



# THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • April 2025

On April 20, 2025, we will celebrate Easter Sunday in our beloved sanctuary together as a community of faith. Just as Christ conquered death on that first Easter Sunday through his resurrection, so too, will we experience eternal life through our faith in Him. We see in John 11:25 where Jesus says, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."* Jesus is telling us that when we accept him that we will have eternal life, that death is not the end. When we believe in Jesus, when we accept what he says about God the Father and about life, and stake everything on it, in truth we are resurrected, for we are freed of the fear which is characteristic of the godless life. As Christians with this knowledge, we can live fearlessly no matter what crisis abounds. This earthly realm will always be in turmoil – only through the Grace of God will we be set free.

As we see from above, the Resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith as Christians. If Jesus was not resurrected there would be no Christianity. His resurrection was an act of God, who raised him from the dead as the first fruits in anticipation of the general resurrection. According to Justo Gonzales, the noted Biblical scholar and author, "In being raised from the dead, Jesus not only proved who he was, but also accomplished part of what he was sent to do. His resurrection is the dawning of the kingdom of God in the midst of history."

Another dimension of resurrection that we

should celebrate on Easter morning 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 God's grace is overwhelming, and even a little frightening. Sometimes we encounter such profound grace that we don't quite know how to respond. We've all had those experiences, haven't we? We call them God-moments, or epiphanies, or revelations. They are those unfathomable moments when the distance between us and the Risen Lord seems suddenly not very far. When these occur, we can literally feel that the certain, though indescribable, presence of the Spirit is walking with us, if only for a moment. They are moments of odd

surprise. They come in dreams, and in memories, and in encounters with the Holy. They can also appear unexpectedly as the result of a random kind gesture from a stranger at a time when we are vulnerable and feeling down. They 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 by 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



# EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

## EPISTLE Continued

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, moments of assurance, in which we find ourselves literally overwhelmed by God's grace. As we see from this, our Christian belief in the resurrection and eternal life allows us to live our lives differently in this earthly realm. The hope which stems from our belief, frees us to pursue a life full of love and community. It allows us to seek ways to share this hope and joy with others in discipleship making. And because we have hope, others we touch will have hope. The hope of the resurrection and the eternal life can be more fully understood when we experience a foretaste of what we could expect in the kingdom of God - people working for the mutual benefit of all with love and compassion. It gives hope to all involved, both those giving and those receiving.

According to N.T. Wright in his book, *Surprised by Hope*, "Every act of love, gratitude and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and the delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute teaching a severely handicapped child to read or walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support, for one's fellow human beings, and for that matter, one's non-human creatures; and of course every prayer, all Spirit-led teaching, every deed that spreads the Gospel, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world - all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation that God will one day make." Amen.

*Pastor Bob*

## 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

### 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 – Skyy Cleaning  
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 24 Don Lohman  
April 30 Darce Easton



## ANNIVERSARIES

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



## APRIL LAY READERS:

April 6 — Toni Wetzel  
April 13 — Mary Ellen Roelkey  
April 20 — Rob Wetzel  
April 27 — Cindy Kauffman

## HOLY WEEK COMMUNITY SERVICES 2025

### Maundy Thursday

April 17 @ 6pm

(Starts with meal, service at 7pm)

Benevola UMC

9925 Benevola Church Rd, Boonsboro, MD

Soup and Sandwiches before the service.

Communion and Handwashing during the service.

Contact Suzanne Jones to participate:

[pastorsuzannejones@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuzannejones@gmail.com)

## Mt Zion Lutheran Friendship Hall

20223 Locust Grove Rd, Rohrsersville, MD

Light supper of soup, cheeses & breads will be served prior to worship at the table.

Holy Communion will be served.

**RSVP required to assure a place at the table:**

Contact Regina Beard to participate:

[pastorreginabeard@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreginabeard@gmail.com)

or cell phone at 301-331-7991

## GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

April 18 @ 7pm

Trinity Lutheran

64 S Main St, Boonsboro, MD

Contact Karl Muhlback to participate:

[pastorkarlmuhlback@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlmuhlback@gmail.com)

## St Peter Lutheran Church

53 N Main Street, Keedysville, MD

Contact Regina Beard to participate:

[pastorreginabeard@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreginabeard@gmail.com)

or cell phone at 301-331-7991

## THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to everyone who gave to the special offering to support the ministries on UMCOR Sunday.

**To Pastor Bob for leading the Lenten Study.**

To everyone who participated in the Ash Wednesday Service.

**Thank you to everyone who participates as a Lay Reader for our Sunday Worship and to Brandi for keeping us organized by sending each reader the material they need for the Sunday Service.**

And to each person who gives generously to Mt. Nebo so that we can be a beacon of light and hope for South Washington County.

# YOUTH and CLC NEWS

## MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The youth group's annual egg hunt is coming up on **Palm Sunday, April 13!** All kids (age 2 through 5th grade) are welcome to join us in the FLC following worship! We'll make bags for collecting eggs and then head outside to hunt for eggs!

The youth group continues to be in need of another adult volunteer to work with Don when Alyssa steps back next month. Please consider volunteering your time with the youth group so this important ministry can continue!

Please contact Alyssa Berg or Don Dorsey for more info about the youth group - all youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

## 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. This month we will also be taking time to discuss all the changes around us. In the month of April, children will be learning about pond life, weather, Earth, and observing caterpillars turning into butterflies.

One thing a parent can do is take the time to point out all these wondrous miracles we can see in our everyday life. You will be helping them expand their language and communication skills and helping them to be eager learners. You can take your child out and show them how to fly a kite, start riding that bicycle or spend an afternoon watching cloud shapes and blowing bubbles. Keep in mind, your child is always learning!

Our **Easter Spring into Fun Event will be on 4/15 at 10 am.** A morning full of fun starting with a Spring-themed magic show, opportunity for our children to pet/feed baby chicks, ducklings and

## CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER Continued

bunnies. They will visit and take pictures with the Easter Bunny and go on an egg hunt with prizes.

Mt. Nebo CLC will be closed on **Friday, April 18th** for our parent teacher conferences with our infants through Outdoor classes from 6:30 am to 1 pm. Our staff will be retrained on First Aid/CPR following the parent teacher conferences.

Mt. Nebo CLC will be closed on **Monday, April 21st** in observance of the Easter holiday. We wish your family a Happy Easter weekend!

If you would like to register a child for our school age summer camp, please do so to ensure that your child has a spot! All forms are due by **April 11th** before opening our spaces to those on our waiting list!

We will continue to involve your child in deep, rich learning experiences that will carry them into summer camp and beyond.

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





# CHURCH NEWS

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

As you read this, we will be looking to the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This is followed by Holy Week and the sad day of Good Friday. However, there is hope in tomorrow because after Friday; Easter Sunday and the resurrection comes! He died to forgive our sins.

During Holy Week, won't you choose to worship at one or more of the special services in our community, either on Holy Thursday or Good Friday? Strengthen your walk toward Easter by attending and receiving the message of these two important days in Holy Week, as we lead up to the joyous day of Easter Sunday.

Cindy Kauffman

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Week of 3/23/2025 totals:

Regular Offering needed weekly - \$3,200.00

Last Sunday collected - \$1,987.23

YTD collected - \$34,409.05

YTD budgeted - \$38,400.00

Short of budget - \$3,990.95

Building Fund needed weekly - \$577.00

Last Sunday collected - \$30.83

YTD collected - \$13,131.69

YTD budgeted - \$6,924.00

Ahead of budget - \$6,207.69

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At our recent meeting, Betty Lou shared two readings. The first one reminded us that our



## UMW CONTINUED



strength comes from God. When we face difficult times, we should “drink from the saucer” because our “cup has overflowed” with God’s blessings. The second reading was about the Golden Rule and how we should find ways to serve and help others.

With the profit from the Soup and Sandwich Sale, we decided to make a donation to UMCOR. We will also be shopping for food items to be donated to Micah’s Backpack. These are both important ministries to support.

Our regular meetings occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 16 at 10:00am!**

Alyssa Berg

## MT. NEBO WELLNESS

Did you know that April is *National Stress Awareness Month*? Don't let stress ruin your life or your health. Constant stress can have real physical effects on the body. Learn 5 ways to de-stress and help your heart:

1. Stay positive (try to laugh as much as you can).
2. Meditation (use deep breathing) and prayer can relax the mind.
3. Exercise (even if it's only a 10 minute walk).
4. Unplug (turn off the phone, the TV, the computer even if it's just for 15 minutes).
5. Find ways to take the edge off your stress (simple things like a bath, doing a hobby, listening to music, etc).

Memorize this passage: *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.* Peter 5:6-7

Patty Watson

# CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

## NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY—MAY 4

Native American Sunday is a day when we deepen the connection between the local church and ministries on a global scale. It is a time to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our country and our church. We acknowledge a large gap in understanding Native American life and culture, while affirming the sacredness of our indigenous peoples, their languages, their unique identity and their contributions to our church, nation and the world. Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the United States and to provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry. Last year \$240,000 was collected for this important ministry.



## MISSION MOUSE

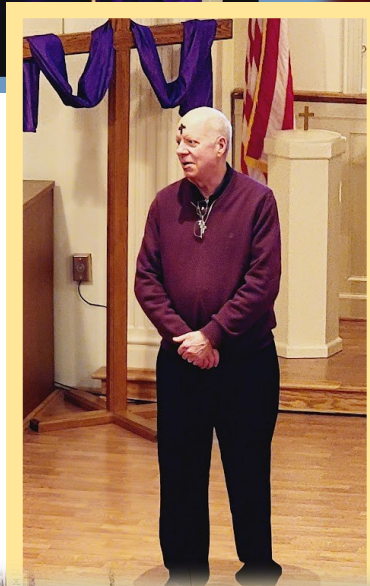
April is a time of new beginnings. Spring is here. It is getting warmer. Gardeners are looking for new plants to grow. Is there something in your life that needs a new beginning? It is never too late to change a pattern in your life. Maybe it is just trying to get more exercise. Take a walk every day and while you are walking, enjoy the beauty of nature that our God provides. Maybe it is a commitment to take more time for a daily devotion. Read just one verse from the Bible and think on it for the day. Maybe it is a time to change your eating habits. Don't try to make a big change, just add something healthy or stop eating something that is not the best for you or add something to your diet that is missing. Maybe it is time to add some prayer time to your day. Try breath prayers, where you take time to take deep breaths and offer a prayer with each breath. With a bit of commitment, you can find something that will grow your Christian experience.





# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE







# APRIL 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 1p Micah's Backpack 6p Girl Scouts 5p Bells 6p Choir	4	5 9a Pickleball
6 9a Worship w/Communion  Bible Study After Worship	7	8	9 6p Pickleball	10 5p Bells 6p Choir	11	12 830a UMM Breakfast  9a Pickleball
13 9a Worship Bible Study After Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>  10:45 Egg Hunt	14	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	16 10a UMW Meeting  6p Pickleball	17 6p Girl Scouts  6p Maundy Thursday @ Benevola UMC	18 7p Good Friday @ St Peter Lutheran in Keedysville or @ Trinity Lutheran	19 9a Pickleball
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i>  7a Sunrise Service  745a Breakfast 9a Worship	21 Office Closed	22	23 6p Pickleball	24 Office Closed	25	26 9a Pickleball  8-9a SHARE Pickup
Pastor Bob Vacation 4/21-4/27						
27 9a Worship  Pastor Bob Vac.	28	29	30 6p Pickleball			



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

**Change Service Requested**

