



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • November 2023

During a service last month, I read from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 22:1-14. In this parable, the underlying message was that God has given us an invitation to follow his Son. This invitation is open to all. The invitation from God is as joyous as a wedding feast – His invitation is to joy – a joy we will miss if we refuse the invitation. This passage also reminds us of things that can make us deaf to the invitation of Christ. It's not about the punishment of not accepting the invitation, but about the joy that is gained from the acceptance. It is an invitation of grace. It is by grace the invitation is offered and grace which gathers us in for this joyous feast.

The second part of the parable tells us of the commitment we need to make after we accept the invitation. We are called to be prepared. We must come to God with repentant hearts. We can't accept the invitation and remain sinners. We must wear the garment of faith, the garment of repentance, and reverence. We must come to God's house prepared to cast off the old and put on the new. At some point we all must decide if we are willing as professing Christians to make the commitment to Christ our Lord and to accept the invitation. Will we seize on the pleasure and profit of the moment – selfishly focusing on our own needs, or are we willing to look ahead and sacrifice as Christ sacrificed for us for a greater good - an eternal good? We can't have it both ways. If we take the world's way, we must abandon the values of Christ. If we take Christ's way, we must abandon the values of the world. In March of 2022, I shared in a Beacon article how I accepted the invitation to the glorious banquet God has prepared for all of us that are seeking Him. The following is an excerpt from that article:

"Twenty years ago, while finalizing the month-end closing at my real estate office in Baltimore, I was struck with a very odd feeling that I had never

experienced before in my life. I was sitting alone – the only one in the office over a long holiday weekend – isolated from friends and family, focused only on being able to close the books. We were already a couple of years into a declining real estate market. Each month the outlook seemed bleaker. I realized that I could no longer go forward in the way that I had been living my life. I was physically, mentally, and spiritually exhausted. As Marjorie Thompson put it so well in her book *Soul Feast*, "There is a hunger abroad in our times, haunting lives, and hearts. Like an empty stomach aching beneath the sleek coat of a seemingly well-fed creature, it reveals that something is missing from the diet of our rational secular and affluent culture." I had sacrificed years building several successful careers and I now was on the brink of ruin. I had ignored my family and friends, and most importantly, I had ignored my Lord, Jesus. For me this was an epiphany. At that very moment, I resolved to make changes in my life that would lead me back to my Lord – the source of spirituality.

I didn't waste any time once my calling was affirmed. I immediately applied to seminary. During the application process, I was asked if this was a good time for me to start such a journey given all that was going on in my life. I was asked again by my academic advisor when I applied to become a student pastor – she too questioned the timing. I understood all their concerns, but I had a calling that I was not going to ignore. I held fast to the scriptural precedence for Christians to follow their calling even when it did not seem to be a good time. I was reminded of Matthew 8:22 in which a follower of Christ wanted to go home to his father to live and take care of his affairs until he passed – Jesus responded to him by saying that he should focus on his calling. A better sense of Jesus' statement would be, don't neglect the high



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONT....

spiritual calling I've given you; let the spiritually dead attend to the routine tasks of life.

Almost six years to the day of my epiphany, I started a part time appointment at a small United Methodist Church. Because of my work with the homeless in urban areas, I was expecting this first appointment to have a backdrop of sirens and flashing lights. It turned out to be a rural farming community. From this experience, I have come to accept the will of God and to accept the guidance of the Holy Spirit wherever it leads me. This letting-go and listening to that inner dialogue with God has allowed me to focus on my calling even when I am in environments where I am constantly bombarded with the noise and distractions of the outside world. I learned another valuable lesson and that was listening is the first expression in communicating in prayer. God desires to be known and has many ways of communicating with us if we are willing to listen.

This journey back to the light has given me new life. I look forward to a new tomorrow and a new me – I have faith and hope and I am content with where I am in my life and where Christ my Lord God is directing me! Amen.”

Pastor Bob



NOVEMBER LITURGISTS:

November 5 — Shelley Breeden

November 12 — Rob Young

November 19 — Tamara White

November 26 — Mary Ellen Roelkey

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Office Phone: 301-432-8741

Mt. Nebo Email: mt.nebo@myactv.net

Website: www.mtneboumc.com

Sunday Event Times:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. 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: Monday – Friday 6 a.m.—6 p.m.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Epistle	Page 1-2
Table of Contents/Church Info/Lay Readers	Page 2
Birthdays/Anniv./Announcements/Thanks-living	Page 3
Church News	Page 4-5
Youth & Learning Center News	Page 6
Missions in Outreach	Page 7-8
Pictures Around Mt. Nebo	Page 8-9
Community Ministry Pics	Page 9-10
November Calendar	Page 11

NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

November 4 Chrissy Pugh
November 5 Joe Breeden
 Toni Wetzel
November 8 Michelle Wright-Turner
 Rob Young
November 10 Ryan Shank
November 11 Andi Harding
November 15 Carol Long
November 25 Mary Ellen Roelkey
November 26 Jack Dorsey
 Ruth Resh
November 29 Cindy Kauffman

ANNIVERSARIES

November 5 Ed & Lucinda Beard
November 10 Tyler & Katie Deatrich
November 12 Dennis & Shawn Palmer



Follow Mt. Nebo on Social Media



Facebook:

facebook.com/MtNeboUMChurch



Instagram:

[@mtneboumc](https://www.instagram.com/mtneboumc)



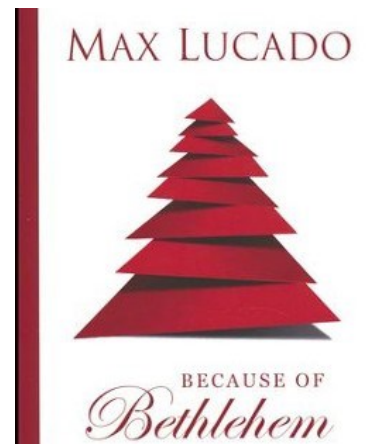
YouTube:

[@mtnebounitedmethodistchurc7749](https://www.youtube.com/@mtnebounitedmethodistchurc7749)

If you do NOT want your self or your child shared at any time on Mt. Nebo's social media accounts, please notify the office.

Advent Bible Study 2023

*Max Lucado's Because of Bethlehem:
Love is Born, Hope is Here*



Will begin on Tuesday, November 28th at 6:30 PM
4 Week Study each Tuesday through December 19.
Sign up in the Gathering Room so it's known how many books are needing to be ordered.

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to everyone who gave to the special offering on World Communion Sunday. Many, many thanks to everyone who supported the CROP Walk, by walking or donating. Special thanks to Terri Hollingshead for heading up the CROP Walk for Mt. Nebo this year.

Our thanks go to everyone on the VIM Team who gave of their time, energy, and money to serve in Dawson Springs, KY and to Cliff Wright for heading up our team.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the FaithStep kitchen to serve a delicious breakfast for folks who are hungry.

Thanks to all those who are sharing their time and energy to pack and deliver backpacks for the Micah's Backpack Ministry, and to Ruth Resh who is the coordinator for this ministry.

CHURCH NEWS

GO FOR BOLD

Congratulations to the Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center for winning an award from Washington County for a Small Organization with 100% engagement. The employees of the learning center have lost a total of 218 pounds since April 1, 2023! Good Job! As far as Washington County citizens who have signed up for the Go for Bold program at a total of 102,012 pounds have been lost since April 1, 2020. Well on their way to the 1 million pound weight loss goal as of 2030.

Come and join Mt. Nebo Wellness class on **November 8 at 6:00 pm** in the gathering room. I'll be sharing diet tips, stories, recipes and dinner with dessert. Would love to have you! Please sign up on the bulletin board by November 5th. Any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 727-303-1026. Thank you!

Patty Watson



FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Mt. Nebo is a blessed church. We have many blessings to count. Our congregation is a mix of people of all ages. I feel that it is our mission to leave our church a more improved house of worship when we depart this earth. Unfortunately, money is a vehicle that is needed to fuel our mission.

When the offering plate comes around to you, you are the next person up to help fuel our ministry. As we are recovering from the trying times of COVID, our church is re-engaging in many of the activities of that past as well as embracing some new ones. This takes not only money but persons to help with the various activities and mission opportunities. Talking about finances is cumbersome, but necessary. Please give as you are able so that Mt. Nebo is still a constant presence for generations to come. God Bless You,

Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At our recent meeting, Alyssa shared a devotion titled, "An Invitation to Settle Your Unsettled Soul." It focused on finding quiet time with God and how that solitude can help to settle our unsettled souls. How can you carve out time to be still with God?

We discussed ways to support women and children, both locally and globally, and decided to make donations to several organizations that focus on serving women and children. Operation Christmas Child is one of those organizations and members of the congregation are encouraged to fill a shoebox by November 5.

After a time of fellowship, Mary Ellen closed the meeting with some funny stories that gave us all a laugh!

Our regular monthly meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with our next one coming up on **Tuesday, November 21 at 10:00am**. We hope you will join us!

Alyssa Berg



CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED



TRUSTEES

In our October meeting the group discussed next steps to subdivide the Clopper House from the Playscape. An application to the Town of Boonsboro Planning Commission was submitted and denied based on square footage required. The next step is to submit a Zoning Appeals Variance application. Additionally, the Trustees did a walk around and through the Clopper House. There is a lot of furniture and such from the Learning Center stored there. Also, the dehumidifier in the basement needed to be reset. There is an exterior block on the South side of the house that is loose at the basement window. This repair needs to be done before winter.

The group approved space requests for Jr. Warrior Basketball and for BAAA Basketball. These groups use the gym Monday-Thursday. The FLC is also used by a girl scout troop on the second and fourth Tuesdays. They alternate times with basketball. A request for Patty Watson's Weight Management group to meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the gathering room was also approved. The group is waiting on additional information for Meritus Health to use a space in our building after the beginning of the year for Diabetes Education.

The CLC has requested that the airplane used on the Ark playground be repaired or dismantled.

Tony Basile spoke about the need for people with hearing impairments to have some improvement for sound quality in the sanctuary. Tony will research and bring some additional information to our next meeting.

The group discussed changing restrooms to unisex and did not agree to do so.

The next meeting is November 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. There is a need for some new members to join this important group in January as several members rotate off this year. If interested, please see Cindy or Pastor Bob. Respectfully,

Cindy Kauffman

STERLING MONTHLY BIRTHDAY GIFTS

Cindy Kauffman and Patty Watson have agreed to coordinate the volunteers to provide birthday gift bags for the residents at Sterling each month. Volunteers will be needed beginning in January. Our parishioners have been very generous in the past and have stepped up to the plate to provide this service for many years! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board if you are able to do this. The numbers usually range from 7-11 gifts for both men and women. Some of the items to include in the gift bags are shampoo, lotion, scented deodorant, tissues, snack cakes or crackers, a few pieces of candy, puzzle books, any other small trinkets to brighten up their day. They are given the bags on their birthday and we are told that it lights up their day! This does not need to be a huge expense. Many items can be found in the discount room at Boonsboro Pharmacy, Dollar Tree, or Dollar General. Thanks so much in advance for supporting this important ministry.

Cindy Kauffman and Patty Watson

Trustees Team
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To supervise and maintain the property of the congregation to ensure that disciple-making ministries of the congregation are effective and that local legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

See Pastor Bob or Cindy Kauffman

STARTING JANUARY

YOUTH AND LEARNING CENTER NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS



The youth group enjoys having fun together while serving! Several of the youth joined in the Crop Walk. One Sunday after church,

they shopped for gifts to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. A group also served at Faith-Step on a recent Saturday morning.

The youth group will be hosting a Parents' Night Out on Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in the FLC. Parents are invited to drop off their children (ages 2-5th grade) for the evening. The youth group will entertain the kids with games, crafts, dinner and lots of fun activities! Registration due by November 26.

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

Dear Mt. Nebo CLC School Community,

As we enter November, it is a great time of year to talk to our children about the importance of giving thanks to family and friends. Teaching children to say "thank you" for a kind act is just the beginning. Being kind to others and appreciating the kindness of others are great lessons to instill at a young age. The best way to teach these lessons is by setting good examples and modeling behavior for our children. We are going to be collecting dry foods and supplies for the South County Food Pantry this month as a community service project. Please bring in one item (or more if you like) to help support this generous cause for our community. A box will be placed under the check-in table. Last day to drop off items will be Friday, Nov. 17th.

Our candle fundraiser orders will need to be turned in on 11/17. Money (cash/checks) will be due at that time. Please make checks payable to Mt. Nebo CLC and add candle fundraiser to the memo field. Orders should take about 3 weeks. Thank you for helping us raise money for new

MT. NEBO CLC Cont...

playground equipment!

On Tuesday, November 21st at 11 am we will be having our Thanksgiving Program for our Toddler 2, 2's, 2/3's, 3/4's and Outdoor classes. Our Thanksgiving feast will follow in the gym. I will be sending out more information regarding this event by 11/10.

Reminder that Mt. Nebo CLC will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving. The staff and I wish you and your family a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



1. For each child in our program and the privilege of being among their first teachers.
2. For the trust you place in us to partner with you and care for your child.
3. For spontaneous hugs, those that come in quiet moments and those that come in with a running start.
4. For the laughs.... These kids are hilarious!
5. For the tears and the chance to dry them.
6. For the Aha moments, too many to write!
7. For the opportunities to witness love and kindness every day.
8. For the opportunities to witness that sense of accomplishment when a child climbs the play structure, catches the ball, solves a problem, sounds out a letter... the list could go on and on.
9. For the privilege of being that trusted adult when a child has a need, a joy, a concern, or even a boo-boo.
10. For the village that begins here and remains over the years!
11. For God who chose to redeem us for all eternity through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and for that we can give thanks to God every single day!

We are so very thankful that you and your child are a part of our school family! You bless us every day!

Hugs and High Fives,

Ms. Kim Kelly, Director



MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

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 5, 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.

Alyssa Berg

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

This is a wonderful ministry created to provide families of South Washington County in need of winter clothing and gifts for their children. Of the approximately 15-20 families Mt Nebo usually provides generously for five or more. These families remain anonymous and are listed on the posters as Family 1, boy age 9, etc. The posters with the needs and desires are up on the walls of the Gathering Room.

One way to participate is by signing your name by items you would like to purchase for a child. Once purchased and wrapped, if possible, please label the gifts with a post-it-note designating family number and child with age. (Family 2, girl age 10). It will be very helpful to have your presents to the third floor in designated areas by

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH Cont...

Sunday, December 3rd so we can still have time to purchase items needed and wrap those needing it and have the bag of gifts to the parents for Christmas.

You may also participate by donating cash if you can't or don't like to shop during the busy season. If by check, make it out to Mt Nebo and mark Christmas Outreach in the memo area. We use these funds for the items left blank on the posters.

This is a tangible opportunity for us at Mt Nebo to share God's love for these local children and families. It certainly has brought joy as well as help and they are so very grateful for your giving heart. If you have questions, you may contact Ann Wright at 301-992-7216.

Ann Wright

MICAH'S BACKPACK

Micah's Backpack is currently serving more than 125 students per week. This service is for students "not having access to adequate meals on weekends".

The schools being served are Boonsboro Elementary, Middle & High Schools, Greenbrier Elementary, Fountain Rock Elementary, Rockland Woods Elementary and Sharpsburg Elementary.

Mt Nebo helps pack and deliver on Thursdays of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church from 1 to 3pm. A new schedule will be posted on Bulletin Board. Occasionally dates of packing change due to a school closing on some Fridays. NOTE: the date for Mt. Nebo packing for Nov. is NOT on Thursday but on TUESDAY 10/31.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. You may donate items to Mt Nebo. Place them in the box labeled Micah's Backpack, or personally donate items to the packing site at Trinity Lutheran Church on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 1 to 3pm.

A detailed list of items needed are on Facebook. A few items needed: Mac and Cheese cups, cans of veggies, canned soups, oatmeal packs, pudding and Jello packs, fruit snacks, Jif to Go Peanut Butter cups.

Thank You. We appreciate all the workers and all the donations.

Ruth Resh

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

VIM TEAM NEWS CONT...

us she has a lot of titanium in her now. The events we heard tell the tale of survival and sacrifice as the town of Dawson Springs learned how to cope and help each other.

Your prayers and financial support were so important for our success. If we would have had to wait on the supplies to be delivered several of the projects would not have even been started. Your presence was felt every day by the team. Thank you for being an integral part of another successful mission. Without you and the Lord this ministry could not happen.

Cliff Wright

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

November 26

The United Methodist Student Day offering was originally established in 1872 as a Children's Fund. The General Board of Education of the United Methodist Church awards \$5.5 million dollars to United Methodist scholars as financial aid. All donations received go to United Methodist Students. Be a part of this amazing ministry and donate using one of our "Special Giving" envelopes and labeling it: United Methodist Student Day donation.

MISSION MOUSE

November is the month of thanks. We celebrate Thanksgiving in November and each of us enjoys a wonderful meal where there is lots of good food. That makes me think of the food in the United States that is wasted. Did you know that 40% of all food grown in the US is lost to waste, rotting in a landfill, or lost in the back of the refrigerator. When food is wasted, it produces harmful emissions like carbon dioxide and methane. These two contribute to climate change. Each of us has the ability to prevent food waste. Have a left-over night once a week. Plan your meals, label, and date leftovers. Try to buy only what you need (make a menu and then a list). Be thankful and wise this November and make it a habit to prevent food waste in your home.



VIM TEAM NEWS

This is the second year we served the people of Dawson Springs, Kentucky. There has been amazing progress since we left last September. In several of the areas it looks like a new development of small homes went up while we were gone.

There was plenty of work for us to do. We built two porches, one with a ramp and one with steps. We leveled a prebuilt shed and built a ramp, installed siding on half of a home, finished several rooms and bathrooms with drywall and paint, replaced electric boxes, assembled a 10 X 13 shed, shored up a kitchen where the corner has sagged down by 4-5 inches and several other smaller jobs. There were 17-19 of us there for both weeks and God supplied the talents and knowledge for us to do an excellent job.

The real story is how the residents coped and looked out for each other. One of the ladies has been looking out for and feeding her neighbors while she was dealing with her own family issues. Others lost their jobs because of the trauma they went through after the tornado. A grandmother and her daughter were taken up in their house during the tornado and landed about a quarter of mile away. The grandmother landed on her own couch with no broken bones but was bruised all over. Her daughter was crushed under debris and has the scars on her arms and shoulders and tells

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



**WORSHIP
MOMENTS**



DRUMMING WITH DADDY



CROP WALK



FAITHSTEP



YOUTH FILLING SHOEBOXES



VIM TRIP



NOVEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				Choir 6p Bells 7p		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Saints Sunday Shoeboxes Due	6:30p Trustees Meeting			Choir 6p Bells 7p		8:30a UMM Breakfast
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		6:30p Girl Scouts	Newsletter Articles and Photos Due	12p-6p American Legion Blood Drive Choir 6p Bells 7p		7:30a Faith Step 8a SHARE Pickup
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		10a UMW Meeting		<i>Thanksgiving</i>		
26	27	28	29	30		
United Methodist Student Day		6p Girl Scouts 6:30p Advent Bible Study		Choir 6p Bells 7p		

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

Change Service Requested

