



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church

January 2023

"If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9 NIV

As we enter 2023, it is hard to believe that we are over twenty years into the 21st Century. The world has changed drastically since the close of the last century and the pace and complexity is ever increasing. This constant change has impacted all aspects of our lives – nothing has been spared from this relentless barrage - not even the church. It seems as though we never have time for everything that we try to pack into the day. Our days become longer and longer – getting to a point where, Sunday, the one day that has always been reserved for worship and rest, is now being encroached upon. It has now become secondary to the pressing needs of our secular life.

As a result, church attendance has been declining over the last 50 years, and overall commitment to the church for those that do attend has fallen off sharply. We now see that many self-professed Christians lack the basic understanding of the truths that are found in scripture. Many also lack the deeper understanding of who we are and what we are called to do in this very broken world. This would explain why just days ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus our Lord and Savior and within one short week we will be back to business as usual in our secular world with a lukewarm commitment to our calling as Christians.

So why does this happen? Maybe in our haste, we fail to hear the true meaning of Christmas, the deeper meaning of what this time of the year should mean to all of us. Maybe we miss it because

of all of the noise that distracts us from our commitments as Christians, making the transition to our "business as usual" in the New Year an easy transition. Either way, it must end. If we are to call ourselves Christians committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we must end this destructive cycle that prevents us from avoiding the source of so much pain and brokenness in our lives.

As Christians, we are called to be Christmas and Easter people year-round. Through Jesus we have a foretaste of the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan for creation. Jesus provides us the much-needed spiritual path to eternal life. Without Jesus at the center of our lives every day – we are empty vessels devoid of all that is life sustaining that is received through our faith in Christ. We must find the

time to celebrate every day the One that brings eternal life to us. To do this, we must understand that there is more to the coming of the Christ child than the commercialism of exchanging gifts and celebrating with our friends and family. We are called to fully embrace the Reign of Christ – to understand what accepting the Lordship of Jesus Christ means to each and every one of us. This requires reprioritizing our lives so that Christ is first and foremost in every decision that we make. This commitment requires a counter cultural commitment where we use Jesus as our role model – practicing radical hospitality and love, living sacrificial lives where we give of ourselves for the benefit of others, by practicing tolerance, living in community, and doing all that we are called to do in our efforts to carry out the mission of the Church which means that each of us will:

- Proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome, and gather persons into the body of Christ;





EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO



- Lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- Nurture people in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines;
- Send people into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel, and
- Continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

We all know that the maddening pace of our world is not going to change – if anything, it will only increase. However, if we are to profess ourselves to be Christians, we must prioritize Christ first in all that we do in our lives. By setting a New Year's Resolution to begin a spiritual journey with these simple practices, we will begin to see the fruits of this effort working in all that we do. As you start down this path – the Spirit of the Lord will guide and strengthen you and perfect you in the love of God. Your heart will be opened and your ears will hear. You will be eager and joyous in seeking guidance to serve our heavenly Father in this way. 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

Website: 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

Staff:

Administrative Secretary – Brandi Puzonia

Minister of Music – Rose Gamblin

Finance – Tamara White & Shana Wolfe

Sextons/Maintenance – Dennis & Sallie

Dorsey and Tammy Crosten

Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center

Hours: 6am-6pm Monday – Friday

301-432-6042

Learning Center Website:

www.mtneboclc.org

Director – Samantha Early

director.mtneboclc@gmail.com

Communications Committee:

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



JANUARY LAY READERS



January 1 – Cindy Kauffman

January 8 – Toni Wetzel

January 15 – Terri Hollingshead

January 22 – Shelley Breeden

January 29 – Rob Young

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Mary Wade
7 Skip Kauffman
11 Lucinda Beard
14 Jenni Dorsey
15 Harper Shank



20 Pat White
25 Judy Long
Landon Parish
29 Jimmy Thompson
30 Cameron Jarrell

WELCOME, NEW LITTLE ONES!!!

God has blessed us again with two new little ones at Mt. Nebo.
May He continue to bless these little ones in the years to come.

WELCOME BABY GERAND!

God has blessed Dan & Genna Gerand with another little miracle. Lorenzo Dominic Gerand was born on December 1st weighing 9lbs. 1oz. and he was 20.5" long. Lorenzo joins big sister, Gia at home. Welcome little Lorenzo!



WELCOME BABY PUGH!

God sent another little miracle on December 23rd when Chrissy & Andy Pugh welcomed Jaxon Andrew Pugh. Jaxon weighed 7lb. 1oz. and was 20" long. He joins his three big sisters in the Pugh home - Ella, Lily, and Olivia. Welcome little Jaxon!



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to everyone who supported the CLC Christmas Bazaar.

Thank you to Rose and Mike Gamblin who did so much to make our children's cantata a meaningful success.

Many thanks to all of the men who took time from their busy schedules to deliver a card and an ornament to our shut-ins.

Thank you, thank you to Ann Wright and to everyone who purchased, wrapped and got gifts ready for our Christmas Outreach Mission and to the UMW who provided food for each family. There are some very happy children in Boonsboro as a result of all of your work.

Thank you to the Adult Choir and again, Rose and Mike for providing music for our 4th Sunday of Advent.



UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS



TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on **January 8th** following the service for anyone that can stay and help. As it should go much quicker than putting them up, we will not have lunch following it. Thank you!

Worship Committee

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY OFFERING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th

Human Relations Day is a day that the whole Methodist Church works to raise awareness to further the development of better human relations. There will be a special offering taken (please mark your donation for Human Relations Day and put it in the offering plate along with your personal offering). The offering that is received for Human Relations Day supports programs of the Methodist Church like Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehab Programs.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With cold weather here and safety being our top priority, the following will be the policy for church related activities when the weather is bad. If the snow emergency plan is in effect, all events at church are canceled. In the case of Sunday mornings, if it is in effect at 7am, all services are cancelled. The church Facebook page will be updated to reflect all cancellations, as well as an email being sent out. If you are NOT on the email distribution list, or are unsure if you are, please contact Toni Wetzal to be added.

Be safe this season!



END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS

End-of-year tax statements will be available for handout by January 8th. If we don't see you by Jan. 22nd, we will put them in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Wetzal at 240-217-1961.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH UPDATE

It is with a full and grateful heart we want to say, "Thank You" for your generous hearts to support this ministry. We were given six families that had special needs this year. The posters went up and every line item for the seventeen children was filled. Each child will open shirts, pants, pj's, socks, shoes, and boots too. There will be warm winter coats and hats and toys from their wish lists. Most were wrapped in festive paper and special "elves" labeled the presents with each child's name and placed them in their Santa bag. The UMW purchased the special Holiday Share food package for each family to enjoy together this Christmas. The parents were so very appreciative of all they received. Can you feel it? The real Joy of this season. Willingness is what God asks of us, a willingness to lay a little of what we have in His hands and watch Him transform it into something beautiful. Thanks again for sharing the love of Jesus with others this year and allowing His Spirit to shine here in our church and this community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

The Christmas Outreach Team





MISSION MOUSE

In the year 1643 a Catholic Priest, Father Jean de Brebeuf wrote the following words set to the music of an old French tune. He was trying to bring the birth of Jesus to a level of understanding for the Huron natives whom he served. This carol is in our Methodist Hymn Book, but we don't sing it because it is not one of the familiar carols. It speaks to me of how one dedicated person could try to make the miracle of Christmas alive for people who had never heard of the birth of Jesus. This year I challenge each of you to make the miracle of Christmas alive for someone who might not have heard of the story of the birth of Jesus our Lord.



'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
When all the birds had fled,
That God the Lord of all the earth
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars drew dim,
And wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark,
The tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:

Refrain:

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless Infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt:

Refrain:

O children of the forest free,
The angels' song is true
The holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy,
Who brings you beauty peace and joy;

Refrain:

REACH DONATIONS NEEDED

REACH of Washington County provides shelter, food and counseling to homeless persons of Washington County. Following is a list of items needed. Food: caffeinated and decaf coffee, sugar, artificial sweetener, creamer, pop tarts and cereal bars. Cleaning Supplies: laundry pods, 39 gal. trash bags, bleach, Lysol disinfectant spray, vinegar. Personal Care: rain ponchos, razors, belts M-4XL, men's boxers L-3XL, women's underwear S-2XL. Paper Products: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins. Shelter Bedding: new or like new pillows, blankets, bath towels, wash cloths. Donations can be dropped off at church or taken directly to REACH (140 W. Franklin St., Suite 300 in Hagerstown). Monetary donations are always welcome and can be mailed to REACH at the above address.

MICAH'S BACKPACK

At this time there are 138 students being served the Micah's Backpacks each week. The food needs are canned veggies and canned pastas. Lisha was happy to report another church, Mt. Zion has volunteered to help with packing once a month. Mt. Nebo continues to help with packing and delivery on the first Thursday of each month at 1pm. Volunteers are always appreciated. Thanks as always.

Ruth Resh

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Happy New Year! Hope you have made some resolutions that are challenging, but not so that you have set yourself up for failure. I would like to remind you once again to keep Mt. Nebo on your "to-do" list. Our church depends on us, the members to vow to pledge a portion of our finances to help keep the doors open and the programs going in order that we can remain a leader in our area. Please continue to pray and do your best to tithe for Mt. Nebo. Our church income depends 100% on us to continue our ministry in 2023.

God Bless, Skip Kauffman



MUSIC NOTES



A big THANK YOU to all who have participated in our Christmas Season music. This includes those behind the scenes that worked on costumes, food, cleaning and practice. Our music is our worship and gift to God, our adoration for what He has done for us. At times you may feel that the angels are singing with us.

Looking forward: We want to begin the Bell Choir. When looking over the plaque in the church entrance you will notice that many of the bells were donated for the youth of our church. We would like to form a bell choir that would be attractive to all ages. We also plan to have a whole-church and CLC cantata in the spring. Pray about joining one or all of these organizations.

Rose Gamblin

LIVESTREAMING AND AUDIO-VISUAL HELP NEEDED!

The new sound board is digital and needs some young minds to become trained in its operation. Mr. Gamblin has been running it but wants to be able to have a break. Now that we are livestreaming every week, we need additional help with enabling the sound to go to the livestream, running the sound board, and running Proclaim. Please consider becoming part of the Audio-Visual team.

Rose Gamblin

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S NEWS

The Methodist Men delivered cute snowmen and cards to all of Mt. Nebo's shut-ins in mid-December. Many thanks to each and every man who took time to participate in this meaningful ministry.

Covid has prevented us in the last couple of years from having a Souper Bowl Sunday. The donations made on this day go to support The Society of Saint Andrew. The Society of Saint Andrew is an organization that gleanes fields of usable, but unsaleable food. They provide many

UMM continued...

pounds of food to the hungry that would otherwise go to waste.

Men, please plan to join us for breakfast on **Sat., January 14th at 8:30am**. We have important business, including planning the Souper Bowl event, to discuss. I will be sending reminder emails to everyone to remind you of the important upcoming breakfast.

Wishing everyone a blessed New Year.

Bruce Smith



The two "Jacks"! Jack Dorsey with Jack Shifflett during a visit at Christmas.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

The new year is a great time to think about a fresh start and ways to serve others. The United Methodist Women's mission is to serve women and children. This new year will surely bring opportunities to help others in need. Be on the look-out for a soup and sandwich fundraiser sponsored by UMW. The funds raised from this will go to organizations that support women and children in need.

All women are invited to our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 17th at 10:00am**. We will have our usual meeting followed by a "Christmas in January" gift exchange, food and fellowship!



TRUSTEE NEWS

The Trustees met on December 5th for a brief meeting. A new company has been hired for snow removal as our previous one could no longer accomplish all of the hand shoveling that is required. Please be patient as this will be a learning curve for us. We have welcomed back Tammy Crosten as one of our sextons to clean the church floor. The days and hours are somewhat flexible and the job does not require any cleaning for the CLC.

The Trustees are working with our IT person to upgrade three of the facility's computers. They have been ordered and prepped, but due to an illness in the family of our IT person, installment will need to be rescheduled for after the holidays.

Andy and Cindy have agreed to stay on the committee for another year. This group of Trustees works well together to make things happen in our facility. It's a large facility to oversee and to keep in good repair.

The recent elevator inspection went well and we are just waiting for our new certificate to display.

Our next meeting will be on **Mon., January 9th at 6:30pm.**

Cindy Kauffman



2023

Wow! Hard to believe I am writing an article for Jan. 2023 already. The last few months of the year has flown by. I want to thank everyone who took the time to make something for our bake sale for the Christmas Bazaar, it was a great success. On behalf of the staff and families of the Learning Center, I want to thank the church for inviting us to be a part of the children's Christmas program.

We are looking forward to a great new year, and being able to offer our families more events to participate in. An event in January that we have rough plans for, is a family movie night. After the

CLC NEWS *continued...*

hustle and bustle of the holidays it would be nice to offer families a way to get together and connect in a fun way while also having a chance to relax.

We are currently hiring for multiple positions. If you know of anyone who has the heart for working with young children, please give them my information:

Director.mtnebocl@gmail.com or 301-432-6042

We could use help collecting spare clothing for when children have an accident and they do not have a change of clothes themselves or what they have is not seasonally appropriate. Gender neutral sweatpants and underwear for both boys and girls for preschool through kindergarten age. We have plenty of shirts for both genders and all ages.

Blessings, Samantha Early, CLC Director

YOUTH GROUP

The highlight of December for the Youth Group was hosting a Christmas Parents' Night Out! Twelve youth entertained eleven children for four hours while their parents enjoyed a kid-free evening! Lots of fun was had by both the children and youth while playing games, making crafts, reading stories, watching movies and decorating cookies! The new year will surely bring many opportunities for the Youth Group to serve others, learn more about their connection to God and have fellowship together. Contact Alyssa Berg or Shelley Breeden for more info about the youth group - all youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

Alyssa Berg





PICTURES OF THE SEASON



The youth hosted a Parents' Night Out!



Lighting of the Advent Candle – Nov. 27th

Lighting of the Advent Candles – Dec. 4th





PICTURES OF THE SEASON



Children's Cantata!



Thank you to the tech crew
on the balcony!!!





PICTURES OF THE SEASON



Lighting of the Advent Candles – Dec. 11th



Thank you
Darce for the
beautiful
scarves you
made for the
kids and Pastor
Bob!



Lighting of the Advent Candles – Dec. 18th



Christmas Goodie Bags for the Kids!!!



Wonderful cantata by our Adult Choir!



The Reason
for the Season!



PICTURES OF THE SEASON



Youth
Gift
Exchange



Christmas Eve Special Music and the kids leading us in song



Special Music

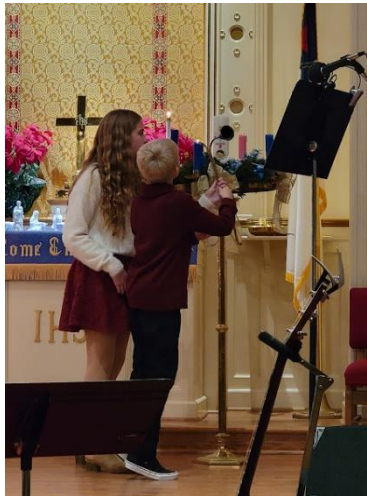




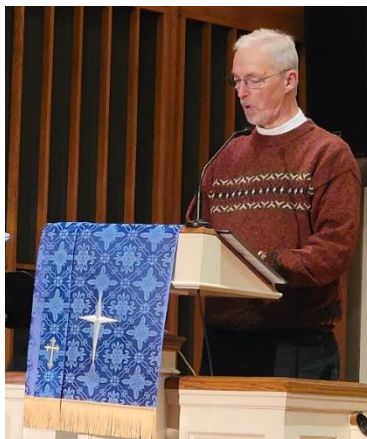
PICTURES OF THE SEASON



Lighting of the Advent Candles – Dec. 24th



Christmas
Day!





JANUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy New Year Ephiphany Sunday **9am Worship			4 *6:30pm BB	5 ***1-3pm Micah's BP *6:30pm BB		
8 **9am Worship 10am Take Down the Greens	9 6:30pm Trustees Meeting *6:30pm BB	10 *6pm Girl Scouts	11 6pm CLC Meeting *6:30pm BB	12 **6pm Choir practice *6:30pm BB	13	14 8:30am UMM
15 Human Relations Day **9am Worship	16 Martin Luther King Day *6:30pm BB	17 10am UMW	18 *6:30pm BB	19 **6pm Choir practice *6:30pm BB	20	21 SHARE
22 **9am Worship	23 *6:30pm BB	24 *6pm Girl Scouts	25 *6:30pm BB	26 **6pm Choir Practice *6:30pm BB	27	28
29 **9am Worship	30 *6:30pm BB	31			*FLC – Family Life Center **Sanctuary *** Trinity Lutheran	BB - Basketball

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

Change Service Requested



**GOD'S BLESSINGS ON YOU IN THE
NEW YEAR AND ALWAYS!**

