



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church

August 2023

In today's world, it is challenging to hear and discern God's will in all of the noise and distractions that dominate our everyday lives. Everyone seems to have an opinion on everything from whom we should vote for in the next election to what kind of car we should drive. Each year this noise and clutter seems to intensify creating more and more stress which has a devastating effect on our physical well-being and mental health.

According to the most recent statistics published by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, changing from the 10th leading cause in 2019 and the 12th leading cause in 2020. It was reported as the second leading cause of death in people aged 10-34 and the fifth in people aged 35-54. The CDC goes on to say that after peaking in 2018, rates declined through 2020 but then increased again in 2021.

This trend probably has not changed in the last two years and if anything, it is getting worse. So, the question is, how can we escape it? How can we find the time to rest and to focus on the important things in our lives - to protect our mental health and well-being? How can we avoid this clutter which manifests itself in all of the earthly things we believe that are so important, and in many cases take priority over those things that are heavenly or divine - those things which bring forth wholeness in all that we do in our lives?

In my own experience, I have found a simple solution. A solution that does not require a prescription or one that requires a large financial outlay. It does not require an engineering or accounting degree. All that is required is accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to listen for the soft voice of God to speak to us and to guide us each day. This simple solution is available to all who are looking to our Creator for the promise

that He has given to all who are seeking abundant life in this life and the eternal life to come.

In order to find this, we have to be intentional about taking time out in our busy schedules for solitary time to discern God's will. Life has a tendency to get messy and cluttered as we add more and more commitments and obligations to what is already a heavy load. What I find helpful, as I look to discern the Will of God, is to periodically withdraw from the day-to-day activities that crowd out the soft voice of God.

To do this, I begin by seeking solitude - a place free of all the different kinds of "noise" that bombards our senses on a regular basis. For me, this happens at 6:30 every morning. This is my time with my Creator. As I walk the rural stretches of farmlands near my home, I have my time with God to pray and reflect on my plans for the day. Because we are called to constant prayer by our Lord, this is one of the most effective spiritual disciplines that I practice. We see in Romans 12:12 that we are called to, "*rejoice in hope, [to] be patient in tribulation and [to] be constant in prayer.*" During this time of prayer, I ask God to give me guidance in serving Him and I pray for guidance as I submit to His holy will accepting his will in all that I do.

In addition to prayer, I also seek to find times of solitude for the study of scripture. This is a time in the evening where I seek solitude to reflect on the day and to clear my mind of all the earthly issues that tend to prevent me from having a restful night. We see in scripture that we are called to study scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.*"

EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONTINUED...

During the reading of scripture, I look for guidance found in the gospels, which through the ministry of Christ reveal to us the love God has for us and all of his great creation. The examples set by Christ in his earthly ministry give all of us the example for leading Christian lives in this very secular world that we live in today. We must read this living word of God and allow it to speak to us on a daily basis. We must meditate on these readings – internalizing them in a way that allows us to understand their full meaning for us in today’s world - setting an example for all that we may come into contact with each day.

I have found that in my own experience that when I fail to practice these good worship habits on a regular basis, the noise and troubles of the world, in a very subtle and gradual way, will begin to overwhelm my life which can lead to physical and spiritual brokenness. For this reason, I have been vigilant in choosing the life of abundance promised to me by my Creator. I urge everyone to take the challenge of trying this life-style to see the incredible benefits that it will reap for you. May God be with you on this challenging journey. 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 – Patty Watson & Shana Wolfe

Sextons/Maintenance – Dennis & Sallie Dorsey
and Sara Halbritter

Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center

Hours: 6am-6pm Monday – Friday

301-432-6042

www.mtneboclc.org

Director – Kim Kelly

director.mtneboclc@gmail.com

Communications Team:

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

AUGUST LAY READERS:

August 6—Don Dorsey

August 13—Tony Basile

August 20—Katie Deatrigh

August 27—Rob Wetzel

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1 Levi Young
August 2 Maddi Dorsey
August 9 Christi Parish
August 10 Lora Budnick
August 13 Andy Pugh
August 16 Steve Baal
August 17 Megan Merrill
August 29 Owen Parish



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 7 Rob & Toni Wetzel
August 8 Jon & Erin Gollogly
August 14 Travis & Lisa Riner
August 25 Gary & Cheryl Pryor
August 26 Steve & Teri Baal
August 27 Dale & Debbie Lee



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bill and Patty Watson joined our church on July 16, 2023. This year Patty started working in our finance office and Bill has been helping with maintenance work including painting. We are happy to have them as new members of Mt. Nebo. Please welcome them when you see them.

NEWSLETTER FUTURE

Thank you to Toni for all of her hard work on the newsletter for so many years. I appreciate being trusted to take care of it going forward using my design background. Anyone submitting articles please continue to send to Katie for review and you can send photos to Toni or to me.

Brandi Puzonia



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to Rose for scheduling such wonderful and talented persons to provide us with special music during the summer months.

Many thanks to Rob and Toni Wetzel for their organization of the 4th of July Fireworks Booth and thank you to everyone who worked to make our booth a success: baking, setting up, serving, taking down and cleaning up.

Our thanks go out to Brandi, our church Administrative Secretary, who puts in many hours each week to keep us all informed about Mt. Nebo activities.

Thanks to Dianna Basile for representing Mt. Nebo at the Annual Conference.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MINISTRY

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Please have your child bring in their school backpacks on Sunday, August 27th. While Pastor Bob won't be able to promise no homework for the school year, he will be able to celebrate the start of the school year by blessing your backpacks! If possible, we are also looking for school supply donations for our pre-school and children attending before and after school programs at the Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center.

Please bring in some school supplies in your backpack and share God's love by helping our community with needed supplies to make everyone's school year a fabulous one!

Don Dorsey

VBS 2023

A reminder for anyone interested in volunteering for our August 27th VBS where we will teach our children God's most miraculous moments in his life! If you are interested in volunteering to help our 0 through 5th grade, please see our bulletin board. We have some very special guests who will be visiting us and telling the kids about God's Miracles. Last year's VBS was a huge success and we are looking forward to another amazing day of fun. The activities have full lesson plans and videos to ensure an easy and stress-free experience! Immediately after the activities we will have lunch together in the FLC. Even if you do not have any children attending, we encourage you to join us in fellowship throughout the various activities as our Nebo kids laugh and enjoy being together! For more information, please contact Don Dorsey at dwdorsey@gmail.com or 240-529-2202.

Don Dorsey

GO FOR BOLD

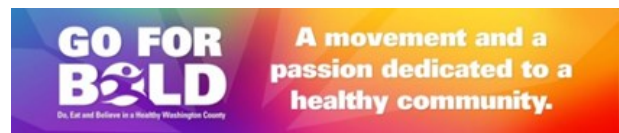
Healthy Washington County (who is partnered with Meritus Health) posted as of July 17, 2023, participants have lost 89,938 pounds since April 1, 2023. We are well on our way to

losing the goal of 1,000,000 pounds by 2030.

Beginning in September we at Mt. Nebo Church and Christian Learning Center will start to have monthly meetings so we too can join in on getting healthy and posting our weight loss totals.

Look for a sign-up sheet mid to late August to be on the bulletin board. We will have a healthy dinner, snacks, and desserts along with tips and exercises to start our journey together here at Mt. Nebo.

Patty Watson



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will have their annual breakfast on Saturday, August 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Byrd. All women and girls are invited to join us for a yummy breakfast and time of fellowship! Sign up on the bulletin board. Our regular monthly meetings will resume in September. We hope you will join us!

Alyssa Berg

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Our Volunteers In Missions (VIM) team met on Tuesday, 7/18/23, and we unanimously chose to go back to Dawson Springs, KY to help build homes from the ground up as we did last year. One of the reasons we chose to go back to Dawson Springs was because many people lost everything. About 75% of the homes of a 2,500 community were destroyed. Many of these people have been displaced with other family members or friends and some have just bounced around while waiting for their homes to be rebuilt. This massive tornado hit them at 10:37 p.m. on 12/11/21. This EF-4 tornado made the record book as the longest tornado that made a path for 165.7 miles. We plan to be there for the first two weeks of October and some will be there for two weeks, some one week,

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (Cont.)

and some may be there for several days depending on their schedules.

If anyone is interested in joining us or would like to hear more about serving with VIM, please see Cliff Wright or myself, as we will be happy to share how you can help to make a difference. You don't need to have any major construction skills. The nice part is you will get to learn to do things that you haven't done before. We all get to learn different parts each time we go on a VIM trip. The biggest blessing is watching the families find a glimpse of hope as we work to rebuild their homes. On our last day there we always come together as a team to pray with them and to bless them and their home. Many tears are shed from the homeowners as well as our VIM team. Once you go, you will be hooked on going again and again.

I have also shared a few photos of Dawson Springs. One picture is from a pilot who took a picture from the air which was shared with me last year when we were there.

Blessings, Rob Wetzel



YOUTH AND LEARNING CENTER NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group recently had a blast at Cliff and Ann Wright's cabin on the Susquehanna River! It was a memorable weekend full of swimming, boating, tubing, water skiing, delicious food, and fellowship! Many thanks to Cliff and Ann for being such gracious hosts and for sharing the love of God with the Youth Group!

VBS is coming up later this month and the Youth Group is looking forward to helping with the games and other stations!

Please contact Alyssa Berg or Don Dorsey for more info about the youth group - all youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

Alyssa Berg



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Youth Sunday school will kick off in September immediately following church for the 2023-2024 school year, Don Dorsey will be leading the youth on Sundays while Alyssa Berg will continue to engage the youth in additional activities beyond Sunday School. If you have a youth who will be going into 6th-12th grade (Middle and High School) please reach out to Don or Alyssa so that we can be sure to include your youth in the upcoming school year.

This year we will be working on having the youth set smart attainable goals to grow in God's word. These goals will drive conversation, collaboration, and teamwork to develop the youth to take on the ever-changing challenging

world. The youth will also recreate the space on the third floor and in the future, you may start seeing the youth's creativity unfold throughout the church. For parents of youth, look for a meeting in the near future to discuss what you are looking for to help your youth grow and please do not hesitate to reach out to Don to discuss if you are willing to be backup help when he is unavailable. We look forward to an amazing upcoming year and appreciate you getting your youth to church to make our Sunday School the best it can be! Please share with any of your friends who may be interested in coming and joining us when they can!

Don Dorsey

MT. NEBO CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

As we begin our last month of summer camp our themes include: Wild Wild West Camping, Jurassic Period and Top Chef! This month we will be traveling to Adventure Park, Shepherd's Spring, Ready Set Play, and Jay Dee's Water Park. We will also have pony, dino rides, a visit from Nutter's Ice Cream and we will end our summer with a water play/pizza party. This summer our center has provided care for 119 children, and we are continuing to grow every day! We look forward to the start of our new school year on August 28th.

Kim Kelly



CHURCH NEWS

MISSION MOUSE

Have you ever stepped out of your comfort zone to visit someone who is shut-in. That is someone who is in a nursing home, assisted living residence, or who is unable to get out of their home? Mt. Nebo has members who fit in these categories and who would appreciate a visit. Consider taking an hour once a month to bring a smile to a lonely person with a short visit.



TRUSTEES NEWS

Happy Summer to all! Our Security team has been on the job and is securing our building on Sunday mornings by 9:15 am. **Please remember your security code** if you arrive later than 9:15. If you don't have a security code or don't remember yours, please see Cindy Kauffman. Unfortunately, with the troubling times we live in, it is necessary to limit access to the building once the service starts. Church member codes work from 6:00 pm until 6:00 am on weekdays and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

Cindy Kauffman

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Listening to Pastor Bob's sermon on Sunday, July 16th, inspired me to write this finance article for the Beacon. It is based on "The Parable of the Sower" found in the book of Matthew Chapter 13. This is my effort to tie it with our "giving" to Mt. Nebo. I am not going to attempt to use each example of how to sew the "seed."

Giving Mt. Nebo your time, talents, and money will bear great fruit as planting a seed in good fertile soil will also do. I am not saying to give all to Mt. Nebo. I am saying to give your time, talents, and money to Mt. Nebo as you are able with a "cheerful heart."

So please place your "asset" here at our church and watch your giving to our Lord and Savior yield into your unlimited joy and happiness.

God bless you and your family,
Skip Kauffman—Finance Chair

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The theme "It's All About Love" illuminated the 239th Baltimore-Washington Conference of 2023. For the first time in history conference members took time off from conference business to be "love in action" by serving community needs. While a large group stayed at the conference site packing \$15,000 in supplies and books for elementary students in eight Baltimore schools, other conference members were bused to six sites to spruce things up where students live and learn. The BWC teamed up with the nonprofit Heart of America to accomplish this "mission of love."

Back to business conference members voted to approve the disaffiliation of 23 churches from the UMC. These congregations chose to leave over disagreements concerning the BWC's policies concerning the practice of homosexuality.

Conference tackled many resolutions which you can find on www.bwcumc.org. This site has more in-depth coverage on all aspects of conference happenings. So please check it out if you are interested.

The youth were involved in conference. First on Friday night, the youth had Karaoke night. Surprisingly, many adults participated and had fun, too. Then on Saturday morning, they addressed the conference with music and shared their ideas about what constitutes effective youth and campus ministries

During the grand finale on June 3, or in the time-honored tradition of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of 2023, two Deacons and six Elders were commissioned, and seven Elders were ordained. This was a special event because our very own Robert Charles Ruggieri, II, also known as Pastor Bob, was ordained. Jade Ruggieri, Tony Basile, and Dianna Basile witnessed this auspicious occasion.

*Lay Member to Conference,
Dianna Basile*

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND ACOLYTES



CLIFF MEETING ELIAS

SPECIAL MUSIC



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



FAITH STEP MINISTRY



SUMMER SHARES



SEND A COUPLE PICS FROM YOUR SUMMER TO TONI TO SEE THEM IN THE NEXT BEACON NEWSLETTER

ROSE VISITING FAMILY AND MEETING NEW GRANDBABY



KAYLEIGH GOT FIRST PLACE FOR HER HEIFER AND SECOND PLACE FOR HER STEER AT THE AG EXPO



LEVI GOT FIRST PLACE FOR BOTH HIS CHICKEN AND HIS RABBITS AT THE AG EXPO



AUGUST 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		National Night Out @ Shafer Park 5:30p-8:00p				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				Brandi on Vacation		UMW @ the Red Byrd 10 am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		VIM Meeting 7 pm	CLC Advisory Meeting 6:30 pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						SHARE Pickup 8 am Faith Life 7:30 am
27	28	29	30	31		
Blessing of the Backpacks VBS After Church						

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

Change Service Requested

August

