



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • July 2025

On Sunday June 15th, we observed *Peace with Justice Sunday*. A day where United Methodists worldwide seek peaceful solutions by creating and supporting peace-related ministries and learning about ways to promote peaceful, just efforts around the world. As a denomination, we believe strongly in this because we are called by our Lord Jesus to love our enemies, to seek justice for those that are marginalized and treated unjustly, to be a transformation force serving as reconcilers in this broken world.

So how can we serve as reconcilers and agents of transformation with the rise of global conflicts around the world? Our senses are assaulted on a daily basis with headlines such as:

*Syria's humanitarian crisis: 16.5 million in need
amid continuing conflict
UN NEWS – March 20, 2025*

*Ukraine refugee crisis: millions may flee West
BBC News – February 26, 2022*

*Ukraine's Doomsday? Russia's Brutal Onslaught
Pushes Nation to the Brink!
WION – June 12, 2025*

These global conflicts and more are growing at an ever increasing pace creating worldwide political instability and a refugee nightmare. According to a 2014 report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 14.38 million refugees were recorded around the world. The UNHCR goes on to say that, in the last ten years, this population has increased by over 160% reaching over 37.9 million people in 2024. Displacement at large has also continued to soar, with over 122 million people around the world forced to leave their homes. Nearly half of all refugees in the world today come

from just three countries – Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.

As United Methodists, our heritage calls us to live out God's plan for us, not only in our sanctuaries, but around the world. However, this is no easy task and we must be intentional about how we approach peace and justice, starting from how we worship, to actually becoming fully engaged in the plight of others worldwide. The very starting point for all of us must be our understanding of the connection between worship and justice. There is a deep and profound connection between the worship of God's people, and the moral capacity of a person and worshipping community to embody the justice of God in the world. This connection means that there must be a linkage of the worship of God by individuals, as well as the corporate worshipping Christian body to connect to the justice of God in our world outside of the church.

The real challenge facing us today is a lack of this connection – indifference. Cultural changes with an emphasis on self-gratification have permeated all aspects of our life. This has impacted our value systems and has significantly weakened the connection of worship and the embodiment of God's justice in the world in the church. Don Saliers in his book, *Liturgy and the Moral Self*, has suggested that Christian patterns teach us and shape us to have an attitude of awesome wonder and deep recognition of suffering and death. With that said, however, we need more than an acknowledgement of these injustices. Some may say that there has nev-

er been a strong connection as evidenced by the brutal history of humankind and the trail of injustices that have been witnessed in our world from the beginning of recorded time, and that we have failed to answer this call for justice of God, either thinking that we are not capable, or that it is the



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE Continued

job of our government to remedy issues of injustice outside of the church.

We regularly pray for a healing of the injustices worldwide. We acknowledge our failings of not loving and caring for those that are broken and marginalized, but we seem to fall short of accepting responsibility for action. We pray that our hearts may be opened and accepting and inviting to all. According to Don Saliers, "liturgy [is] a rehearsal for the way that we are to become related to one another and to the world." However, we must go beyond rehearsing it in our liturgy – we must live out those commitments outside of the safety of the sanctuary.

The challenge is making those connections a reality – backed up by action. As Saliers stated, the issue is, "whether we pray what we mean and mean what we pray without being drawn into the way in which God views the world...the meaning of prayer is not a simple matter of saying the words." This quote from Saliers suggests that the key to authentic prayer is to be genuine in expressions to God and to align prayer with actions and lived experiences. It is about having a heartfelt and sincere dialogue with God, without being solely influenced by a perceived or imposed divine worldview. To embody that deep connection with liturgy and prayer requires a new way of living and to live into a new way of praying. We are invited to an encounter with Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit in true worship, which leads us to life with one another at "A Full Stretch Before God," a term coined by Saliers.

How can we make this a reality? Fortunately for us, there are a lot of ways to begin! Below are a few areas that desperately need our support:

- Provide support for leaders in our world that seek peaceful solutions and alternatives to individual and/or national violence – reducing the need to flee war zones;
- Provide support to worldwide organizations that promote systemic economic justice and the self-development of people, including race, ethnicity, immigration status, and gender and sexual orientation – eliminating human trafficking and ethnic cleansing;
- To promote the need for worldwide food sus-

EPISTLE Continued

tainability – giving your time and resources to organizations that seek to eliminate world hunger, which can reduce displacements due to famine.

- To support environmental justice, focusing on the health of the earth and its peoples. This would include supporting world health organizations that promote raising health standards worldwide.

As we go forward at Mt. Nebo, let's make a commitment to support peace with justice initiatives every day – not just once a year. Let's get creative and add to the list – go beyond just supporting these efforts financially – volunteer to be the "Boots on the Ground" to make this a reality.

May God fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit as you engage in this commitment to living out your faith in "A Full Stretch Before God." Amen.



JULY LAY READERS:

July 6 — Mary Ellen Roelkey

July 13 — Don Dorsey

July 20 — Rob Wetzel

July 27 — Cindy Kauffman

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JULY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

July 5 Genna Gerand
 July 6 Bob Lowman
 July 12 Glenn deShazo
 Oscar Rodriguez
 July 14 Cliff Wright
 July 15 Betty Lou Breeden
 July 16 Al Strauss
 July 21 JJ Berg
 Hattie Cronise
 Dennis Palmer
 July 22 Cheryl Pryor
 July 23 Erin Gollogly
 July 27 Ann Stone
 July 30 Gary Harding
 Olivia Pugh



ANNIVERSARIES

July 10 Jason & Alyssa Berg
 July 11 Rob & Patty Young
 July 12 Bob & Pam Walker



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

Children's Church Coming Sept 14, 2025

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 – Sky Cleaning
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

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the luncheon following Betty Kitchen's funeral. The family was most appreciative.

To everyone who made a second mile donation to the Peace with Justice Sunday offering.

To Andelena for sharing her orchestra piece with us on June 8th. It was marvelous.

Special thanks to everyone who helped with Micah's Backpack during the school year.

And thanks to everyone who celebrated with our graduates on their accomplishments and their future plans and to those who prepared the after-church celebration.



SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Sunday School/Children's Church begins Sunday, September 14th right after the Children's Message. I want to thank the 7 volunteers who have signed up to assist in this new exciting program for the kids!

An email to all 7 volunteers will go out by the end of the month stating how we need to prepare. Thank you all once again!

Patty Watson

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will be having their annual breakfast at the Red Byrd Restaurant on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 10:00am**. We hope you will join us for food and fellowship! Our regular meetings will resume in September.

Alyssa Berg



MUSIC NOTES—GET IN THE SPIRIT!

Dig out your favorite (and coolest) Christmas attire! Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church is going to celebrate “Christmas in July.” All the music will be themed around the greatest gift, Jesus Christ and His birth. All the children will receive gifts during the Children’s Time. We may even have some Christmas Cookies to share in the Gathering Room.

Did you know that the “Christmas in July” event is celebrated by many Methodist churches, as well as by other Christian denominations? It is a unique and informal tradition that offers several benefits and opportunities:

1. Charity and Community Service: Many churches use “Christmas in July” as an occasion to focus on charitable activities and community service. This can include food drives, fundraisers, and other initiatives to support those in need. The summer timing can help fill a gap in donations and volunteer activities, which often slow down after the holiday season.

2. Spiritual Reflection: Celebrating “Christmas in July” provides a mid-year opportunity for spiritual reflection on the themes of Christmas, such as peace, joy, goodwill, and the birth of Jesus. It can serve as a spiritual booster and reminder of the Christian message in a different season.

3. Congregational Engagement: During the summer months, church attendance can sometimes decline due to vacations and other activities. A “Christmas in July” event can help re-engage the congregation, offering a fun and meaningful reason to come together.

4. Cultural and Social Events: Many communi-

MUSIC NOTES Continued

ties enjoy the novelty and festivity of a “Christmas in July” celebration. This gives the church an additional outreach to the community.

In summary, “Christmas in July” serves multiple purposes for the church, ranging from charity and community engagement to spiritual reflection and social activities. It’s a versatile and creative way to bring the spirit of Christmas and the loving gift of our Heavenly Father into a different time of the year.

Join us for worship **Sunday, July 27**, and celebrate “Christmas in July.”

Rose Gamblin

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

This summer we have a wonderful opportunity to partner with one of our HUB Churches which is hosting their annual VBS. The theme is “Wonder Junction” which is Western oriented. Benevola UMC will be hosting a Vacation Bible School for children ranging from Pre K to Grade 5, scheduled from **July 28 to August 1**. This event will feature a variety of engaging activities and faith-based lessons. Additionally, adults are encouraged to volunteer and contribute to this enriching experience.

Volunteers could work behind the scenes to help design decorations and decorate on **July 26 or 27**. Assistance from adults and youth will be needed the week of the event. Children from our church are encouraged to attend. Dinner and snacks are provided each night.

Mt. Nebo could also assist by providing a meal for one of the nights or by collecting snack items. Please see Cindy if you’re interested in volunteering. For more info contact Nicole Conway at 301-302-3152 or anotherplottwist@gmail.com.

Cindy Kauffman



CHURCH NEWS & OUTREACH

MT. NEBO WELLNESS

Well, the summer heat is back! How do you stay active in the summer? Here are a few ideas that will burn energy (for the kids too).

Dancing. Even just putting on music and moving around is a great mood booster and calorie burner. *Yoga and Pilates* are excellent for improving flexibility, strength and balance, while providing a low-impact way to burn calories (Youtube has thousands of videos to fit anyone's needs). Other options are *cleaning* (you know it needs to be done and this is a form of exercise), climbing stairs, *weightlifting while sitting in a chair* to name a few. Just keep moving!

And of course come play pickleball on **Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday's at 9:00 a.m.** If you're not sure you'd like it or too scared you will fall, just come watch for 15 minutes. You may be surprised! Our group not only gets exercise, we have a good time laughing too!

Any other questions, reach out to Shawn Palmer, Rob Wetzel, or Patty Watson.

Patty Watson

MISSION MOUSE

Hello Mt. Nebo! It's summer and there are lots of long days to look forward to. Have you thought about something that you could do for others. Is there a family in your neighborhood that doesn't seem to have many friends. Maybe it is an elderly couple or a single person who doesn't have many visitors. If you have some pretty flowers, take them a bunch. If you bake cookies, share some with them. If you have a few extra minutes, just stop by for a visit. Reach out. While you are visiting with them you could mention that you attend Mt. Nebo UMC and that they would be most welcome to worship with us each Sunday. You might even offer to pick them up on Sunday morning and give them a ride to church. Have a great and fulfilling summer.



YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH APPRECIATION

The youth would like to express its deepest gratitude to Alyssa Berg who helped co-run the youth program for so many years! She helped keep our youth organized and grow spiritually. Alyssa did so many behind the scenes planning/organizing to allow our youth the opportunity to connect with other churches, our homeless community in Hagerstown through Faithstep, our Boonsboro community, and to each other. We are so grateful for the voluntary time Alyssa spent in supporting the youth program at Mt. Nebo. Thank you again Ms. Alyssa for everything you did for us.

Many blessings, Love, The Youth

SUMMER YOUTH SESSIONS

As the youth turn from the 2024-2025 school year into summer planning, there will be two informational sessions coming up to engage with the youth on what their expectations are for the summer and as we plan out the next school year. These sessions will be posted in the weekly Happenings and the Band App. These sessions will gauge how we will plan out the youth Sunday School, as well as gather information on how to re-engage with our youth. I encourage parents to request their youth to keep up with the Band App, as well as come to church and spend an hour after the service to participate in the youth program. The summer will have a lighter schedule due to various vacations, but please reach out to me if you want to help or have suggestions.

Don Dorsey



CLC NEWS

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Wow, our learning center continues to grow! We currently have 161 students! The kids enjoyed the first month of our summer camps! We started it off with a beach party! Our amazing field trips consisted of Cici's Pizza, Ready Set Play, Pirate Adventures on the Chesapeake, and Land of the Little Horses! Check out our pictures on FB!

We're starting off the month of July celebrating America the Beautiful. The children will wear patriotic clothing to school on Thursday, July 3rd and Mt. Nebo will be closed on Friday, July 4th in observance of the holiday.

Our July themes are Great Outdoors, Splish Splash, Legos, and Survivor Skills! Monthly calendar of events are posted on the entryway bulletin board.

Our school policy is to have children arrive by 9 a.m. each day. Students who are dropped off after 9 a.m. miss the opportunity to ease into the morning with their peers and teachers on a common schedule. In addition, children arriving late may interrupt the flow and structure of the morning, which the teachers work hard to establish.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER Continued

Our 2025-2026 school year enrollment letter with new tuition rates was distributed late last month. Please make sure to read and return the enrollment form by July 14th to ensure your child's spot. We cannot guarantee a spot if the signed form is not returned by that date. We do have a long waiting list for all our classes!

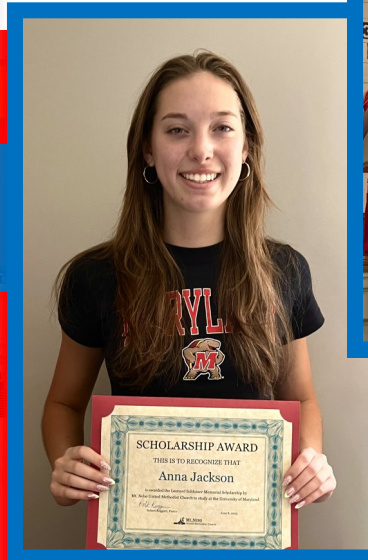
I hope all the children have enjoyed the first month of summer camp as much as I have had in planning all the fun activities and events!

All of us here wish your family a wonderful 4th of July holiday!

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

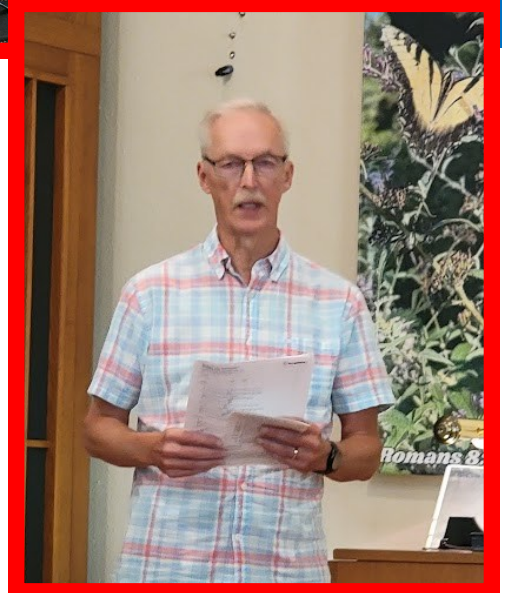


2025 Graduates

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



*Share your Flat Jesus
on Vacation this summer*



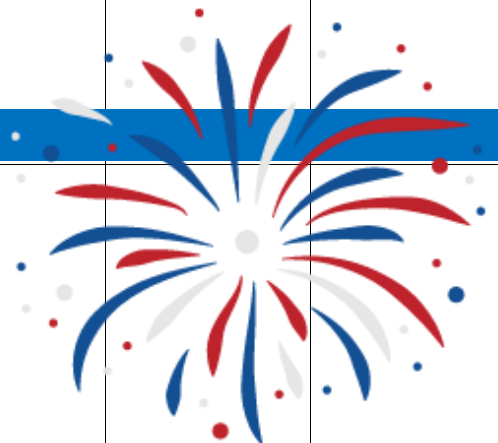
**FELLOWSHIP BEFORE THE
MORNING WORSHIP**

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONTINUED



JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 5p July 4th Celebration @ Shafer Park	4 4th of July	5 9a Pickleball Rain Date for the July 4th Celebration
			6p Pickleball	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY		
6 9a Worship	7 630p Trustees Meeting	8 6p Pickleball	9 6p Pickleball	10	11	12 9a Pickleball
13 9a Worship	14	15 6p Pickleball	16 6p Pickleball	17	18	19 9a Pickleball
20 9a Worship	21 630p CLC Advisory Meeting	22 6p Pickleball 7p VIM Meeting	23 6p Pickleball	24	25	26 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
	BRANDI VACATION 7/21-7/23					
27 9a Worship Christmas in July Service	28	29 6p Pickleball	30 6p Pickleball	31		
	PASTOR BOB VACATION 7/28-8/2					



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

Change Service Requested



**For you were called to freedom,
brothers and sisters; only do not use
your freedom as an opportunity for
self-indulgence, but through love
become slaves to one another.**

Galatians 5:13

