed from shipping containers for over a year. It was understandable that they were so excited when we arrived to complete the construction of their new homes!

It took almost a year to reach this phase in Dawson



Springs. During that time, grass began to grow in the vacant lots – the town no longer had the storm ravaged look. However, upon close examination the scars could still be seen. The World War II Army tank that sat in solitude in the middle of a large field of freshly mowed grass marked the location of the former American Legion post that was completely destroyed by the

tornado. Across the street, another vast green field marked the spot where a 100-unit rental housing complex had been completely destroyed. I was told that after an assessment of the damage estimate, this phase would take another two years to complete. Habitat for Humanity alone has estimated that they will be constructing over 200 new homes in the area.

What was even more surprising was all the volunteers that participated in every phase of this long recovery. I never realized how much of this work was completed by church groups, non-profit organizations and just individuals volunteering their time for such a noble cause. Sacrificing their time and resources to help those in desperate need. They all understood well that our Christian faith is sacrificial – they give more than a token offering in a collection plate on Sunday. They sacrifice their time; they work in uncomfortable surroundings; they leave their friends and family and drive hundreds of miles to serve as Christ has served in

# EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

his earthly ministry.

Non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities, and Samaritan's Purse, play a critical role in these types of natural disasters. They manage the recovery efforts by coordinating the armies of volunteers that arrive on the scene. They are able to effectively use everyone that wants to volunteer – skilled and unskilled. It requires the support of men and women with varying gifts and talents to bring it all together.

And it's not just the large non-profits that are involved in these efforts. One of the homes that I was working on was managed by a husband and wife team that volunteered their gifts through their small non-profit company aptly named, The Call to Build. Their company is a faith oriented residential disaster repair and rebuild mission program that assists in the rebuild efforts of disaster affected communities throughout the US. They provide management, training of volunteers, and equipment. They are skillful in coordinating resources and mobilizing volunteers to quickly begin the repair and rebuild of disaster damaged homes for vulnerable individuals and families who do not have the resources to recover themselves.

As you can see, it goes beyond building and repairing homes. It is about building relationships – bringing people together to restore the dreams and hopes that were lost in the blink of an eye. We begin to see our own fragility in this world and it opens our eyes up to the miracles of God and his precepts found in scripture about living together in community - God's beloved community, where we all work for the common good with love, compassion, tolerance, and justice.

The two weeks that I served in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, will be etched in my mind for the rest of my life. It was a life changing experience that I would recommend for anyone who wants to better understand themselves and their calling. Serving Jesus in the way he has called us to serve those in our community that are in need as found in Matthew 25 - *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."* Amen. *Pastor Bob*

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## CHURCH INFORMATION

### Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9am-1pm

Office Phone: 301-432-8741

Mt. Nebo email: [mt.nebo@myactv.net](mailto:mt.nebo@myactv.net)

Website: [www.mtneboumc.com](http://www.mtneboumc.com)

### Sunday Event Times:

9:00am Worship Service

10:00am Sunday school (for all ages)

### Pastor:

Pastor Bob Ruggieri

443-994-9505

Email: [pastorbob2017@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbob2017@gmail.com)

### Staff:

Administrative Secretary – Brandi Puzonia

Minister of Music – Rose Gamblin

Finance – Tamara White & Shana Wolfe

Sextons/Maintenance –

Dennis & Sallie Dorsey and Mariah

McPherson

### Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center

Hours: 6am-6pm Monday – Friday

301-432-6042

Learning Center Website:

[www.mtneboclc.org](http://www.mtneboclc.org)

### Director – Samantha Early

[director.mtneboclc@gmail.com](mailto:director.mtneboclc@gmail.com)

### Communications Committee:

Toni Wetzel, Katie Smith, Pastor Bob,  
and Glenn DeShazo

## LAY READERS FOR NOVEMBER:

November 6 – Rob Young

November 13 – Katie Smith

November 20 – Skip Kauffman

November 27 – The Pugh Family

# BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Chrissy Pugh  
5 Joe Breeden  
Toni Wetzel  
8 Michelle Wright  
Rob Young  
10 Ryan Shank



15 Carol Long  
25 Mary Ellen Roelkey  
26 Jack Dorsey  
Ruth Resh  
29 Cindy Kauffman

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Ed & Lucinda Beard  
Tyler & Katie Deatrich  
Dennis & Shawn Palmer

November 5, 1983  
November 10, 2012  
November 12, 1971



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mt. Nebo continues to grow. We welcomed some new members in October. Tammy Crosten joined on October 16<sup>th</sup> by Confession of Faith, and Travis & Lisa Riner joined on October 23<sup>rd</sup> by way of transfer.

Tammy lives in Hagerstown with her daughter, Gabriella and her son, Jeremy. Tammy works for the Waynesboro Area School District.

Travis & Lisa live in the development behind the church with their daughter, Faithie and son, Will. Travis leads our praise team on Sunday mornings and works as an Area Director of Operations for Marriott International. Lisa gives a wonderful children's message each week in worship and works as the town manager for Keedysville, and also has her Masters of Divinity.

Please welcome all of these folks to Mt. Nebo!



## THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Many thanks to all those who volunteer to help pack the Micah's Backpacks that go out each week to children who are hungry, and to Ruth Resh who helps organize Mt. Nebo's volunteers.

Thank you, thank you, to all the Mt. Nebo volunteers who got donations and walked for CROP, and to Terri Hollingshead for organizing the CROP Walkers from Mt. Nebo.

Thank you, Terri Hollingshead for leading the Wednesday evening Bible study.

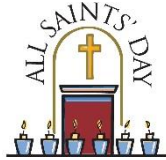
Our thanks to everyone who prepared food and helped with the meal following Ethelyn's son's funeral.

Thank you to Rose and Dotty for their special music they shared with the congregation.

# UPCOMING & SPECIAL EVENTS

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday will be held on **November 6<sup>th</sup>** this year. If you have lost a loved one since November of 2021 that you would like to be remembered this day, please contact Brandi in the church office by Tuesday so we may place a candle for you to light in the altar area that day.



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time will end at 2:00am on **Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please set your clocks **BACK** one hour before going to bed Saturday night! Of course, if you forget and come to church early, that's still okay! Remember "FALL" back - and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!!!



## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** is a special day when a special offering is collected. This offering of second mile giving is a time when we are able to make a difference in the world of learning for qualified United Methodist students. The money collected provides scholarships for deserving young adults continuing their education and faith journeys. Your gift will make a difference to a student who might not be able to afford college. You can use the Special Offering envelopes and mark it UM Student Day. Thank you.

### **SAVE THE DATE!** **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT - SAT. DEC. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Drop off your children and the youth will entertain them for the evening!  
Use the time to go Christmas shopping or enjoy a date night!

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
More details to come!

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

With the Advent season quickly approaching, and the first Sunday in Advent being November 27<sup>th</sup>, we are planning to have the Hanging of the Greens (church decorating) on **Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to stay and help with this, we will be having a light luncheon to keep up our energy also! Decorating will start following Sunday school and lunch will be served right after. Come out and help with this festive event to get into the holiday spirit!



## CROP WALK UPDATE

There was a large turnout from the community for the CROP Walk on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen walkers were from Mt. Nebo, with many of our youth participating. Mt. Nebo raised in the neighborhood of \$2,000 for the walk this year. Thank you to those who walked, donated, and prayed for safety for the walkers.

*Terri Hollingshead*



# MISSION NEWS

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who picked up and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! There are still shoeboxes available in the gathering room and each box contains a flyer which explains the ministry. Shoeboxes can be filled with small toys, school supplies, hygiene items and stuffed animals. Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to the church by **November 6<sup>th</sup>** and they can be placed in the conference room. Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used for shipping costs. Checks should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child! Your generosity will spread joy to children throughout the world and provide them with opportunities to learn about God. If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Berg at 301-641-9764 or [jasonandalysa@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonandalysa@hotmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

This ministry is a wonderful program created to provide families of South Washington County in need with complete winter clothing and gifts for their children. The families are chosen from Boonsboro, Sharpsburg and Pleasant Valley Elementary Schools. It is true some children do go to school without winter clothes that fit or no coats or boots at all. This program usually provides for 15-20 families with close to 50 children that are divided amongst some local congregations. Mt Nebo usually provides for four to five families. The families remain anonymous and are listed as Family 1, boy age 8, etc.

One way you may be a part of this ministry is to purchase items for a child by signing up on the posters that will be listing the needs and sizes for each child. If you could wrap the gifts and label them with a post-it note that states family number and child with age {Family 2, Girl 10}, that would be very helpful. Please return your items to the church by **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Another way you may participate is by making a donation. If it is difficult or you don't like to shop, you certainly can donate cash or check by using the

## Christmas Outreach continued...

"Special Offering" envelopes (mark the outside "Christmas Outreach") or write on the "memo" line of your check "Christmas Outreach". We use these funds to purchase coats or boots or items left blank on the posters.

We can also use your help on **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** to wrap the gifts that were purchased by donation and to bag these items for each child and label them by name. There may be cookies and drinks and fun discussion as we prepare the gifts for pick-up by the families. They are so appreciative and we pray you will feel joy in sharing with others the love of the Lord. If you have any questions, you may contact Ann Wright at 301-992-7216.

May you be blessed this Christmas as you bless others.

## MISSION MOUSE



It is difficult for any of us at Mt. Nebo to realize that there are children in our own community who don't have a warm winter coat or boots to wear when the weather gets cold. There are families who won't be celebrating Christmas this year because they don't have the money for gifts, let alone warm clothing. Mt. Nebo members can make a difference. Soon there will be posters up with items listed that are needed for children who won't have any Christmas without some help from others. Please check the posters for items that you can purchase to help celebrate the true meaning of Christmas for these children. If you don't feel called to purchase items, a monetary donation can also be made to Christmas Outreach. Be sure to mark your donation "Christmas Outreach" and a purchase will be made with your donation. The true spirit of Christmas is reaching out to others who are in need of a special Christmas gift...the gift of love and caring from someone whom they don't know. Just imagine the smile on the face of a child who has been struggling to find joy. You can make that happen.

# MISSION & MINISTRY NEWS

## MICAH'S BACKPACK

The first Micah's Backpack workday saw us packing 123 bags of food going out to students in seven schools in South Washington County. These serve students in high school through elementary school. Donations and volunteers are always appreciated. Mt. Nebo usually packs on the first Thursday of each month, so in November we will be packing on **Thursday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We thank everyone who donates food or money, all of the wonderful helpers who help to pack and deliver the backpacks to the schools.

*Ruth Resh*

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

As the Bible says in 1 Peter 4:10, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* The new youth group shirts made by Jenni Dorsey highlight this important statement - to SERVE others. Serving was the highlight for the youth in the past few weeks. They began the month by decorating Pastor Bob's office for Pastor Appreciation Month. They surprised him with balloons, streamers and signs! On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, they participated in the CROP Walk with others from the community and raised money to help families struggling with hunger. They also gathered after church one Sunday to shop for shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. They had fun picking out toys, hygiene items and school supplies for children in need. While serving, the youth always have fun together! Contact Alyssa Berg or Shelley Breeden for more info about the youth group - all youth ages 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

*Alyssa Berg*



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our men's fellowship had a very good breakfast meeting in October despite a small turnout. As usual we had tasty food and good fellowship.

Our next breakfast meeting will be on **Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 8am** in the parlor/conference room. Men, don't miss this breakfast, which is a good way to start a Saturday morning. I will email the men the first week of November regarding this event. Please respond to the email.

*Thanks, Bruce Smith*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At the October UMW meeting, 6 women gathered and enjoyed fellowship together. Dotty brought a delicious treat of banana nut bread and cream cheese that everyone enjoyed!

Alyssa shared a devotional about the spiritual meaning of Autumn. As the author shared, "the spiritual meaning of Autumn revolves around the visible changes, a returned sense of awe, and gratitude that in anticipation of the holiday season, allows every heart to prepare Him room." We were reminded to choose joy and gratitude for promises met and even for those yet to be fulfilled.

Betty Lou shared a thank you note from Cliff and Ann for the donation given to VIM from UMW. We discussed the idea of having a soup and sub sale in February. We will make a donation at the next meeting for the shipping of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

In closing, Dotty shared a story from Lessons from Shepherd's Gate Farm. It was called Keep it Simple and focused on how we get our direction from God. Our purpose is to love God, love people, share kindness and be a blessing to others.

All women are invited to UMW! The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**.

*Alyssa Berg*

# MISSION & MINISTRY NEWS

## ***FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...***

November is Stewardship Month. The Bible says disciples of Jesus Christ should give back from their resources, which includes not only treasures but time, talent, and witnessing. United Methodists vow to be faithful with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness; all part of holistic stewardship. God calls us to be good stewards to our church. We have a great core of faithful members. However, we need all of our members to help us go forward with our church and Christian Learning Center ministries. Please pray and give as much financially as you and your family can. Consider it an investment in a great cause that serves not only our church family but the community as well as future generations.

God Bless!

*Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair*

## ***I'M HERE TO STAY...PERIOD!***

Regardless of what occurs now or in the future, they are "stuck" with me. It's my church, my family, my friends, my future friends, my memories I have here of my last 53 years since 1969 when I moved to this area and transferred my membership from Calvary Methodist Church in Frederick, MD. They embraced me from the beginning. The Pastor soon asked if I would help one of the teachers with the 3-5 year old Sunday school class. I had no experience in this role, but I accepted. The teacher, Esther Kitchen, became one of my best friends and mentor in "living my church life to the fullest". My daughters, 9 and 10 were embraced right away into the church life, as was my son, born in 1971. They formed close friendships and grew in their faith in the years that followed. Our difficult and trying times were readily shared by our church family. They never let us down, but always propped us by. We laughed together and cried together. They were always there for us. Things that we agree on are many. When differences of opinions and comfort zones pop up, we find ways to "close the gap". We often grow because of our differences. Styles of worship have changed over the years, but the

## ***Special Message continued...***

"main event" is always the same – "Love the Lord with all your heart". Practice the values Jesus showed during his years on earth. Faith, Hope, and Love will continue to bind us together here at Mt. Nebo. I've witnessed it for many years. In the future, you will too. God continues to bless Mt. Nebo every single day. Blessed are families who worship together and share their lives with each other. It's God's Way!

*Betty Lou Breeden*

## ***VIM TEAM 2022***

This year the Tri-State Hope Builders served in Dawson Springs, Kentucky. This is one of the towns that was completely destroyed by a tornado on December 10th of last year. This tornado is the one that stayed on the ground for 167 miles and destroyed everything in its path.

The team was involved in working on two homes. The team insulated and hung all the sheet rock in the first home. All the insulation was donated and since it was all exterior wall insulation, we had to modify most of it so it would work in the attic. The team installed 3 layers of the wall insulation in the ceiling. The paper had to be removed from the two upper layers so it would perform as it should. The weather was certainly a factor as the first three days the temperature was in the upper 90's. What a great example of serving in difficult circumstances.

The second home was completely a new build. We started with a concrete block foundation and ended up with a new home under roof. The home dimensions are 28' by 52' feet. We built and raised the two 52' walls and we all felt as if we were involved in an Amish barn raising. The whole team had a feeling of accomplishing a good thing for the Hooper family.

The real story is the Hooper's of the second home and Jerry, the owner of the first home, and the hope this team gave them. These families have been living in sea containers. Those of us who have never lost their home just have a difficult time

# VIM UPDATE & PICS

## VIM Team continued...

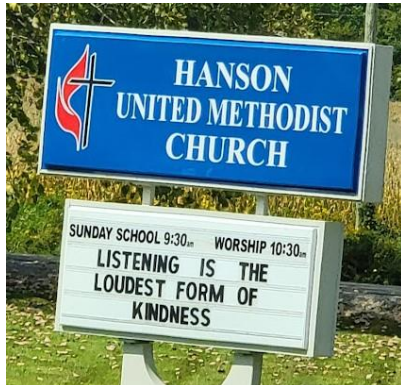
relating to the hope Jerry and the Hooper's have experienced and will continue to experience as their homes get closer to being ready for them and their families.

Thanks to those of you who supported us with your prayers and finances. Without your support none of this would have happened and Jerry and the Hooper's may still be a long way from seeing their homes progress. Thank you for your support. You gave the team the opportunity to serve and share God's love in a big way.

*Cliff Wright*



1<sup>st</sup> week work crew



2<sup>nd</sup> week work crew



Last work day – God is good!



# VIM PICS



Hooper House – Day 1



Hooper House – Last day



Tori, LaDonna & Eddie Hooper house blessing



Perry, Pastor Bob & Craig – Jerry's house



Tim mudding the walls



House blessing for Jerry VanDiver



Photo a pilot took of the storm that hit Dawson Springs, KY

# CHURCH PICS

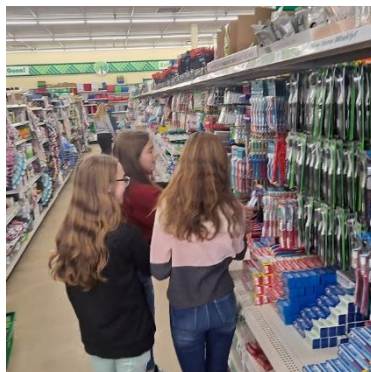
Will & Faithie - ice cream time!



Faithie, Kayleigh & Finley – cheering!!!



The youth went shopping for items for in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



...and food and fun afterwards!



# NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*FLC – Family Life Center **Sanctuary ***Trinity Lutheran	BB - Basketball	1 *6:30pm BB tryouts	2 6:30pm Women's Bible Study *6:30pm BB tryouts	3 ***1-3pm Micah's BP *6:30pm BB	4	5 *8am CLC Fall Fest  Set clocks BACK 1hr. before bed
6 <i>All Saint's Sunday</i>  <i>SHOEBOXES DUE</i> 9am Worship 10am Sunday school	7 *6:30pm BB	8 *6pm Girl Scouts *8pm BB	9 *6:30pm BB	10 *6:30pm BB	11 	12 8am UMM Breakfast
13 9am Worship 10am Sunday school	14 6pm CLC Meeting *6:30pm BB	15 10am UMW 6:30pm Church Council *8pm BB	16 *6:30pm BB	17 *6:30pm BB	18 *4:30pm Speaker series	19 SHARE  5am JFK Race (runners pass by church)
20 9am Worship 10am Sunday school <i>11am Hanging of the Greens</i> <i>Noon – lunch!</i>	21 *6:30pm BB	22 *6pm Girl Scouts *8pm BB	23 *6:30pm BB	24 	25	26
27 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>UM Student Day</i>  9am Worship 10am Sunday school	28 *6:30pm BB	29 *8pm BB	30 *6:30pm BB			

**Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church**  
**134 S. Main Street**  
**Boonsboro, MD 21713**

**Change Service Requested**

*November*

