



# THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • February 2024

As we enter the month of February, our thoughts begin to turn to the Lenten Season of preparation. This 40-day period of preparation, not counting Sundays, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday – the day before Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. This is a time of reflection – a time to move our thoughts from the activities of this world to a focus on our spiritual lives. This focus is essential for making Lent a truly special time of personal growth and on-going conversion. During our Ash Wednesday service, we are called to remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. This is a reminder of our mortality – the fact that this earthly realm is not our final destination. There is something more that is far more important than anything else in this life. It is the eternal life that has been made possible by the ultimate sacrifice by our Lord. For this reason, this period is sacred and somber.

As we did last year, we are beginning our planning of this sacred and somber time of reflection with a preparation of a Lenten Devotional, which will aid us on our journey through Lent. This devotional will be a joint effort with the participation of the South Washington County Ministerium (SWCM) – a group of local churches coming together in support of our community to assist in outreach and spiritual care. Members of these congregations will select a number of days during Lent to write a short reflection based on daily scripture readings from the revised common lectionary found on the Vanderbilt School of Divinity library. Each daily reading will contain an Old Testament reading, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. Participants will select one of these readings and will write a short reflection of how that scripture speaks to them.



The final reflections will promote spiritual growth in a variety of ways for both the writers and the readers. One way it promotes spiritual growth is that it forces us to think critically about what we are reading. There are no right or wrong answers – scripture speaks to each of us in a very unique way. It also gives those that read the reflection an opportunity to see other ways of interpreting scripture – ways that may inform them in a profound way in their own daily lives.

Our sharing of how scripture speaks to us brings us closer together as a community of faith by allowing us to experience each other more deeply. It fosters trust and understanding that goes beyond the superficial interactions that characterizes modern relationships. It encourages openness and a desire to understand each other on a deeper level. It is also an opportunity for our youth members to begin to move from just listening to the wonderful stories of the Bible that they had learned in Sunday school, to beginning to think critically about how these stories of Jesus from the 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine could inform their thinking and actions in today's very challenging world.

The preparation of these reflections challenges us to ask the question: So, what does this reading call me to do today? Writing these reflections requires us to understand the people, the customs and the political environment of the past so that we can connect the dots from the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The word of God is immutable – never changing. It is the rock and the anchor that we so desperately need in a world that is tossed in so many directions based on the everchanging whims of our culture. It allows us to confidently make informed Christian decisions.

By reading one of these reflections each day of the Lenten period, it can help to frame your day. Our modern world is full of noise and distractions.

# EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

## EPISTLE CONT....

We all need to take the time from our busy schedules to begin to reprioritize what is important. One way is to try to find a quiet place for your reading and reflection. Before beginning, pause and create a place where God might dwell in your time of devotion and reflection. Offer up a small prayer that God might guide your time. End your devotion time by praying for the things that are weighing on your heart as well as the hope that you may be mindful of the day's devotion. Write down any questions or thoughts you would like to share with someone later. This could be in a Bible study setting or casually with friends and family. Our faith development is a community endeavor – so feel free to include others in the community. Hopefully, this devotional will provide a jumping off point for growth not only within you but for our community of faith. In addition to using the 2024 Daily Lenten Devotional, our Lenten discipline should include prayer, being more generous, and fasting, which are the traditional marks of the 40 days of Lent.

As we prepare for the holiest day of the Christian calendar, let us all commit to a daily devotional reading, morning and evening prayer – a commitment to serve and give more in the church and our greater community and a commitment to learn to feast on all that will help us become more spiritually awake and better followers of Jesus during this 2024 Lenten Season.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Bob*



## FEBRUARY LITURGISTS:

**February 4 — Maddi Dorsey**

**February 11 — Rob Young**

**February 18 — Dianna Basile**

**February 25 — Darce Easton**

## 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](mailto:mt.nebo@myactv.net)

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

### Director – Kim Kelly

[director@mtneboclc.org](mailto: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/Liturgists	Page 2
Birthdays/Anniv./Announcements/Thanks-living	Page 3
Church News (UMW, Finance, UMM, Wellness)	Page 4-5
Youth & Christian Learning Center News	Page 6
Missions in Outreach (VIM, Micah's)	Page 7-8
Pictures Around Mt. Nebo	Page 8-10
Community Ministry Pics	Page 10
February Calendar	Page 11

# FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Lydia Kowalski  
February 4 Finley Parish  
February 10 Ginny Strailman  
February 15 Lilly Berg  
February 18 Shawn Palmer  
February 20 Caitlyn Merrill  
February 22 Ashley Baal  
February 25 Teri Baal  
February 27 Jody Breeden

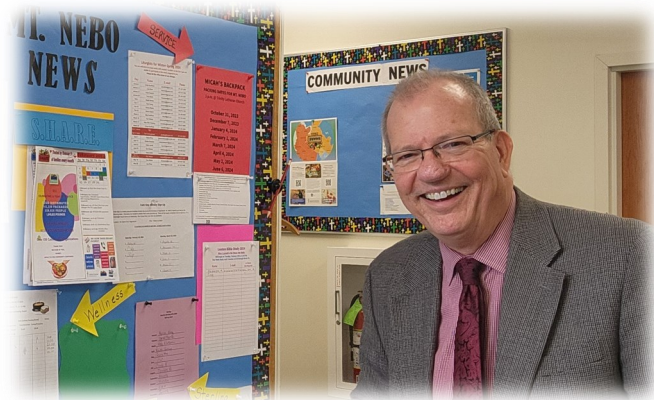


## ANNIVERSARIES

None for February



## MIDWEEK MESSAGES WITH PASTOR BOB

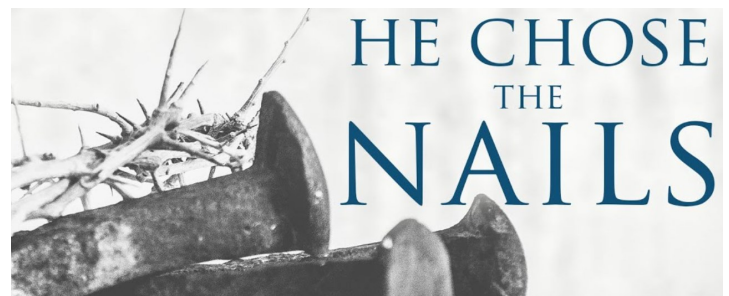


If you're following Mt. Nebo on Facebook, be sure to check out Pastor Bob's weekly messages. They are usually posted every Wednesday anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Sign-up sheet for this year's Lenten Bible Study "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado is posted on the bulletin board. If you plan to attend, be sure to let us know. The companion book that goes along with it is \$10 and is only optional.

This is a 5-week study that will start on **Tuesday, February 20th at 6:30 p.m.** and will continue weekly on Tuesdays through March 19th.



## THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

**Special thanks to everyone who has been a leader at Mt. Nebo during the past year and to each person who has volunteered to lead in the coming year.**

Many thanks to those who wrote meditations for the Lenten Devotional and to Brandi for organizing this meaningful devotional book.

**Thank you to each person who worked on the local VIM project and to Cliff Wright for organizing and leading this wonderful mission.**

Thank you to each person who writes an article for the BEACON and to Brandi for putting it together.

**Thanks to those who walked the extra mile and made a second mile gift to the Human Relations Fund.**

Thank you to Lisa Hale for using her artistic skills and creativity to decorate the bulletin boards in the Gathering Room.

**Lastly, thank you to Cindy and Skip Kauffman for putting in all the time and effort it takes to report the information needed to submit STATs for Mt. Nebo. And thank you to Toni and Rob for providing the membership information.**

# CHURCH NEWS

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women are having a Soup and Sub Sale! Choose from pints (\$4) or quarts (\$7) of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable soup. For subs (\$5), choose from Ham/American or Turkey/Provolone, all with lettuce and tomato. All of the soups and subs will be made by the United Methodist Women. Proceeds will go toward organizations that serve women and children. **Orders are due by Sunday, March 10, with pick-up on Tuesday, March 19 from 4-6pm in the Gathering Room.** Sign up on the order sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room!

Our regular monthly meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with our next one coming up on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 10:00am.** We hope you will join us!

*Alyssa Berg*



## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Heading into February, we can expect occasional periods of warmer weather. It's like counting the offering on Sunday mornings. Periodically, we can expect a good financial day. Like the weather, our church offering fluctuates every week. I am asking, you, the members of Mt. Nebo, to be consistent in your giving to the church. Mt. Nebo is always here for us. Now, we need to be here for Mt. Nebo. We are blessed as members. There are many great resources available to us. We should not take Mt. Nebo for granted. Each day has its own challenges. Please help Mt. Nebo to be here, not only for us, but for future generations. God Bless!

*Skip Kauffman*

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men met for breakfast on January 13. We discussed the upcoming Souper Bowl Sunday and scheduled it for **11 am on Sunday, February 11.** This gives the men time to set up during Sunday school.

Please sign-up designating what soup or dessert you want to bring. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Room. We usually have a good variety of delicious soups and desserts and enjoy socializing during this event. During Covid we missed having the Souper Bowl and were unable to contribute to the Society of St. Andrew.

All donations received at the Souper Bowl event will go to the Society of St. Andrew. The ministry is a mission that provides food for many people by collecting food that would otherwise go to waste and getting the food to soup kitchens and food banks.

*Bruce Smith*

## WELLNESS CLASS—GO FOR BOLD

The monthly Wellness Class will be held on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm.** What is wellness? Wellness is the act of practicing healthy habits daily to attain better physical and mental health outcomes. Instead of just surviving, you're thriving. To understand the significance of wellness, it's important to understand how it's linked to health. Join our class to get dieting tips, healthy recipes, exercise ideas, and wellness topics. Caring for our bodies is not only an act of self-care, but also a commitment to the call of service. The healthier we are, the more equipped we are to serve others with the vitality and strength that echoes the ministry of Jesus and His disciples. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. **Please sign up by February 18th.**

Thank you,  
*Patty Watson*



# CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

## MUSIC NOTES

Ash Wednesday is a Christian observance that marks the beginning of Lent, a period of fasting, repentance, and reflection leading up to Resurrection Day. Families often choose something to “fast” from. For example, they may “fast” from video gaming, or eating sweets. I had a dear friend who chose that time to “fast” from meat. I shared with her all my vegetarian recipes. The purpose of Ash Wednesday is to reset our focus, and music is part of that process.

The music associated with Ash Wednesday often reflects the solemn and repentant nature of the day. Traditional hymns and chants are commonly used during Ash Wednesday services. Some examples of music associated with Ash Wednesday include hymns that focus on themes of repentance, humility, and seeking forgiveness. Some composers have specifically written pieces for the Lenten season, which may be incorporated into Ash Wednesday services. And the use of organ music, especially pieces with a more somber tone, is common during Ash Wednesday services.

Our winter break for our musical groups is over. The vocal choir and bell choir practices begin **February 1** on Thursday evenings. Children’s Praise Team (including those interested in liturgical dance) practice begins on **Feb. 3**, after Sunday school.

*Rose Gamblin*



*Christmas Eve Service with Pastor Bob on guitar and Jade singing*



*Mt. Nebo Choir*



*Christian Community Choir singing at Willowbrook Seventh Day Adventist*



*Mt. Nebo Praise Team*

# YOUTH and CLC NEWS

## MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS



## CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

The Youth Group recently had a joint event with the youth from Benevola UMC. It was a fun evening of dodgeball, kickball, pizza, and fellowship! We look forward to more events with them and possibly other churches!



February has arrived, bringing Valentine's Day and thoughts of love. This is an especially nice time of the year to show those we love just how much we care and appreciate them. Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center staff hopes that all the children see and know the love we have for them. We pray that our school would be a place where the love of Christ is evident, and the joy of the Lord is witnessed. One of the most important jobs we have as teachers at Mt. Nebo CLC is sharing Jesus' love! Not in just showing God's love but instilling in the little ones that God loves them all the time, no matter what, wherever they go, and whatever they do.

The Youth Group will be hosting the annual Egg Hunt on **Palm Sunday, March 24**. All children are invited to join in the fun after Sunday School, **approximately 10:45**. Bring a basket/bag and meet in the FLC! Candy donations (small individually wrapped) are appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the Gathering Room until March 17. Please contact Alyssa Berg or Don Dorsey for more info about the youth group. All youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Our students will learn about local and influential African Americans through books, learning experiences, art, and classroom discussions.

Our students will also learn about the importance of Dental Health Hygiene. We hope to have a local dentist office come onsite for a dental presentation for our preschoolers later this month.

Summertime is just around the corner! I am currently preparing for our summer camp themes, field trips, on-site presentations, and many fun activities. Summer camp enrollment forms will be distributed later this month. We all are looking forward to warmer weather!

*Alyssa Berg*

*Hugs & High Fives,  
Ms. Kim*



# MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

## VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

This project goal was to demo an old deck and replace it with a brand new one. The people we served were a 102 year old senior and her son. His wife passed a year ago and they have had some health and financial issues. The old deck was dangerous even if you were in good health.

The Mt Nebo youth group was a big help. They operated the posthole digger the first week and were really into the demo part of the project. They operated a jack hammer the second week and the supervisors were very happy for their enthusiasm. A shout out needs to go to Jeff Palm the first week and Gary Harding the second week as they shared their knowledge and energy, and they made sure the deck was built properly.



Several different churches were involved. We arrived at 9 AM December the 9<sup>th</sup> to tear down the old deck and dig and pour the footers for the new deck. We ran into a rotten band board that had to be replaced so there was a solid place to attach the new deck. The house had to be jacked up to get the supports under the house and install the new band board. We were not prepared for this, but God provided a floor jack we found on site. A very successful first day.

During the next week several of us installed the deck band boards, floor joists, and floorboards to the first section of the new deck.

On December the 16<sup>th</sup> they started at 9AM. A major obstacle was a large rock that needed to be modified so the deck could be completed as planned. The first issue was the power available from the house was not sufficient to operate the

## VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION Cont...

jack hammer as we kept popping the breaker. However, God found a solution. Jody Breeden, who lives close to the project, went home, and brought a generator that would keep the jack hammer running. Thank you, Jody. Your generator certainly secured the success of the second weekend's goal. By the end of the day the band boards, floor joists, and flooring were all completed.



Several of us were able to install the railings and pickets to complete the project. Thanks to all involved for your time, effort, skills, and your servant hearts. Praise God!!

*Cliff Wright*

## MICAH'S BACKPACK

Micah's Backpack program is now serving over 140 students. I have received an urgent message regarding the need for food products to continue filling the backpack bags. They include the following: canned soups, any kind of mac & cheese product, and applesauce cups. The food pantry needs canned veggies also. Any donations are appreciated and can be brought to the church donation box or taken directly to the serving site at Trinity Lutheran Church on the first and third Thursday of the month. Thank you for all your support.

*Ruth Resh*

*Mt. Nebo will focus on donating mac and cheese cups for the month of February. Individual apple sauces for the month of March.*

# MISSION MOUSE



Mt. Nebo has a great opportunity to support the Society of St. Andrew coming up. On **Sunday, Feb. 11** the men will host a Souper Bowl. There will be delicious soups and desserts and a chance to share a meal with friends in the Family Life Center. As we share time, we can think about those who are in need of food. There will be baskets for donations to the Society of St. Andrew. This group collects food from farmers that will not meet marketing standards and would be thrown away, but it is good to eat. They also glean fields to gather food. There are some farmers that support the program by planting a field of food just for the Society of St. Andrew. The food that is gathered is distributed to food banks and soup kitchens. Last year from January 1 to June 30 there were 7,694,756 pounds of nourishing food recovered, 30,779,024 servings of fresh food provided, 7,219 volunteers, 450 farms or providers, and 934 distributing agencies. You can be a part of the wonderful ministry, by sharing a meal at Mt. Nebo's Souper Bowl and making a donation to the Society of St. Andrew.

## PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

### THANK YOU FOR SERVING



### AS VOLUNTEERS



### AS STAFF AND LEADERS





# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONT..

## FOR THE CHILDREN



## THANK YOU FOR SERVING CONT..



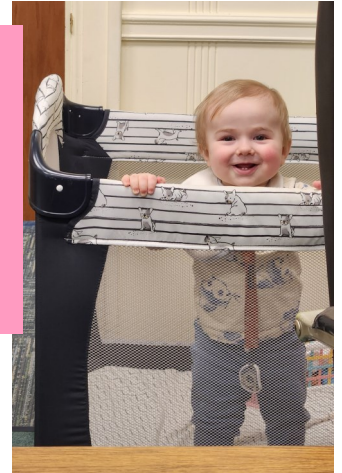
## AS LITURGY READERS, ACOLYTES, AND MORE!

# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONT...



**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT**

**ELIAS BRINGING JOY TO OFFICE AND VISITORS**



## SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY

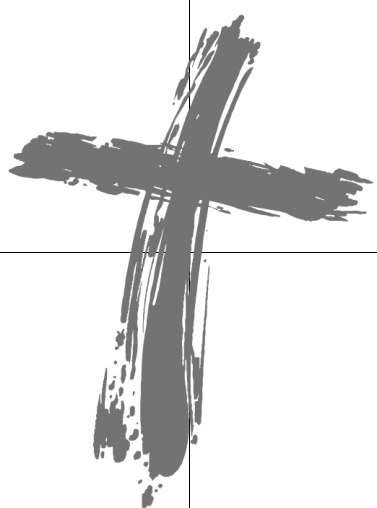


**FAITHSTEP**



MI

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BAAA and Jr Warrior Basketball in FLC every M/W 6-8p Tu 8-9:30p Th 7-9p				1 Micah's Backpack 1p 6p Choir 7p Bells	2	3
4 9a Worship	5	6	7	8 6p Choir 7p Bells	9	10 730a FaithStep 830a UMM Breakfast
11 9a Worship <i>Scouting Ministries Sunday</i>	12	13 6p Girl Scouts	14 7p Ash Wednesday Service @ Trinity Lutheran	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 6p Choir 7p Bells	16	17 8a SHARE Pickup 11a-4p Baby Shower in FLC
18 9a Worship	19	20 10a UMW Meeting 630p Lent Bible Study	21 6p Wellness Meeting	22 6p Choir 7p Bells	23	24
25 9a Worship	26	27 6p Girl Scouts 630p Lent Bible Study	28	29 6p Choir 7p Bells		

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

**Change Service Requested**

