



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • January 2024

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17 ESV

As we enter a new year, some of us long for the "good old days" – a time before the internet, a time before the emergence of cell phones. A time where our politicians were civil with each other, even gathered together for special outings and parties. However, no matter how much we wish differently, the world is changing at a rapid pace and we have little control. This constant change has impacted all aspects of our lives – nothing has been spared from this relentless barrage - not even our beloved church.

It now 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 60 years and overall commitment to the church for those that do attend has fallen off sharply.

As a result, 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. We worship a God that is immutable - that is not changing – His truths are unchanging over-time. He provides us the one thing in the world that does not change with the whims of society giving us

an anchor to hold us steady in a sea of change and uncertainty.

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:

1. Proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome, and gather persons into the body of Christ;
2. Lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
3. Nurture people in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines;
4. 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;
5. Continue the mission of seeking, welcoming, and



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONT....

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 we start down this path, the Spirit of the Lord will guide and strengthen us and perfect us in the love of God. Our hearts will be opened and our ears will hear. We will be eager and joyous in serving our heavenly Father.

I pray that each of you will have a Happy and Spirit filled New Year. Amen.

Pastor Bob



JANUARY LITURGISTS:

January 7 — Tony Basile

January 14 — Lisa Riner

January 21 — Katie Deatrich

January 28 — Cindy Kauffman

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/Liturgists	Page 2
Birthdays/Anniv./Announcements/Thanks-living	Page 3
Church News	Page 4-5
Youth News	Page 6
Learning Center & Missions in Outreach News	Page 7
Pictures Around Mt. Nebo	Page 8-10
Community Ministry Pics	Page 10
January Calendar	Page 11

JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

January 1	Mary Wade
January 2	Will Riner
January 7	Skip Kauffman Bella Wade
January 11	Lucinda Beard
January 14	Jenni Dorsey
January 15	Harper Shank
January 20	Pat White
January 23	Patty Watson
January 25	Landon Parish
January 29	Jimmy Thompson
January 30	Cameron Jarrell

ANNIVERSARIES

None for January



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS 2024

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please be sure to pick them up!



Each year the *South Washington County Ministerium* puts together a devotional to use through the Lent season with members of the churches submitting devotions from scriptures. If you would like to be involved in writing a devotional for 2024, please contact the church office so that the list of scriptures can be sent to you. You choose the scripture you would like to write about, you share your own thoughts and reflection of the scripture in 200 words or less, then send the devotion to Mt. Nebo's office to be printed. **The deadline for the devotions to be written and sent in is January 26th!** If you have any questions, please email Brandi at mt.nebo@myactv.net or Pastor Bob at pastorbob2017@gmail.com.

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to the youth for providing the parents at Mt. Nebo a night out by providing a great evening for the children.

Thank you to each man who took a gift and card to our shut-in members.

Many, many, thanks to Ann Wright for organizing the Christmas Outreach mission and to each of our Mt. Nebo members who purchased and wrapped the gifts. There are some very happy children in the Boonsboro area.

Thank you, Pastor Bob for providing the leadership for the meaningful Advent Study.

Our thanks to each of the members of the Music Ministry at Mt. Nebo for the special Christmas music. Thank you to Rose Gamblin for leading our Music Ministry and for all the work that she (and Mike) do to make it so meaningful at this time of year. Also, for the wonderful Children's program.

Thank you to all the families who led our Advent Wreath lighting on the Sundays of Advent.

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2024! A new year brings new opportunities for the United Methodist Women to gather in fellowship, grow in their faith, and find ways to be of service. Be on the lookout for a soup and sandwich fundraiser which will raise funds to serve women and children, both locally and globally. Our regular monthly meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with our next one coming up on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 10:00am**. We hope you will join us!

Alyssa Berg

TRUSTEES NEWS

The Trustees last meeting for 2023 was in November. The group discussed allocating money for the purchase of some new audiovisual equipment to enhance our online presence. We also discussed some options to enhance the sound for those who have more difficulty hearing during the live service. More information is being gathered as there are various options to assist those who need it. The Board of Zoning appeals variance that was requested to the Town of Boonsboro was submitted and the hearing was on November 21. The request was to subdivide the Clopper house property into 2 parcels. As this request was denied, the group will need to decide on next steps after the first of the year.

Several of the Trustees refreshed the mulch on the Ark playground and the larger playground in November. Other church members are keeping salt in the water softener every month. The elevator inspection took place in November and our elevator passed. Thanks to all members who help to keep our facility in good repair. Thanks, also, to our sextons who are very faithful about keeping our facility clean. For the first time, the Planet Aid collection container was full and we had to notify the company. That's good news for our church as we receive some funds from that effort. Please continue to support our church building and grounds as many hands make light work!

The Trustees would like to remind church members that anyone can have a code to get into the church, if requested. However, church member codes only work from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am on weekdays and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. If

TRUSTEES NEWS CONT...

you are visiting in the daytime on weekdays, you must ring the bell at one of the gathering room doors to gain entry during office hours which are 9:00-1:00 daily. Should you need a code, please see Cindy in the next few weeks. Once received, please record it on your phone or someplace where you will remember it.

May God continue to bless our Mt. Nebo families.

Cindy Kauffman
Trustee Chair

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men will meet for breakfast on January 13 at 9am. We will plan our Souper Bowl lunch to be held on February 11th (Super Bowl Sunday). We will take up a collection to support the Society of Saint Andrew at the lunch. The Society of Saint Andrew is a wonderful organization where fields are gleaned by volunteers, and farmers donate unmarketable produce to feed the hungry in our country. From January 1 to September 30, 2023, The Society of Saint Andrew was able to recover 15,187,528 pounds of nourishing food, provide 60,750,112 servings of fresh food, involve 15,091 volunteers and work with 751 farms/providers and 1,377 agencies distributing food.

Plan to join us for the delicious lunch of a variety of soups and desserts and make a donation to help support this mission of the United Methodist Church

Bruce Smith



Bruce thanks everyone who prayed for him during his surgery. Those prayers were strengthening for him and we know they guided the doctors as they performed the surgery. Thank you for food and visits, especially thanks to Pastor Bob who traveled all the way to the Washington Hospital Center to have prayer with us.

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

GO FOR BOLD-WELLNESS CLASS

Wellness classes start again on **Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m.** Make 2024 the year you begin your journey getting healthy. We know losing weight is good for us, it's just the past failures and frustrations that get in our way. With the wellness class you'll get tips, ideas, recipes, support and healthy snacks or dinner. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. I look forward to seeing you.

Patty Watson

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Happy New Year! Let's keep the momentum going for 2024. Mt. Nebo had a very positive past year. Both the church and CLC were greatly blessed by God. As President John Kennedy once said, "God's work on this Earth must truly be our own!" Unfortunately, each entity, including our church, is a business. The life blood of a business is cash. For us to do God's work on Earth, we must sustain our church with our generous gifts and tithing. Please financially support Mt. Nebo in 2024 to the best of your ability. You will be blessed.

Skip Kauffman

MUSIC NOTES

A BIG thanks to all who participated in the music for the Christmas season. This includes the Community choir, the Children's choir, the Bell choir, the Praise Team, soloists, and guest musicians.



MUSIC NOTES Cont...



We are now transitioning into the Season of Epiphany. The liturgical season of Epiphany typically begins on January 6 and lasts until the beginning of Lent. It focuses on the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, symbolized by the visit of the Magi. Worship during this season often reflects themes of light, revelation, and the manifestation of Christ's glory. Worship songs and hymns chosen for January may reflect the themes of Epiphany, the baptism of Jesus, and the beginning of his public ministry. Hymns related to light, revelation, and discipleship are common.

If you have had a chance to view the services online you will notice a big improvement. We really appreciate Oscar Hernandez and the audio/visual team. There have also been extra expenditures to help with this improvement. So, a *thank you* goes to the Board of Trustees.

We are always looking for help for the audio/visual team. We have developed a tentative schedule for those willing to help with the various tasks, i.e., sound, Proclaim, and streaming.

The choir and bells will be taking a well-deserved winter break during the month of January. If you would like to join one of those groups, just come on Thursdays. Choir meets from 6:00 to 6:50 and Bells meet from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. **First rehearsal of the new year will be February 1, 2024 (Thursday).**

Rose Gamblin

YOUTH NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2nd Annual Parents' Night Out! It was a great success with 15 youth and 12 children in attendance. Congratulations to Don for receiving a \$5000 grant from the Baltimore Washington Conference! This will be used to upgrade the youth space on the 3rd floor as well as provide banners designed by the youth to be hung in the sanctuary.

In this new year, the youth will continue to expand their faith through Sunday School, participate in a variety of community service opportunities and gather together in fellowship - maybe snow tubing soon! 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



GRANT FOR THE YOUTH

For you were
once darkness,
but now you are
Light in the
lord.
Ephesians
5:8-9



The Youth Group is pleased to announce they received a grant above their asking amount to improve the youth space on the third floor as well as bringing in more local church banners for our sanctuary and gathering room. They were awarded \$5,000 from the Baltimore-Washington Conference after writing a multi-stepped project which was developed from discussions at the Wright Lake Cabin and several Sunday School conversations. The space is in dire need of improvements and this grant will be a catalyst to revamp the space through existing funds and future youth fundraisers. Furthermore, the youth are working on taking photos around the Boonsboro area and matching their photos to scripture that will be showcased around the church and in the sanctuary either through printed canvases or banners. The youth plan on selling their photos in the future to help raise funds to further advance their space on the third floor - stay tuned! If you have any questions regarding the grant, feel free to reach out to Don Dorsey.

Don Dorsey

CLC NEWS & MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

MT. NEBO CLC

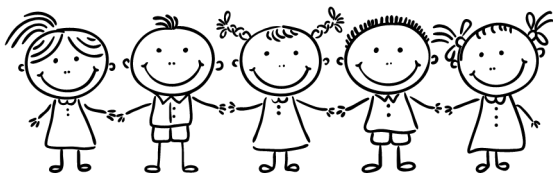
During January, the children will be learning about Arctic Birds, Animal Hibernation, Snowmen and Snowflakes, Outer Space, Food Groups, and Healthy Habits. Also, we will be celebrating National School Choice Week during the week of January 21 – 27th! What is school choice? It is the process of allowing every family to choose the best educational program that best fits their children. Every child deserves an effective, challenging, and motivating education. Each child has their own unique set of talents, interests, and challenges. What works well for one child may not work well for another child! In short, school choice ensures that each student can find a learning environment that allows them to be inspired, successful and happy. For this celebration, we will be having a fun filled spirit week with fun activities planned!

Outdoor play strengthens the immune system with the fresh, chilly air that helps fight off infections and builds resistance to allergies. It also helps burn extra energy, promotes problem solving and cognitive thinking, boost vitamin D levels and uplifts moods.

WCPS will be closed on Monday, January 15th and Tuesday, January 16th. I am working on planning a tubing field trip for our school agers on Tuesday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Hugs and High Fives,
Ms. Kim, Director*



MICAH'S BACKPACK

Mt. Nebo's next date to pack and deliver Micah's backpacks is on **Jan 4th of 2024**. Students will have the Christmas holiday starting on 22nd of December. We do ask for prayers for the students that have the need for these week-end food supplies.

Thanks to all who support this mission.

Ruth Resh

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

There were six families touched by your generous giving this Christmas. From clothing to boots and sneakers to coats and toys. Even a bike was among the items purchased for these local children. To top it off the UMW and some individuals thought each family should have a Share package for a delicious Christmas meal. Words cannot express the gratitude of your giving hearts. Thank You to each one who donated funds, food, gifts and time to wrap and label each gift. May you be abundantly blessed in the New Year.

Ann Wright

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY — JAN 15

Human Relations Sunday is one of the six Sundays during the year where United Methodists join together to take up a special second mile giving offering. The Human Relations Sunday offering is an offering taken up in recognition of Jesus' message that all of God's children are important. The offering supports racial and ethnic minority congregations, the United Methodist Voluntary Service that challenges unjust political social and economic systems that threaten the livelihoods of many people in our country and to strengthen programs that provide positive avenues for youth participation in their communities through churches mentoring programs and boys' and girls' clubs

Give generously to support these important programs.

MISSION MOUSE

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman:
When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

WORSHIP MOMENTS



ADVENT



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH



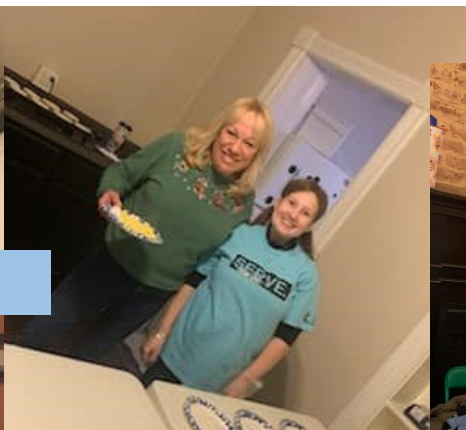
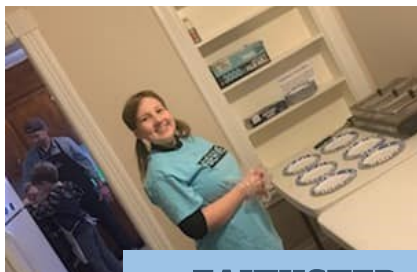
CHRIS TOMLIN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

COMMUNITY MINISTRY PICS

MICAH'S BACKPACK



COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND MT. NEBO FAMILIES CELEBRATING



FAITHSTEP



MERRY CHRISTMAS



January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BAAA and Jr Warrior Basketball in FLC every M/W 6-8p Tu 8-9:30p Th 7-9p</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>Happy New Year</i></p> <p>Church Office Closed No Bball</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Micah's Backpack 1p</p> <p>NO Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9a Worship</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Girl Scouts 6p Blood Drive @ Boonsboro Legion 12-6p <i>Register on Red Cross website</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Wellness Meeting 6p</p>	<p>11</p> <p>NO Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9a UMM Breakfast</p> <p>Birthday Party in FLC 10:30a-4:30p</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9a Worship</p> <p><i>Human Relations Day</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Newsletter Articles Due</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>UMW Meeting 10a</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>NO Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9a Worship</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Girl Scouts 6p</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Lenten Devotionals Due</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>SHARE Pickup 8a</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9a Worship</p> <p>Girl Scouts Chili Cook-off 1p-4p</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			

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

Change Service Requested

