



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • March 2024

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their ruler's lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:35-45

Just a short two weeks ago, on Transfiguration Sunday, we read the story of Jesus taking his most trusted disciples, Peter, James and John, high up on to a mountain to pray. Jesus wanted to be sure beyond all doubt that it was God's will that he should go to the cross. On that mountain top, witnessed by Peter, James, and John, it was revealed to Jesus that it was truly God's will that he continues on his journey to the cross. *God spoke for all to hear, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to Him!"*

As we move on from that "Mountain Top" experience, we see a side of two of the trusted disciples showing their desire for power and ambition ignoring the will of God. We see the stark reality of life in "The Valley" and the all so human struggles that we encounter along the way. No one is exempt from these very human experiences – even Jesus's closest followers! In this reading, we hear James and John seeking to be in the position of importance by sitting at the right hand and the left hand of Jesus. So, what kindled this ambition?

Maybe it was kindled because on more than one occasion Jesus had made them part of his inner circle, the chosen three. Maybe they were a little better off than the others and believed that they deserved more recognition. In any event, they showed themselves as men in whose hearts was an ambition for first place in an earthly kingdom. It shows they were unable to separate in their hearts their own will versus the will of God and the message that Jesus sought to teach them during his three-year ministry. Through his teaching we see that we can only return to the "Mountain Top" by submitting to the Holy Will of God and accepting the Lordship of Christ Jesus.

Two thousand years later we are still struggling with our acceptance of the Holy Will of God. Our hearts have not changed much. We may still have a "Mountain Top" experience on occasion; however, most of our lives are lived in a very broken earthly realm devoid of that close inner connection with our Heavenly Father.

Henri Nouwen, the great author and pastor, aware of this very issue, wrote that we live in a society that is obsessed with competition and success. From the moment we begin to interact with others, we are trying to become winners, since losers get left behind. Nouwen goes on to say, "Our parents, teachers, and friends impress upon us from the moment we are able to pick up the cues that it is our 'Holy Task' to make it in this world. To be a real man or woman is to show that one cannot only survive the long competitive struggle for success but also come out victorious."

Christian Scriptures base salvation *NOT* on upward mobility but on the freedom that comes from downward mobility: "The divine way is indeed the downward way." God took on flesh in the form of a carpenter from Nazareth. He never once adhered to the model of popularity, success,



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONT....

or power. He lived to set an example for all of us to follow. He was the prototype for the perfect human being. Nouwen calls us to walk the selfless way of Christ and to serve others in humility. Nouwen's words speak with truth, and one can almost hear the author turn them toward himself, "Our true challenge is to return to the center, to the heart, and to find there the gentle voice that speaks to us and affirms us in a way no human voice ever could. The basis of all ministry is the experience of God's unlimited and un-limiting acceptance of us as beloved children. An acceptance so full, so total, and all-embracing, that it sets us free from our compulsion to be seen, praised, and admired, and frees us for Christ, who leads us on the road of service.

This experience of God's acceptance frees us from our needy self and thus creates new space where we can pay selfless attention to others. This new freedom in Christ allows us to move in the world uninhibited by our compulsions and to act creatively even when we are laughed at and rejected, even when our words and actions lead us to death."

Nouwen wants us to ignore the lure of upward mobility and the temptations to be relevant, to be spectacular, and to be powerful. Instead, the Gospel presents a goal of a self-emptied heart and the disciplines of spiritual formation. Only by following the guidance of Jesus found in the Gospel, can we begin to find a way of life that leads to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Maybe the greatest power we can have will be when no one lords over the others, when we offer ministry together, each giving out of his or her unique set of gifts. Only then will we see that our power as a congregation comes not from the strong leadership of one, but from the strong leadership of many.

Pastor Bob

MARCH LITURGISTS:

March 3 — Skip Kauffman

March 10 — Toni Wetzel

March 17 — Mary Ellen Roelkey

March 24 — Cindy Kauffman

Easter March 31 — Terri Hollingshead

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 & Christian Learning Center News	Page 6
Missions in Outreach	Page 7
Pictures Around Mt. Nebo	Page 8-10
Community Ministry Pics	Page 10
March Calendar	Page 11

MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

March 5	Terry Jones	March 21	Brent Jarrell
March 8	Ruth Mullendore		Howard Long
March 9	Ron Clipp	March 23	Tony Basile
March 14	Alyssa Berg	March 25	Tamara White
	Joey Breeden		Dan Gerand
March 16	Vanessa Cronise		
March 19	Alma Eichelberger		

ANNIVERSARIES

None for March
HAPPY
Anniversary!

Join us for Worship through *Lent*

Palm Sunday

March 24 @ Mt. Nebo UMC -- 9 a.m.

Easter Sunday

March 31 Sunrise @ Mt. Nebo UMC -- 7 a.m. (*Breakfast -- 7:45 a.m.*)

March 31 Morning Worship @ Mt. Nebo UMC -- 9 a.m.



MT. NEBO

United Methodist Church

EVERY SUNDAY

@ 9 A.M.

South Washington County Ministerium Community Services

Maundy Thursday

March 28 @ Benevola UMC in Boonsboro -- 7 p.m. (*Soup and Sandwich -- 6 p.m.*)

March 28 @ Mt. Zion Lutheran in Rohrsersville -- 6 p.m. (*Reservation Required*)

Good Friday

March 29 @ St. Peter's Lutheran in Keedysville -- 7 p.m.

March 29 @ Brownsville Church of the Brethren in Rohrsersville -- 7 p.m.



South Washington County Ministerium
Churches in Service to Christ

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to everyone who participates in the Faithstep Ministry.

Many thanks to Patty Watson for organizing the Wellness Meeting each month.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to write meditations for the Lenten Meditation Booklet, to Brandi for getting it ready and to those who spent a morning getting the booklets collated.

Thanks to Alyssa Berg for her work with the Girl Scouts and to the girls in her troop who provided a chance to purchase those delicious cookies!

Super thanks to everyone who made soup or a dessert for our Souper Bowl gathering, and to everyone who made a donation to the Society of St. Andrew.

CHURCH NEWS

MUSIC NOTES

Why I love the Easter traditions of the Methodist Church:

1. **Resurrection Celebration:** Christ's resurrection is the central event in the church, symbolizing hope, renewal, and the victory of life over death. Don't you love to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus during the Easter season?

2. **Worship Services:** I love the special worship services during the Easter season, including the Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday services and sunrise services on Easter Sunday. These services include special music, hymns, prayers, scripture readings, and sermons that focus on the significance of Christ's resurrection.

3. **Community and Fellowship:** I love the fact that we gather for fellowship and community events during this time. Whether it's sharing meals (souper bowl) participating in Easter egg hunts, or engaging in other activities, the sense of community is enhanced during this time.

4. **Liturgical Traditions:** I appreciate the specific liturgical traditions associated with Easter. These may include the use of special colors, such as white or gold, in church decorations and clergy attire, as well as specific liturgical readings and rituals that emphasize the message of Christ's resurrection and His redemption in our lives.

5. **Sacraments:** The sacraments such as baptism and Holy Communion, hold special significance during this season, symbolizing the spiritual rebirth and the sharing of Christ's body and blood.

6. **Focus on Hope and Redemption:** The message of Christ's resurrection continuously emphasizes themes of hope, redemption, and the transformative power of faith. This focus on spiritual renewal is a source of inspiration and comfort for me.

It may be the combination of these elements that resonates with you and contributes to your love for these traditions or just one aspect. Each individual's experience is unique and can be deeply meaningful.

Rose Gamblin

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

March is a "fickle" month. It can be warm or cold; it can rain or snow. It may come in like a lion with the March winds and go out like a lamb. The word inconsistent comes to mind.

It reminds me of our church offerings. They too can be variable. But when I think of Mt. Nebo, not one negative thought comes to mind. We are a giving church in more than one way.

Seeing the many diverse members that we have really lifts my spirits. The month of March and looking to spring to me is overall a very positive time of year. Spring days really perk us up. Seeing our enthusiastic church family indicates to me that there is no need to worry about our church's financial health. Our future is bright, and our giving will be there when needed.

We are all blessed and need to stay positive and love unconditionally. All else will fall into step with us. God Bless,

Skip Kauffman, Financial Chair

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At our recent meeting, Alyssa shared a devotion about Love. We were reminded that we love because God first loved us. Love isn't just a feeling; it's an action. We can show love to others in things we do on a daily basis. How can you show God's love?

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!

Plans are in the works for the annual Mother/Daughter Banquet to be held on May 4. This event will be open to all women and girls! Stay tuned for more info! Our regular monthly meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with our next one coming up on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 10:00am.** We hope you will join us!

Alyssa Berg

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

UNITED METHODIST MEN

We had a great Souper Bowl Sunday with a variety of delicious soups and desserts. Everyone had a wonderful time at this annual event. My thanks to the soup and dessert makers and to the Dorsey Family and Brody for doing most of the set up including serving tables with football fields decorating the tops of the tables.

Those who attended were generous with donations to the Society of St. Andrew. Your help to that good mission raised nearly \$300 dollars. The funds raised will provide 5,000 servings of fresh fruit or vegetables to people who are struggling to get food.

The next Methodist Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, March 9th at 8:30 a.m.** Please plan to attend.

Bruce Smith



WELLNESS GROUP—GO FOR BOLD

WHAT IS WELLNESS? According to the National Wellness Institute, "Wellness is an active process through which people become aware of, and make choices toward, a more successful existence." This definition describes a shift from unconscious living – where you do not think about your health until you have a problem or experience symptoms – to conscious living – where you are

actively making healthy choices to promote your success and wellbeing.

Learn more by attending Mt. Nebo Wellness class on **the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room.**

If the class schedule is inconvenient for you but you still want to be included in our topics I can send you emails with informative information (and recipes).

Please email me at: Mtnebowellness@gmail.com

Patty Watson

YOUTH and CLC NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group has been busy planning ways to use the grant received from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. They have been designing new banners for the sanctuary and brainstorming plans for their meeting space. 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 a.m.** 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!

Alyssa Berg

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

The spring came suddenly bursting upon the world as a child would burst into a room, with a laugh and a shout! We welcome Spring with open arms!

March 4th through the 8th, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and Read Across America! Our students and staff will participate in daily activities. We are excited to have a volunteer read a book to our students each day.



Dr. Brandon visited to share how to take care of their teeth. He used to attend the center years ago.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER CONT...

March 18th, we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with green attire and a special Magic Show in the gym at 3:30 pm for children 2 and older.

On **March 28th**, we will be having a Spring into Fun event from 10 am to 12 pm in celebration of Easter! The children will be having an egg hunt with a special visit from the Easter bunny.

MNCLC will be closed on Friday, March 29th for our Parent/Teacher Conferences. Our teachers have been preparing work samples, observations and ASQ assessments on our infants through Outdoor children in preparation for annual conferences. We will enjoy this uninterrupted time discussing infants through Outdoor students' growth with their parents.

The safety of all children is of the utmost importance to me. To that end, we continue to evaluate our emergency preparedness plans and protocols to ensure appropriate procedures are in place to best protect the children when they are in our care. Our staff will be participating in an Active Shooter Training at the end of the month. This training will provide a deeper understanding of active shooter situations and provide strategies on how to best prepare and tips to respond effectively should a situation warrant action.

MNCLC will be closed on Monday, April 1st in observance of the Easter Holiday. I wish you and your family a wonderful Easter holiday full of love, peace, and happiness!

*Hugs and High Fives
Ms. Kim, Director*

Mr. Jon visited to provide musical entertainment!



School-age snow tubing!

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

MICAH'S BACKPACK

As we near 150 students needing Micah's backpacks each week, I express gratitude for all the support from Mt. Nebo — the donations and the volunteer service with packing and delivery of the backpacks. The need continues for canned soups, applesauce cups, mac and cheese cups, and snacks like cheese crackers. Thanks.

Ruth Resh

For the month of March, please donate applesauce cups. There is a collection box in the Gathering Room.

UMCOR SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 10, we will be celebrating UMCOR Sunday. UMCOR Sunday is a day when a special collection is taken up to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This agency is a very important part of the Methodist Church that provides organization for the Methodist relief activities both around the world and here at home in the United States. Our donations on this Sunday provide the money to cover the administration of UMCOR, so that all donations made for Advance Specials, like our donations to help in Ukraine, go to that project. There is nothing taken from the donation to cover administration costs. Relief supplies for projects include food, basic necessities, hygiene supplies, emotional support and shelter.

All donations can be made in the special envelopes or by check. If you write a check, please make it out to Mt. Nebo UMC with UMCOR in the note area and these checks or donations can be placed in the offering plate.

MISSION MOUSE

March finds us in the middle of Lent. Do you think that giving up something like chocolate, desserts or checking Facebook is the thing to do? As I look at Lent in the last few years, I have found that giving up something is easy, but adding something to our busy days is more difficult, but in many ways more fulfilling. I try to follow John Wesley's Rules of Conduct where he says, "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, as long as ever you can."




I've added John Wesley's Rules of Conduct to a suggestion from Pope Francis, where he asks, "Do you want to fast this Lent? If so, fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen."

Here's to a meaningful Lenten season where we can find peace, growth and a more caring attitude to our lives that will last for the next year.

SPECIAL SUNDAY UMCOR SUNDAY

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat.
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
—MATTHEW 25:35, CEB

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

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BINDING

Holy Week Ecumenical Service Details

Maundy Thursday Services:

Benevola UMC

19925 Benevola Church Rd, Boonsboro, MD 21713

Will begin with a meal at 6:00 PM and a service starting at 7:00 PM.

Mt. Zion Lutheran

20214 Locust Grove Road, Rohrsersville, MD 21779

Call 301-432-2933 to make a reservation.

A Communion Service will begin at 6:00 PM.

Good Friday Services:

Brownsville Church of the Brethren

1911 Rohrsersville Rd, Knoxville, MD 21758 at 7:00 PM

St Peter's Lutheran

53 North Main Street, Keedysville, MD 21756 at 7:00 PM



PUTTING UP THE CROSS



BLESSING PRAYER SHAWLS

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONT..

SUNSET BEHIND THE CHURCH



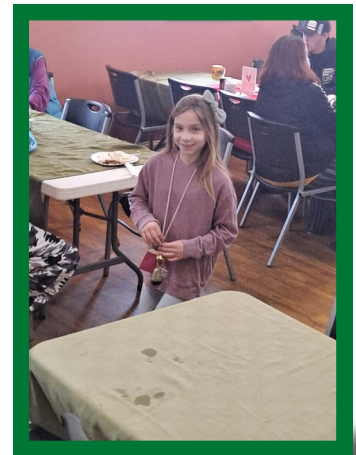
THANK YOU CERTIFICATE FROM GIRL SCOUTS



PRESENTING BIBLE TO WILL RINER

SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY

MICAH'S BACKPACK



FAITHSTEP

MARCH 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	2
3 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class	4 630p Trustees Meeting	5 630p Lent Bible Study	6	7 1p Micah's Backpack 6p Choir 7p Bells	8	9 830a UMM Breakfast
10 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class Soup & Sub Orders Due	11	12 6p Girl Scouts 630p Lent Bible Study	13	14 6p Choir 7p Bells	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	16 730a FaithStep
17 9a Worship 1015a Confirmation Class	18	19 10a UMW Meeting 4-6p Soup and Sub Pickup 630p Lent Bible Study	20 6p Wellness Meeting 630p CLC Advisory Mtg	21 6p Choir 7p Bells	22	23 8-9a SHARE Pickup
24 Palm Sunday 9a Worship 1045a Egg Hunt	25	26 6p Girl Scouts 630p Lent Bible Study	27	28 6p Meal @ Benevola UMC 7p Maundy Thursday @ Benevola UMC	29 7p Good Friday @ St. Peter's Lutheran OR Brownsville Church of the Brethren	30
31 Easter 7a Sunrise Service 745a Easter Breakfast 9a Worship						

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

Change Service Requested

