



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • June 2025

In last month's Beacon, I discussed a meeting that I participated in with our Bishop regarding the implementation of vital changes in our conference to address declining membership, declining attendance, and declining participation.

The primary focus of that article was to identify how a "Tsunami" of cultural changes has reduced the relevancy of the church to a new generation. In the article, I discussed changing cultural views over the last fifty years and how the mainline traditional churches have failed to adapt to them.

This month's article can be seen as a part two of that article, in that it identifies what changes in structure are required so that we can begin to focus on moving closer to Christ, and to begin to focus on transformational, outward facing, community-driven ministries working in a collaborative manner with our shared values. This will involve refocusing on being the hands and feet of Christ in our community in new ways with a new structure and with a goal of 100% of our churches being 100% vital!

These new structural changes were formally announced on April 28, 2025, by our Bishop. In her announcement she stated, "As we transition from eight districts to six, we do so with a renewed call to mission, ministry and our baptismal covenant. This sacred realignment is not merely administrative; it is a movement of the Spirit, a response to the living waters that continue to flow through our hearts, our churches, and our communities. We will experience revival as we gather in new districts and hubs to form lasting relationships and wade into the deep of mission and ministry together." She goes on to say, "We are being called to move forward, not in fear but in faith.

Whether it is the waters of the womb or the waters of baptism, we are always being called to birth something new, to be reborn and transformed... Just as the waters of baptism do not remain still, but ripple outward, so too must our conference evolve to become more agile, more faithful, and more attuned to the needs of the present age. This new structure is an expression of our deep desire to be good stewards of our mission, our resources, and the call to be a bold and courageous Church for the 21st century."

In support of The Vital Change Implementation, the following structural changes are being made:

- All churches in our conference will be part of a collaborative hub.
- All hubs will be part of geographic districts.
- There will be six geographic districts – Our district will be the Canal District with John Wunderlich as our superintendent.
- Non-mission related, specialized administrative duties will be centralized to support churches rather than requiring each district to provide these services.

Once relationships and lines of effective communication have been built through the hubs, a discovery and assessment process will begin where the question will be asked: Who are our neighbors? What is the biggest and most important need in the community? What are the assets?

After the discovery process has been completed, the hub participants will then begin to explore how to be the hands and feet of God in the community. In collaboration with our community, the



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE Continued

hub will determine what can be done to be transformational; to determine what can be done to increase discipleship; to determine what can be done that is outward-facing and community-driven.

The final step, will be to move on to implementing an action plan with steps for implementation with a feedback-loop to determine the success of the hub efforts or to determine if any changes are required based on experience gained and feedback.

As can be seen from above, the hubs will need to work collaboratively with the connected churches as well as the hub's home community. A connecting church has been designated for each hub. Mt Nebo will be the connecting church for the Washington County South Hub, and I will be the connecting pastor. The following churches will be part of our hub:

Benevola UMC - Boonsboro, Salem UMC - Keedysville, Bethel UMC - Rohrsersville, Mt Zion UMC - Myersville, Mt Lena UMC -Boonsboro.

I am looking forward to all of the new ways that we can connect in ministry with not only our brothers and sisters in our community, but also with a strong connection to members of our hub. This restructure will require participation from clergy as well as laity from all the connecting churches.

This is an exciting time in the life of our church. It is an opportunity to take the church out of the church and meet people where they are. Going outside the traditional sanctuary and serving the community and giving of ourselves fully. Community meals and activities that are an occasion for coming together could serve as the catalyst for sharing the good news of the Gospel. How we share this message and where we share will make all the difference in the world in our effectiveness going forward. With this restructuring, we can truly begin to say that we are connecting in our ministries!

Blessings, 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

Website: www.mtneboumc.com

Sunday Event Times:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

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JUNE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Patty Young
 June 3 James Shank
 June 4 Albert Resh
 June 5 Trent Deatrich
 June 10 Shirley Thompson
 June 11 Ella Pugh
 June 12 Kayleigh Shank
 June 19 Peg McClain
 June 22 Bill Watson
 June 24 Dale Lee
 June 27 David Collins
 June 28 Sidney Turner



ANNIVERSARIES

June 9 Ryan & Amanda Shank
 June 14 Joe & Betty Lou Breeden
 Bob & Wanda Lowman
 Bruce & Katie Smith
 Pat & Tamara White
 June 29 Skip & Cindy Kauffman



JUNE LITURGISTS:

June 1 — Darce Easton
 June 8 — Katie Smith
 June 15 Father's Day — Toni Wetzel
 June 22 — Skip Kauffman
 June 29 — Dianna Basile



PICKLEBALL FOR EVERYONE

Betty Jones joined us on the Pickleball court last month to give it a try and had a nice return.



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to Ruth Resh and all the volunteers who have been helping pack backpacks with food for students in Boonsboro who might otherwise go hungry over the weekend.

To everyone who has donated food to Micah's Backpack.

Thank you to Dianna Basile, Cindy Kauffman and Pastor Bob for representing Mt. Nebo at the Annual Conference.

To each person who donated to the special offering on Native American Ministries Sunday. And lots of thanks to Kim Kelly and the staff for the many hours that have been devoted to being there for all the students in the Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center.

CHURCH NEWS

SUMMARY OF 241ST BALT-WASH CONFERENCE

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord, Dwell in Joy

The 241st Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church took place under the uplifting theme, *Rejoice in the Lord, Dwell in Joy.* Our church was privileged to be represented by Pastor Bob, Dianna Basile—our lay member—and myself, serving as an appointed District Lay Member. Together, we participated in this inspiring gathering, which celebrated faith, unity, and collective hope.

Highlights from the Conference

The conference featured exhilarating worship services and engaging Bible studies, skillfully led by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, many pastors, and various laity. These moments involved spiritual reflection, celebration, and community among attendees.

Agenda and Discussions

The conference addressed eight resolutions that were thoughtfully debated and considered, alongside four constitutional amendments. These matters underscored the importance of governance and the shared mission of the church in carrying out its spiritual and social responsibilities. The results of the amendments will be unveiled in November after all Annual Conferences have voted.

District and Leadership Updates

A significant development was the establishment of the newly defined Canal District, of which our church is now a part. We are fortunate to have Pastor Bob leading the designated Hub within this

CONFERENCE CONTINUED...



district, ensuring strong leadership and a cohesive vision.

Commitment to Community Service

Looking ahead, an exciting initiative has been unveiled: a collaborative effort to gather 10,000 hygiene kits as a district. This project is a remarkable opportunity for our church to contribute to a greater cause and make a tangible difference in the lives of many. We encourage everyone to stay tuned for details on how we can actively engage in this effort as a community of faith.

Conclusion

The 241st Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference was a testament to the enduring strength and vitality of the United Methodist Church. It provided a platform for spiritual growth, thoughtful deliberation, and impactful action, leaving attendees inspired and motivated to continue their work in service to God and humanity.

From your Lay Leader, Cindy Kauffman

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will be taking a break from our regular meetings for the summer months. We will not be meeting in June or July. In August, we will have our annual breakfast - stay tuned for a date!

Alyssa Berg



This large shell was one of the central pieces of the conference. Loaned to us by the Pen-Del Conference.

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

MUSIC NOTES

Why Adults Should Learn Music

One of the most compelling reasons to learn music is its cognitive boost. Numerous studies have shown that music enhances brain development and restoration, especially in areas related to language and reasoning. Music also nurtures emotional intelligence. When we express ourselves through music, we connect with our emotions. Playing an instrument or singing can be a healthy outlet for stress and frustration. The journey of mastering an instrument, with its ups and downs, encourages patience and discipline. The sense of accomplishment and pride that comes with learning a piece is a powerful motivator. These emotional skills are valuable throughout life.

Socially, music is a unifying force. It brings us together, creating a sense of community and belonging. Music promotes teamwork and collaboration in a Praise Team, Bell Choir, or Choir. Like a performance, working together toward a shared goal teaches us to listen, cooperate, and support one another. These essential life skills can strengthen friendships and build confidence, making us feel connected and part of something bigger.

Why Children Should Learn Music

Music is more than just a source of entertainment—it's a powerful educational tool that can significantly enrich a child's development. Learning music at a young age offers lifelong benefits cognitively, emotionally, and socially. For instance, reading music and understanding rhythm can improve a child's math and literacy skills. Playing an instrument like the piano can enhance memory, attention, and problem-solving abilities. These cognitive advantages can give students a solid foundation for academic success.

Mt. Nebo's Commitment to Music

There is room for all people in our music program. We like to experience different genres of music, and we accept the talents God has given us. You might think you can't sing, but guess what, your angel can, and many times I've experienced that as you sing from the pews. We are always looking for Special Music. We also accept song re-

MUSIC NOTES Continued

quests, so don't hesitate to participate in our music program. We need more Bell Choir members. If you can count to 4, you can ring bells. We currently have enough ringers for 2 octaves of bells, but it would be nice to use all four octaves of our bells. We need more choir members, and even if you can't commit to the whole season, can you join us for our special events like Christmas, Lent/Easter, and 911?

Remember, "make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Rose Gamblin

MT. NEBO WELLNESS

I DON'T EXERCISE BUT WANT TO START

Don't worry if you can't reach 150 minutes per week just yet. Everyone must start somewhere. Even if you've been sedentary for years, today is the day you can begin to make healthy changes in your life. Set a reachable goal for today. You can work toward the recommended amount by increasing your time as you get stronger. Don't let all-or-nothing thinking keep you from doing what you can every day.

The simplest way to get moving and improve your health is to start walking. It's free, easy and can be done just about anywhere, even in place.

Any amount of movement is better than none. And you can break it up into short bouts of activity throughout the day. Taking a brisk walk for five or ten minutes a few times a day, will add up.

If you have a chronic condition or disability, talk with your healthcare provider about what types and amounts of physical activity are right for you before making too many changes. But don't wait! Get started today by simply sitting less and moving more, whatever that looks like for you.

Also, for those of you who have trouble walking, remember, just sitting in a chair and lifting weights (or cans of food or a ½ gallon of water) a few times a day, keeps your heart healthy. Go for 30 minutes (six 5-minute workouts). You can also google chair exercises, and you get 100's of choices.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: This verse reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that we should honor God with them, which includes taking care of our physical health.

Patty Watson

YOUTH AND CLC NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

Summer is in the air! As this school year draws to a close, our youth have experienced many blessings throughout the 2024–2025 school season. They have received various awards and have been exemplary in their academics. In addition, they have accomplished so much in sports, music, extracurricular activities, and part-time jobs. We are so proud of our youth!

This summer, they will be extremely busy with their many activities, yet they will still find time to continue their work on the Clopper House renovations. In June, the Clopper House will open its doors to our CLC teachers as a break room and lesson planning space.

To our graduating youth: May God always be with you, may your spirit never waver from His love, and may our paths continue to cross.

With much love and many blessings, Alyssa and Don

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

I thoroughly enjoyed celebrating my fabulous team last month. It would not have been as successful without all the letters and donation items from our wonderful families! I hope my team knows how much I appreciate their hard work,

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER Continued

love, support, and dedication they give every day. I am filled with a deep sense of pride, honor, humility, and joy to work with each of them.

June brings in all forms of beauty that we witness throughout the summer. It marks the time to plan cookouts, outdoor games, pool time, carnivals, beach trips, and most importantly, vacations!

Our summer camp program kicks off this month! Many fun field trips, on-site presentations, activities, water play, and more have been scheduled to make this a fun and busy summer for all the kids and staff! I will be posting pictures on Facebook, so make sure to like our page!

Our 2025-2026 school year enrollment letter with new tuition rates will be distributed by June 13th. Please make sure to read and return the enrollment form by July 18th 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!

Happy Father's Day to all our dads! We hope that you all have a great celebration with your families!

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

MISSION MOUSE

The following quote is by the late Pope Frances. As you read it, think about what it is saying. When you are finished, ask yourself, 'Have I made others happy today?'

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is, life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."

MICAH'S BACKPACK

At our last Micah's Backpack packing, 148 bags were packed and delivered. Mt. Nebo will serve the last packing for this school year on **Thursday, May 29**. This helpful service will begin again in the fall when school reopens.

The Food Pantry at Trinity Lutheran Church will continue the first and third Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 PM. Again, our thanks to all who help, give and serve.

Ruth Resh

CONGRATULATIONS 2025 GRADUATES

LILLY BERG



Lilly Berg is the daughter of Jason and Alyssa Berg. She graduated from Boonsboro High School and plans to attend college in the fall at West Chester University. She will be majoring in Criminal Justice. Lilly enjoys working at the CLC, and participating actively in youth group and Girl Scouts. She loves animals and traveling.

Her career goal is to have a future job in Criminal Justice. Congratulations, Lilly!

OWEN PARISH



Owen Parish is the son of Mark and Christi Parish. He graduated from Boonsboro High School. In the fall, he will be majoring in Finance/Accounting at Salisbury University. Owen enjoys playing soccer, mountain biking and golfing. He loves cars and spending time with his friends and family. Way to go, Owen!

ANNA JACKSON

Anna Jackson is the daughter of Matt and Kim Jackson. She graduated from Boonsboro High School and will be attending college in the fall at the University of Maryland. Her major will be in Nutrition and Dietetics. Anna enjoys playing volleyball, running track, and hanging out with her friends. Great job, Anna!



LORALLI SNYDER

Loralli Snyder is the daughter of Bob and Donna Snyder. She graduated from Middletown High School and will major in Biochemistry at the University of Maryland in the fall. Loralli enjoys biking, going to the gym, shopping, hanging out with her friends. She also loves playing the piano, reading, gardening and cooking. Well done, Loralli!



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



**WELCOME NEW
MEMBER
KAYLA HAUPT**



BAPTISM OF DAISY STOTLER


PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONT...



TRI-STATE HOPE BUILDERS SPRING VIM TRIP



JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Worship Ascension Sunday	2 630p CLC Advisory Meeting	3	4 Brandi Off 6p Pickleball	5 1p Micah's Backpack 5p Bells 6p Choir	6 Last Day of School	7 9a Pickleball
8 9a Worship Graduation Sunday Pentecost Sunday	9	10	11 6p Pickleball	12 5p Bells 6p Choir	13	14 9a Pickleball
15 9a Worship Father's Day Peace w/ Justice Sunday	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17	18 6p Pickleball	19 Juneteenth 5p Bells	20	21 9a Pickleball
22 9a Worship	23	24	25 6p Pickleball	26 5p Bells	27	28 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
29 9a Worship	30					
						

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

Change Service Requested



*Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and lean not on
your own understanding;*

PROVERBS 3:5