



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • September 2023

On August 20, 2023, we celebrated a very joyous day in the life of our church. On that day, a child was baptized, repeating that long practice of the ancient church passed down for centuries. A ritual whereby we are initiated into the body of Christ. It is an act that looks back with gratitude on what God's grace has already accomplished, is accomplishing and will accomplish in the future. We see this in the Baptismal Liturgy when we pray:

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah, you saved those in the dark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations. Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

Through our baptisms, we are named as children of God. We are claimed by God as God's own. As the Body of Christ in the world, baptism commissions us to use our gifts to strengthen the church and to transform the world. In God's gift of baptism, we are all promised this type of renewal and rebirth through the Holy Spirit. As the author Gordon Lathrop writes, "Baptism takes place only once, yet it is for all our life. It is for living, yet is also done in the face of dying. It happens to individuals, celebrates individual persons, yet it constitutes a community, is an event for [the] community. Baptism is an utter gift of grace, a thing that can never be earned or learned. Yet it calls for conversion, discipleship, teaching the faith [and] lifelong learning." From that statement we can see the importance of the sacrament of baptism — it is the opening of the door to our lifelong journey as a Christian.



From the earliest times, the tradition of baptizing infants and children has been maintained in the church. We find numerous accounts in the New Testament scripture of entire households being baptized including the children. It is important to note that, nowhere does the New Testament record, or even suggest, that any Christian family delayed the baptism of their children until they could make their own profession of faith. In Jesus' own words in Mark 10:14, he tells his disciples, "Let the little children

come to me, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

From this statement we see that our Lord has expressly given to little children a place among the people of God. Even in the Old Testament, Deuteronomy, 29:10-11, we see children allowed to enter into such a covenantal relationship with our heavenly Father — "All of you are standing in the presence of the Lord your God. Your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all other men of Israel, together with your children and your wives and the aliens living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. You are here to enter into a covenant with your Lord your God."

In our tradition, "John Wesley preached on preventive grace or preventing grace, the grace that works in our lives before we are aware of it, bringing us to faith. According to Wesley, this is the grace that, shows all, "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." It is this same grace that allows baptism of children and their inclusion in the church before they can respond with their own confirmation of faith. This gift from God is given to all regardless of age.

The sacrament of baptism involves and impacts everyone in our faith community - not just those that are to be baptized. There is an overflowing of God's grace well beyond the baptismal font, calling all of us to service to the Lord not only in our own communities but in the world. It is a call for justice for all those that are God's children in God's family. The tremendous power found in this sacred act binds the church and the congregation as one in service to the world. The unmerited and undeserved grace from

EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONTINUED...

God is what continues to keep the church holy even though the body of Christ is composed of so many that are broken and sinful. Through the remembrance of our baptism and the new covenant through Christ, we are all truly transformed. For this reason, this sacred tradition should always be approached with the reverence and the importance that it deserves. It is a covenant that we enter into with our Creator that will never be broken by our Lord. For this reason, it is only done once – binding us to our Heavenly Father for eternity and we must be prepared to fully accept this great responsibility.

Pastor Bob

REMINDER:
SEPT. 10 & SEPT. 24
CHURCH SERVICES
WILL BE HELD AT
SHAFER PARK'S
GAZEBO
AT 10 A.M.
FOR BOONSBORO DAYS AND THE
CHURCH PICNIC

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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.org

Communications Team:

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

SEPTEMBER LAY READERS:

September 3—Darce Easton

September 10—Boonsboro Days

September 17—Dianna Basile

September 24—Maddi Dorsey
Church Picnic

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3 Shelley Breeden
September 10 Lisa Riner
Nancy Robinson
September 14 Travis Riner
September 20 Trevor Deatrich



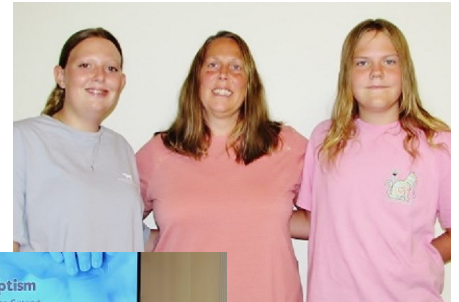
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 5 Don & Jenni Dorsey
September 10 Gary & Brittany Harding



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Vanessa Cronise and her daughters Hattie and Abigail joined our church on July 30th. For 27 years, Vanessa has been working for the Frederick County Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer. She is a Sergeant with the department. Hattie in 10th grade and Abigail in 8th grade, both go to school in Boonsboro. Please welcome them when you see them.



BAPTISM

Lorenzo "Enzo" Dominic Gerand was baptized on August 20th and was accompanied by his parents, Dan and Genna, sister, Gia, and godparents. May the Lord bless his life.



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to Cliff and Ann Wright for sharing their hearts and cabin with the Mt. Nebo Youth Group for a wonderful weekend.

Thank you to the Bergs and Dorseys who chaperoned the weekend.

Thanks to Rose and all the choirs who worked together to provide music for our summer worship services when various participants were on vacation. We do keep on singing praises to our God.

Many thanks to the volunteers who work at the FaithStep Mission cooking a delicious breakfast for folks who are hungry.

Our thanks to Cliff and Ann Wright for hosting the UMM Steak and Salmon Feed.

Thank you, Kim Kelly, our CLC Director, for the excellent job that she is doing as she works with the CLC staff to provide excellent programs and care for the students in our CLC.

CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

We are having a church family picnic following the Sunday Worship Service on **Sept. 24 at Shafer Park in Boonsboro**. The Worship Service will be at 10:30am in Shafer Park at the gazebo. The picnic is in the pavilion closest to the gazebo. We plan to eat around noon. Everyone is invited and each family is requested to bring a dish to share. Fried chicken, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Please sign your name and the number of family members who will attend, so we will know how much chicken, etc. to purchase. Please plan on attending. It's been a long time since we have had a picnic and a great opportunity to spend time together. This will be a very enjoyable, relaxing day sharing in fellowship with our church families and getting to know each other better. If there are any questions/concerns, please contact Dotty Neal at: dotty.neal@gmail.com or 240-527-1359.

Dotty Neal

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

On August 6, Pastor Bob's sermon was based on the fourteenth chapter of Matthew. It is about how Jesus fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fishes. This miracle always amazed me. But one possibility that I heard in that sermon was that this was accomplished by those who had been sharing with those that did not have food. I thought this would make a great financial analogy. We loyal members of Mt. Nebo for the most part, have been greatly blessed with our bounty in life. Sharing our "wealth" with others is a Godly thing to do.

As the offering plate comes your way or you contribute through Vanco, please give as much as possible to help your brothers or sisters in Christ to be in a better place. A healthy Mt. Nebo means a healthy community for the followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God Bless You!

Skip Kauffman, Finance Chairman

MUSIC NOTES

Let's talk about *praise music*. While the concept of praising God through music has been present in religious traditions since ancient times, the devel-

MUSIC NOTES cont.

opment of what is now commonly referred to as "praise music" has evolved significantly in recent decades. The Book of Psalms is probably the first record of praise music, these ancient songs were often accompanied by instruments such as harps, lyres, and cymbals. We know that David often danced before the Lord. Then why are we so hesitant to show emotion or movement in church? We will answer that question at another time. For the purposes of this article, we are going to discuss the benefit of praise music for Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church.

Contemporary Worship music is a broad genre that encompasses modern Christian music, often characterized by a contemporary sound influenced by pop, rock, and electronic music. It includes artists like Chris Tomlin, Hillsong United, and Casting Crowns. This music is specifically designed for congregational singing. It focuses on praising and worshiping God and often includes simple, repetitive melodies and lyrics that encourage participation. For this reason, critics of contemporary music often call it 7/11. Seven words or phrases sung eleven times or visa versa.

Looking out at the congregation from the musician's perspective I see smiling, singing, listening, and sometimes crying faces. Our God has created us as emotional beings with an unending desire for variety and wonderment. It is an honor to be part of a worship service that welcomes all kinds of music in praise to God.

Join our choir, we meet every Thursday evening at 6:00. Currently we are preparing for the September 10 Ecumenical Service in the Park. You may serve for a one-time event or for the whole season, which goes from the middle of August until May. The members also serve as song leaders for the hymn each week. **Join our bell choir**, we meet every Thursday evening from 7:00 until 8:00 pm. Our performances will be arranged based on the availability of our bell choir members. **Children's choir** meets after Sunday school. A schedule of practices will be handed out soon. **Be a part of another praise team**, this praise team could feature the music of their choice. **Contact** Rose Gamblin by e-mailing mt.nebo.music@myactv.net or text/call 301-988-0359

YOUTH AND LEARNING CENTER NEWS

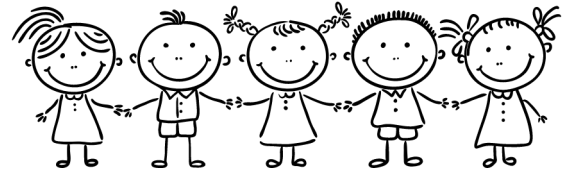
MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The school year is beginning, fall sports are ramping up and youth group activities are in full swing! The youth were involved in VBS preparations and led games, helped at various stations and also performed in the opening and closing puppetry skits.

Sunday School classes are resuming after worship on Sunday mornings on the 3rd floor. The youth will be setting goals of what they hope to accomplish this year to help them grow in their faith.

The youth are active in the church and in the community. They always enjoy service opportunities as well as fellowship time! 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



MT. NEBO CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Our summer camp was amazing! We enjoyed all the fun activities, special events and field trips! MNCLC continues to grow! When I started in February, we had 88 children enrolled and now we are at full capacity of 126 children. In preparation of our fall program, our amazing teachers set up their rooms and finalized all the special details that will help their students experience the magical feelings of being expected, welcomed, and loved as we start the new school year. All children will absolutely know they belong in their classroom, and that they will be a cherished child of God! This school year we are focusing on providing a strong Christian Education program, Music Enrichment program, and continuing to provide high quality academics using MSDE Approved Creative Curriculum for all children. We are excited to start this new year!

Kim Kelly

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MINISTRY

CROP WALK

The CROP Walk will take place on **Sunday, October 8th**, leaving from the Keedysville Park. The CROP Walk is an occasion where volunteers walk to raise money that will go to feed hungry people locally and around the world. Terri Hollingshead is organizing the CROP Walk for Mt. Nebo. She can be reached at 301-491-2024 for more information about walking or to donate money. You can also go online if you would like to register or donate at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org>. In the search area, type Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church and click: "donate now," or give her a check directly. Thanks so much for your support!

Terri Hollingshead

MISSION MOUSE

You have been hearing about the CROP Walk, but what does it entail? There are volunteers who walk and they take pledges to support them in this walk for hunger. The CROP Walk supports the Church World Service programs that work to provide lifesaving support like food, seeds, and tools for farming and programs that will help folks around the world to be able to support themselves in the future. Some of the money that is collected will go to local food needs for families who live in our area. If you are unable to walk, check out the volunteers who are participating in the CROP Walk for Mt. Nebo and give them a donation to support this cause.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MINISTRY

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A small group of ladies gathered at the Red Byrd recently for our annual summer breakfast. It was a lovely morning of fellowship and delicious food. The mission of UMW is to support women and children both locally and globally. One of our first opportunities will be the shoebox ministry of Operation Christmas Child. We hope you will consider filling a box for a child in need!

Our regular monthly meetings will resume on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with our first one coming up on **Tuesday, September 19 at 10:00am**. We hope you will join us!

Alyssa Berg

Our United Methodist Women's group have also been involved for many years with providing birthday gifts for the residents at Sterling. For this year, we are in need of volunteers to purchase and deliver small gift bags for the months of September and October. For each of those months, seven gifts are needed.

For more details and to volunteer, please see Cindy Kauffman or call at 301-491-2828.

For the long term, if this outreach is to be continued, a volunteer is needed to coordinate with Sterling and Mt. Nebo for each month in 2024. The gifts don't need to be expensive or complicated as I am told that the residents enjoy their gifts on their birthday.

We need to thank Betty Lou Breeden who has coordinated this program for many years.

Cindy Kauffman

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

The Tri State Hope Builders plans are coming together. We have a place to stay in Madisonville, KY which is about a half an hour away from Dawson Springs. We won't know exactly what we will be doing, but it will be all new construction. Before we leave, we'll know what tools we'll need and a much better idea of the projects planned for the team.

Please keep us in your prayers for traveling mercies and our safety for the first two weeks of October.

Cliff Wright

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our annual Men's Steak and Salmon Feed at Cliff and Ann Wright's home on Aug. 9th was a delicious and fun event. The weather was clear and not too hot, so we enjoyed eating outside. Master chef, Jason Berg, did a great job grilling the steaks and salmon. The conversation was lively and informational. I always learn something new at our men's gatherings.

The men will be helping with Boonsboro Days on Sept. 8th, 9th, and 10th. Their help is critically important in setting up on Friday evening, Sept. 8th and returning heavy equipment such as the soft ice cream machine, stoves, etc. to Mt. Nebo on Sunday afternoon.

Men's monthly breakfast meetings will resume **the second Saturday of each month at 8:30am starting the second Saturday of October (the 14th) and ending in April 2024**. We have an excellent group of men and warmly welcome newcomers.

Bruce Smith



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MINISTRY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

For 30 years, Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child have been sharing God's gift with underprivileged children throughout the world. Every year, they deliver shoeboxes filled with gifts to children in need. Many of these children live in poverty-stricken and war-torn areas of the world. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. YOU can be a part of this amazing ministry!

Now is a great time to begin shopping for the shoebox ministry. School supplies are on sale and they make a great addition to any shoebox along with hygiene items, small toys and stuffed animals. Many of these items can be purchased at dollar stores. So, when you are at the store picking up things for yourself, remember to pick up a few extra items for the shoebox ministry! Please do NOT include candy, gum, toothpaste, or any liquids (bubbles, body wash, perfume). Monetary donations are also welcome and appreciated and will be used to cover shipping costs.

In looking at the Samaritan's Purse website, I was struck by the following statement: "After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said, "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's



Purse - to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel."

The shoebox ministry is a wonderful opportunity to "go and do likewise." Empty shoeboxes, as well as flyers explaining what to do, will soon be placed throughout the church for you to pick up. **Filled shoeboxes will be due by November 5, 2023.** Please contact Alyssa Berg at 301-641-9764 or jasonandalysa@hotmail.com if you have questions or wish to help with this ministry.

Alyssa Berg

WHAT BELONGS IN A SHOEBOX?



YES

- Stuffed Animal
- Soccer Ball
- School Supplies

NO

- War Related Items
- Candy
- Toothpaste

To view a more exhaustive list go to: samaritanspurse.org/occ



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND ACOLYTES

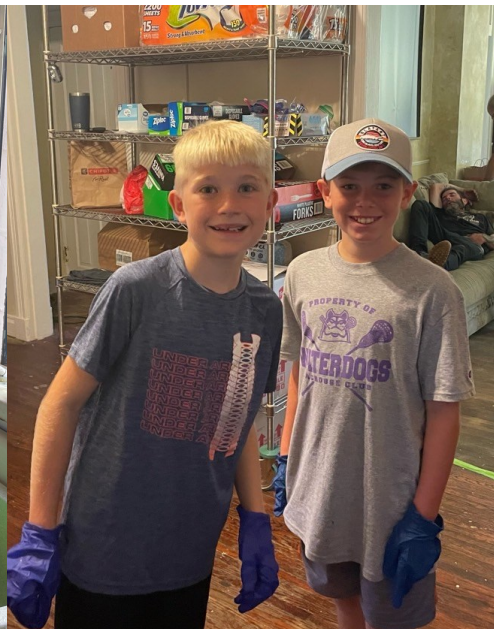


COMMUNION SUNDAY

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP



FAITH STEP



SUMMER SHARES

THE YOUTH AT ANN AND CLIFF'S CABIN



THE DEATRICH'S AND GERAND'S BEACH TRIP



PICNIC TABLE BUILT FOR THE LEARNING CENTER



BETTY LOU RESTING HER FOOT IN HER FAVORITE COLOR CAST



ROB AND TONI ON THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ICE CREAM TRAIL AND BEACH VACATION WITH FAMILY



September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Wedding Rehearsal 3p-6p	Wedding 3:30p-5p
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Food Truck Festival in Shafer Park 12p-6p	LABOR DAY				Boonsboro Days Set-Up	Boonsboro Days 9a-5p
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Church Service @ Shafer Park 10a Boonsboro Days 9a-5p	9-11 Remembrance Parade 6:30p	Girl Scouts 6p				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Trustees Meeting 6:30p	UMW Mtg 10a VIM Mtg 7p	Church Council Mtg 6:30p			SHARE Pickup 8a-9a
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CHURCH PICNIC @Shafer Park 10a		Girl Scouts 6p			VIM Team Leaves	Faith Step 7:30a VIM Team Leaves

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

Change Service Requested



SEPTEMBER

