



# THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • April 2024

Last Sunday we all proclaimed loudly, "Christ is Risen!" It is the Easter miracle that has changed the world forever. The resurrection of Jesus is the main point of what Christianity is all about – it is by the grace of God through our faith in Christ that we will have eternal life. Because Christ has conquered death, we can believe his promise to us - that we too will have eternal life in the heavenly kingdom with Him. This notion of death and resurrection is very powerful. It is at the very core of our Christian beliefs.

Although its meaning is difficult to put into words, we must try to put words around something that is beyond words. Let us begin by saying that Resurrection is the joy of knowing that something we thought was lost to us has been found. It is the unspeakable gratitude we feel when we know that someone or something that was sick or broken has been healed. It is the thankfulness we feel when we have been forgiven and offered another chance by someone we have hurt. It is witnessing with wonder when someone we love comes back to life. Haven't we all known that kind of wonder? Haven't we all experienced that at some time in our lives?

Another dimension of Resurrection that we should celebrate is the wonder of simply being alive to experience the joy of God's grace and love at work in the world. The grace of God comes to us at unexpected moments and in unexpected ways, just as it did to the women at the tomb.

Sometimes grace is overwhelming, and even a little frightening. Sometimes we encounter such profound grace that we don't know quite how to respond. We've all had those experiences, have we not? We call them the God-moments, epiphanies, revelations. They are those unfathomable moments when the distance between us and the Risen Lord seems suddenly not very far. Something

inexplicable happens and we can literally feel the certain, though indescribable, presence of the Spirit walking with us, reassuring us, calling us forth out of grief and into life, if only for a moment.

They are moments of odd surprise, and they come in dreams, and memories, and encounters with the Holy One. They can appear unexpectedly as the result of a random kind gesture from a stranger at a time when we are vulnerable and feeling down - it can catch us completely off guard, lifting our spirits, giving us hope for ourselves and the world. Moments like these can reinvigorate us and strengthen us for our toils and challenges of the day. They can come when we witness a birth, and they can come when we witness a death.

They can come in the sunlight breaking through the clouds at a certain slant, or in a rainbow suddenly appearing on a gray, rainy day or when the sun breaks over the mountains on a cool morning. They can come when someone shows us the world in a new way, or shows us something about the world that we've never seen before.

These moments also come, as Jesus promised, in the telling of the old, old story. They come in the making of covenant by water and the Spirit, and in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of wine. They are the signs, the moments of assurance, in which we find ourselves literally overwhelmed by God's grace.

Finally, Resurrection is about coming back to life in a completely new and unexpected way. When Mary Magdalene saw Jesus at the tomb early on Sunday morning – she thought he was the Gardner. The disciples on the road to Emmaus mistook Jesus for a fellow traveler until he broke bread with them. When Jesus stood on the shoreline and called out to his fishing disciples, Peter and the others could not recognize him. John writes that when the eleven first saw the Risen



# EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

## EPISTLE CONT...

Jesus, they believed they had seen a ghost. And then there is that passage from Matthew 25:31-46 where Jesus promises his followers that when he reappears it will be as the beggar, the stranger, the sick person or the prisoner. In these cases, it will not be the church that brings the Risen Christ to the world. Instead, it will be the world in all its broken messiness that teaches the Church how to recognize Christ.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again, and again, and again, and again. But you probably won't recognize him when he does. Instead, you might see a person who feels like nothing more than a distraction, an obstacle or a burden. An outsider you don't have time to let into your busy life.

This is the repeated message of the Easter story. Jesus is already out there in the world, waiting for his followers to catch up and recognize him. The Holy Spirit and God's love are bound by no human structure, no conventional limitation.

So, we see it is in life that we will find Jesus. It isn't always on a Sunday in the sanctuary that we will find him. We must go out into the world as his disciples proclaiming the Good News - transforming the world through Christ - always serving the one who has loved us - adopted us as His beloved children. What more can we ever want?! Amen.

*Pastor Bob*

## APRIL LITURGISTS:

**April 7 — Alyssa Berg**  
**April 14 — Shelley Breeden**  
**April 21 — Hollie Jarrell**  
**April 28 — Don Dorsey**

## 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

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# APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Dave Wade  
April 5 Kristan Baal  
April 6 Ethelyn Purcell  
April 7 Stacia Gollogly  
Jack Shifflett  
April 8 Ryan Gregoire  
April 22 Ann Wright  
April 30 Darce Easton



## ANNIVERSARIES

April 11 Al & Ruth Resh  
April 24 Cliff & Ann Wright



## ENJOY A TRIP TO MT. NEBO

On **Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary, everyone is invited to enjoy a trip to Mt. Nebo with Dale and Debbie Lee. Dale and Debbie recently traveled to Mt. Nebo as well as other interesting places. They will present slides and a talk about their trip. The UMW will serve dessert following the presentation.



## OUT OF AFRICA

To continue evenings of sharing about mission trips, on **Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m.**, Dr. Rose Gamblin will be sharing about her trip to Tanzania in March. She will present slides and video about her experience with the children and people she served while she was there. All are invited to attend!



## THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Many thanks to Pastor Bob for leading the Confirmation Class and to the mentors for each of our confirmands.

**Thank you to everyone who ordered a sub and/or soup from the UMW.**

Special thanks to the youth and their leaders for organizing the egg hunt for the children.

**Thank you to everyone who provided food for the Easter Breakfast.**

Thanks to the music department for filling in for Rose while she was in Tanzania, especially to Travis and the Praise Band. Thanks to the members of Mt. Nebo who provided music for the Maundy Thursday service with the Community Choir.

# YOUTH and CLC NEWS

## MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

It has been another busy few weeks for the Youth Group! Several of the youth are involved in the Confirmation Class. They are meeting weekly with Pastor Bob and their mentors. The youth continue to serve at FaithStep and all of the Confirmands will be volunteering there in the coming weeks as part of the Confirmation process. We always look forward to hosting the egg hunt and this year was another success. Thank you to everyone who donated candy! The youth enjoyed shopping for birthday gifts for the April birthdays at Sterling Care! They also presented a proposal to the Trustees about revamping the Clopper House. Way to go, youth!

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*

## UNITED METHODIST SUMMER CAMP

Families have an opportunity to attend summer camp at United Methodist facilities. The nearest camp is Manidokan in Southern Washington County, West River is a second camp site. It is located on West River in Maryland near the Chesapeake Bay. There are overnight programs for 1st thru 12th graders and day camps for 1st thru 8th graders. Registration is open now, so if you are interested register soon so that you will have a good choice of programs. Check out the website [bwccampsandretreats.com](http://bwccampsandretreats.com) for more information on the many different programs and schedules.

## CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

We seem to finally be enjoying some warmer weather. "April Showers bring May Flowers!" We have spent so much time indoors and will be excited to spend time outside enjoying the weather and the many things we can observe in the spring! Our children strengthen growing muscles when they are climbing, running, playing ball, and jumping. In the month of April children will be learning about pond life, weather, earth, caterpillars, and butterflies.

We will celebrate the "Week of the Young Child" from April 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a week of activities to focus attention on the needs of young children under 5 years. It is sponsored by NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and a great time for all of us to recommit and recognize our responsibilities to make their learning environment enjoyable, exciting, and educational. We have a very exciting week planned to celebrate and highlight all our achievements.

If you have not registered for summer camp, please do so to ensure that your child has a spot! We are currently enrolling for the 2024/2025 school year! There are limited spaces remaining, but we always want to keep the children we already have enrolled!

We will continue to involve your child in deep, rich learning experiences that will carry them into summer camp and beyond. I hope to see you at some of our activities.

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



*Shopping for Sterling Care patients*



*Filling Easter Eggs*

# CHURCH NEWS

## WELLNESS GROUP – GO FOR BOLD

Wellness and Self Love:

- “The key to a healthy life is having a healthy mind.”
- “Your illness is not your identity. Your chemistry is not your character.”
- “Wellness is the complete integration of body, mind, and spirit – the realization that everything we do, think, feel, and believe has an effect on our state of well-being.”

When it comes to wellness, what do you find yourself focusing on the most? Your appearance, your weight, balancing food, or how you feel?

Obesity runs in my family. One day, my Uncle John asked me, “How do you stay so thin?” I told him it was because of my super power. My self confidence is what I consider my “super power.”

When I didn't like myself, those around me suffered. I was in bad moods and I was not kind to others. If you join us in class, we'll talk more about



how wellness is not all about how we look or what we weigh, and focus on learning to love ourselves where we are. Jesus does not require us to step on a scale or to look a certain way, but he does require us to treat our bodies like a temple and —the greatest Commandment— to love God and love others. He loves us where we are and promises to never leave us when we are struggling. In this case it may be from overeating, undereating, over-exercising, or being inactive. When we take care of our bodies, not only physically, but also mentally, we FEEL better physically and mentally and we then treat others out of love. Jesus may require these things of us, but he does not expect us to do anything on our own. We have more success when we have His help lifting us up through His Word and when we have accountability and support from this group.

Please join me at the next Wellness Class **Wednesday, April 17th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Gathering Room. The days are going to get warmer and we can start taking the class outside to add movement. Sign up sheet is on bulletin board.

*Patty Watson*

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Listening to Pastor Bob's message recently reminded me about the passage in the Bible that says, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's.” For many of us, April is tax month, the dreaded time of possibly owing the government. It may be time to pay Caesar!

In our Methodist tradition at Mt. Nebo, we are asked to continually give our time, talents, gifts, and spirituality to God, through our church. We, as members of Mt. Nebo, do not have an April 15 deadline to give. Being Christians means giving cheerfully and as often as you are able.

I truly enjoy giving to Mt. Nebo. The spiritual life of our members and families encourages me to be here and to continue giving. Hopefully that feeling is contagious, and we all feel that way.

The spiritual life and vitality of our youth gives an energetic and enthusiastic feeling that will be the future of Mt. Nebo. This tells me that Mt. Nebo's future will be in good hands. Our past, present, and future is built upon a rock. We as the Senior Guardians at Mt. Nebo need to keep it that way. Our investments today will yield and benefit Mt. Nebo's future.

*God Bless! Skip Kauffman,  
Finance Chair*

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men met for their regular breakfast meeting in March. As usual, we had a lively meeting with excellent food. We will meet for our next regularly scheduled meeting on **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.** We will be discussing our help with the Mother/Daughter Banquet scheduled on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Bruce Smith*



# CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thank you to everyone who supported the UMW's Soup and Sub Sale! The proceeds will be used to support ministries for women and children. At our recent meeting, Cindy shared two devotions. The first was a cute story about a teacup. Just like teacups are molded, spun, baked and painted, we are what God chooses us to be. We are the clay in His hands and the finished product is what God had in mind for each of us. The second was from a Lenten devotional and focused on perseverance with patient endurance. The seeds of God's Word thrive in each of us even in dry conditions. We may deal with the thorns of life, but we have the potential to produce great gifts from God.

The annual Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held on **May 4, 2024 at 6:00pm** in the Family Life Center. This event is open to all women and girls and will be an evening of food, fellowship, games, and prizes. There will also be a silent auction for those who want to participate. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 through adult, \$7 for ages 6-12 and free for ages 5 and under. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time. Please sign up on the bulletin board and see Cindy or Katie for tickets. **The deadline to sign up and purchase tickets is April 28.**



Our regular monthly meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with our next one coming up on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 10:00am**. We hope you will join us!

*Alyssa Berg*

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER...

Mt. Nebo has always recognized the six special Sundays designated by the Baltimore Washington Conference. This year we also recognized Disability Awareness Sunday.

I have thought that it would be nice for us to put a little more emphasis on each of these Sundays with a member giving a short talk on each and highlighting how the offerings we collect benefit the recipients. Check out your newsletter each month for more information or better yet the Bal-

## CONT. FROM YOUR LAY LEADER...

timore Washington Conference Website.

The next special Sunday will be on **April 14** which is Native American Awareness Sunday, followed by Peace with Justice Sunday on **May 26**, World Communion Sunday on **October 6**, and lastly United Methodist Student Day on **November 24**. If you would be willing to speak about one of these Sundays, please contact me or the church office. Also, prayerfully consider donating to at least one of these special offerings.

*Cindy Kauffman, Lay Leader*

## TRUSTEES NEWS

It's been a busy few months for the Trustees this year! The board's leadership positions have changed, with the Chairman position filled by myself, Andy Pugh, the Vice Chairman position filled by Gary Harding, and the Secretary position filled by Ryan Shank. Two new members were welcomed to the board in January, Rob Young and Rob Wetzel, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated group to support Mt. Nebo! We wish Cindy Kauffman success in her role in Lay Leadership and are thankful for her leadership and support over many years with the Board of Trustees.

Recently, Rob Wetzel spear headed the effort to replace the failed sanctuary AV monitor, working with Hunt Audio and church members to resolve after only a few weeks!

After receiving feedback from the Town of Boonsboro regarding the zoning variance for subdividing the Clopper property, the Trustees have voted to pursue the variance to provide flexibility in the future. To kick off our most recent meeting in March, the Youth Ministry (both current and incoming youth) presented a vision of the Clopper house as a repurposed space that would support local ministries (e.g. Micah's backpack), community outreach, CLC tech foundations, and a spot for the Youth to comfortably gather. Trustees



# CHURCH NEWS CONT. AND OUTREACH

## TRUSTEES NEWS CONT.

appreciated the time and effort put forth and will begin to solicit the information needed to understand how best to pursue their vision. With the property being vacant and unused for so long, a home inspection and series of tests will be performed to determine what are the immediate needs of the house.

A Trustees' work day is currently scheduled for **May 11<sup>th</sup>** and all are welcome to come join in the fellowship! We will provide some donuts and refreshments. If there are tasks for consideration, please let me know or send a quick note to Brandi and we'll start a list outside of the church office.

*Respectfully,  
Andy Pugh, Trustees Chair*

## MICAH'S BACKPACK

We are now serving 135 kids and will be collecting **packs of instant oatmeal** for April. If you have an hour to spare, the next day for assembling the bags will be on **Thursday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m.** at Trinity Lutheran.

*Cindy Kauffman*

## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 14** is Native American Sunday. This is a day when United Methodists give a donation that will support Native Americans. The funds go to develop and strengthen Native American Ministries. There are scholarships for Native Americans attending schools of theology, support for the cause, and funds to remind all of us of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. You can support this Special Sunday by check and put in a Special Sunday envelope or mail it to the church. Please include Native American Ministries Sunday in the memo section. Please give generously.



## MISSION MOUSE



Jesus sent disciples out to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19-20). This is known as the great commission. The work that our missionaries complete is amazing. Have you considered being a missionary? There are also ways that those who do not go out into the mission field can work toward making disciples. Have you ever thought that the way you may respond to a child's actions or questions might be a way that leads them to discipleship? Can you share a smile, a meal, a card, or something else to someone who is discouraged, sick, or mourning a loved one? This, along with prayer, is another way of reaching out with the love and caring that Jesus taught. Go be a missionary! My prayers are with you.



**SPECIAL SUNDAY**

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY**

**“May the warm winds of heaven blow softly on our house. May the Great Spirit bless all who enter here.”**

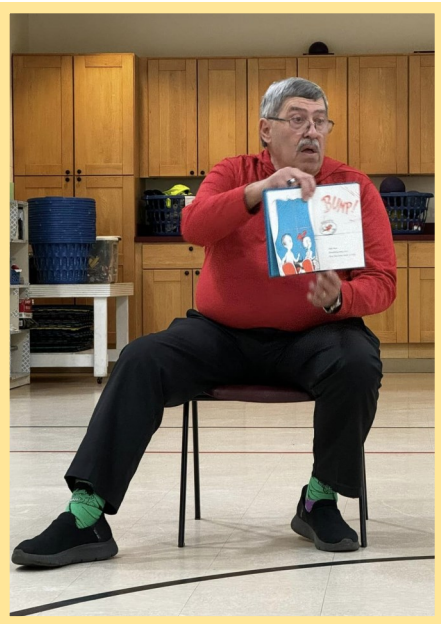
—TRADITIONAL CHEROKEE NATION PRAYER  
(FROM THE UM BOOK OF WORSHIP)

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



## A VISIT WITH RUTH MULLENDORE



## DR. SEUSS WEEK READERS





# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONT..

## SYMBOLICALLY BURNING SINS



## PALM SUNDAY



## EGG ON A SPOON GAME

# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONT..



**EASTER EGG HUNT**



# SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY



**FAITHSTEP**



# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1p Micah's Backpack	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pastor Bob Vacation 4/1-4/7</b>						
<b>7</b> 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6p Girl Scouts	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6p Choir 7p Bells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 830a UMM Breakfast
<b>14</b> 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class Native American Sunday	<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>16</b> 10a UMW Meeting	<b>17</b> 6p Wellness Meeting	<b>18</b> 6p Choir 7p Bells	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7a FaithStep (Meet @ Church) 8-9a SHARE Pickup
<b>21</b> 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6p Girl Scouts General Conference Thru May 3	<b>24</b> 6:30-8:30p A Trip to Mt. Nebo	<b>25</b> 6p Choir 7p Bells	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7a FaithStep (Meet @ Church)
<b>28</b> 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class M/D Banquet Signup Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
 <p>hello Spring</p>						

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

**Change Service Requested**

