



# THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • August 2025

Saint Teresa of Calcutta was once quoted as saying, "We need to find God and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is a friend of silence." So, what did she mean by this and how can we begin to connect more closely with our Heavenly Father? What is it that keeps us from experiencing a foretaste of the tranquility and joy of what Christ our Lord has promised for all of us? I believe that we all know the answer to that question; however, the challenge is finding the time in our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives to be able to connect to God at a deeper level. With this statement, Mother Teresa was saying to all of us that to truly connect with God, we need to seek a quiet and peaceful state of mind, as God is not present in the chaos and distractions of a busy life. Instead, true communion with the divine can only be found in moments of stillness and reflection.

In today's world, the soft voice of God is often eclipsed by all of the noise and distractions that dominate our everyday lives. We are pulled in many directions and there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day. Time becomes the enemy; we often find ourselves on that constant treadmill, running from one place to another, never taking the time to rest, to reflect, to contemplate a simpler life. Some of us long for the "Good Old Days," a time before the internet. A time before the emergence of cell phones. No matter how we wish differently, the world is changing at a rapid pace each day and crowding out more of those special times that we had reserved for communion with God.

So how do we gain back this so desperately

needed quiet time with our Creator? In my own experience, I have found a simple solution. A solution that does not require a membership or a large financial outlay. It does not require a life coach or spiritual coach. All that is required is for each of us to decide to take back a portion of our day to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and to listen for his soft voice to speak to us and to guide us each day. This simple solution is available to all who are looking for his promise of an abundant life in this life and the eternal life to come.



In order to find this, we must be intentional about taking time out in our busy schedules for solitary time to discern God's will. Life has a tendency of getting messy and cluttered as we add more and more commitments and obligations to what is already a heavy load. What I find helpful as I look to discern the Will of God, is to periodically withdraw from the day-to-day activities that crowd out God's voice. To do this, I begin by seeking solitude – a place free of all the different kinds of "noise" that bombards our senses on a regular basis. For me, this happens on my daily walks. This is my time with my Creator. As I walk the rural stretches of farmlands near my home or even the sidewalks of Boonsboro's Main Street near the church, I have my time with God to pray and reflect. Because we are called to constant prayer by our Lord, this is one of the most effective spiritual disciplines that I practice. We see in Romans 12:12 that we are called to, *"rejoice in hope, [to] be patient in tribulation and [to] be constant in prayer."* During this time of prayer, I ask God to give me guidance in serving Him and I pray

# EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

## EPISTLE CONTINUED....

for guidance as I submit to His holy will accepting his will in all that I do.

In addition to prayer, I also seek to find times of solitude in the study of scripture. During those times, I reflect on the day and clear my mind of all the earthly issues that tend to prevent me from having a restful night. We see this call to study in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"<sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."*

During the reading of scripture, I look for guidance found in the gospels which, through the ministry of Christ, reveals to us the love God has for us and all of his great Creation. The examples set by Christ in his earthly ministry gives all of us the example for leading Christian lives in this very secular world that we live in today. We must study this living word of God and allow it to speak to us daily. We must meditate on these readings, internalizing them in a way that allows us to understand its full meaning for us in today's world. Thereby allowing us to follow these examples in our daily lives.

When I fail to practice these worship habits on a regular basis, the noise and troubles of the world, in a very subtle and gradual way, will begin to overwhelm my life, which can lead to physical and spiritual brokenness. For this reason, I have been vigilant in choosing the life of abundance promised to me by my Creator. I urge everyone to take the challenge of trying

this lifestyle to see the incredible benefits that it will reap for you. May God be with you as you embark on this challenging journey. Amen.

*Pastor Bob*



## AUGUST LAY READERS:

**August 3 — Cindy Kauffman**

**August 10 — Lisa Riner**

**August 17 — Rob Young**

**August 24 — Darce Easton**

**August 31 — Katie Smith**

## 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

Children's Church Coming Sept 14, 2025

### 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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# AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHDAYS

Aug 1 Levi Young  
 Aug 2 Maddi Dorsey  
 Aug 9 Christi Parish  
 Aug 10 Lora Budnick  
 Aug 11 Amanda Shank  
 Aug 13 Andy Pugh  
 Aug 16 Steve Baal  
 Aug 17 Megan Merrill  
 Aug 27 Abigail Cronise  
 Aug 29 Owen Parish



## ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 7 Rob & Toni Wetzel  
 Aug 8 Jon & Erin Gollogly  
 Aug 14 Travis & Lisa Riner  
 Aug 25 Gary & Cheryl Pryor  
 Aug 26 Steve & Teri Baal  
 Aug 27 Dale & Debbie Lee



## MISSION MOUSE

I know that this is vacation time, but it is time to get our fall programs organized. The first program that is needing help is to provide a Sunday school experience for our youngest Mt. Nebo members. Patty Wat-

son is looking for folks who are willing to help with our newly organized Sunday school, Children's Church programs. This is not a commitment for every Sunday, maybe once or twice a month. Materials are provided, but supervision for the children is needed. Often, Sunday school teachers become the most important guidance for children. You can be the person who can make a wonderful Christian influence that will grow our children in their Christian faith. Please get in touch with Patty Watson to let her know you will help. Also, the music ministry is looking for people to sing in the choir and/or play in the bell choir. Contact Rose Gamblin to find out more about these musical opportunities. Mt. Nebo has several committees that need help. Contact Pastor Bob to learn about and serve on one of those committees. Just a reminder that when you joined the church you pledged to give your service, that means a bit more than going to church on Sunday and putting something in the collection plate. You can do this.



## THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Thank you to the organizers of the pickleball get togethers. Everyone is enjoying all the fun.

**Special thanks to Rose and everyone who helped with the Christmas in July Service.**

To Cindy Kauffman for keeping us informed about the VBS at Benevola.

**To Cliff Wright for getting the VIM Team organized for their Fall trip.**

And thank you to Katie Deatrich for taking the time to put the letters up for the church sign.

# CHURCH NEWS

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women's annual breakfast is coming up on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Red Byrd Restaurant. All women and girls are invited to join us for food and fellowship! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Our regular meetings will resume in September.

## MT. NEBO WORSHIP SURVEY

The SPRC Committee is seeking anonymous feedback on what they would like to see the Church focus on in this years' Church Services. Input may be collected by paper form and placed in the offering plate or online utilizing the QR or web link below. Your opinions matter in how you want to be taught about God's word, as well as how you want to grow and sustain the church! Please consider providing your voice by no later than the end of August! For questions, please see Debbie Lee.

To participate, click link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/qTeCdXTdnu>

OR Use QR Code below:



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will have the blessing of the backpacks this year for our children who will return to school on August 25th. Please have your child bring their backpack to the service on **Sunday, August 24th** so that they may be blessed to have a positive and encouraging school year.

*Patty Watson*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH/SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are very much looking forward to the start of the Children's Church/Sunday School on **Sunday, September 14th!** Don't forget to send in your flat Jesus pictures so we can share with the congregation. We would like all pictures to be submitted by **August 31<sup>st</sup>** and you can email them to [mtnebosundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:mtnebosundayschool@gmail.com). Thank you!

*Patty Watson*

## BOONESBOROUGH DAYS

We will be looking for volunteers to assist us in running our annual Boonesborough Days food booth. Boonesborough Days will be **September 6th and 7th** with setup happening **September 5th** in the late afternoon/evening. This event has been our best fundraiser for our church! Last year we raised approximately \$4,700, which was distributed to the United Methodist Men, Women, and Youth accounts. Please help us to raise and support all of our church groups for this once-a-year fundraiser!

Due to the popular request, we will be switching from steak and cheese subs to burgers. Other items we sell include nachos with cheese, ice cream, cobblers, brownies, and floats! A sign-up sheet will be passed around at church and posted on the church's bulletin board for individuals to donate supplies as well as to sign up for various shifts. Please save the date and know you are making it possible for our Church to continue to provide its ministry to the community. There are a wide variety of needs from setting up/breaking down, cooking, preparing plates, two cashiers per shift (recommended for those who cannot stand for long periods and we accept credit cards), ice cream servers, plus many other jobs. For more details, please see Patty Watson or Don Dorsey.

*Don Dorsey*

# YOUTH & CLC NEWS

## INCOMING MT. NEBO YOUTH

If you are interested in having your child join the Mt. Nebo Youth and are entering sixth grade or older, please reach out to Don Dorsey at [boons-boromtneboyouth@gmail.com](mailto:boons-boromtneboyouth@gmail.com) to let him know they are interested. We can take a tour of the youth/CLC Clopper House Space and talk about what we will be learning this upcoming school year. We will also get you connected to the Youth's Band App where most of our communication takes place.

*Don Dorsey*

## MT. NEBO YOUTH SURVEY

I am looking to obtain information from the church, the youth, and others about ways we can sustain, grow, and find new ways to connect our youth to Mt. Nebo. As sports and other activities have started to compete for our youth's attention, we must find new ways to keep ahead of these needs. With that said, I have put together a small survey to gather information from everyone about your suggestions for the youth. Please note that your participation in this survey does not "sign you up to help the youth," but rather provides an opportunity for your voice to be heard at the table as we work on growing our youth programs. EVERYONE can take the survey. The survey is here: <https://forms.office.com/r/iKF8dfVnUB> or you can use the QR code below. Please complete the survey by **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

*Don Dorsey*

Let's talk about Mt. Nebo Youth!



## CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Wow...Is August here already? It feels as though summer has just started, but instead it's coming to an end! Summer has moved so fast, but we are packing in as much fun as possible!

Our children really enjoyed the field trips to Adventure Park, Turner's Skate Palace, Jay Dee's Water Park, Strawberry Hill, Germantown Splash Park & Lego Discovery last month! Our favorite on-site event was our annual FOAM Party! It has been exciting to re-create these memories and develop new ones! Our teachers do a fabulous job keeping the kids busy and engaged in learning during the summer!

Our August themes are Carnival Adventure, Mad Lab and Willy Wonka! We will enjoy trips to the Walkersville Train Station, Catoctin Zoo, Discovery Station, Ninja Kingdom, Catoctin Creek Nature Center and our school agers we will close out the summer program with a trip to Hershey Park!!

We want to give a big shout out to our fabulous parent chaperones who were able to support our staff and children on our field trips this summer. Thank you for all your help, we appreciate each of you!!

MNCLC will be closed Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> to set up for our fall program and Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> for our team building in-service day!

Our fall program begins on **Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**. We have limited spaces available for our fall program. If you are still planning on your child attending our fall program, please turn in the enrollment form as soon as possible.

Don't forget to like and follow our Facebook page! You don't want to miss seeing all the engaging activities, and of course all the photos!

Ms. Kendall, Ms. Lilly, Ms. Bree, and Ms. Gillian will be preparing to head to college this month. It has been such a pleasure having them with us this summer. I know the kids will miss them as much as we will! We wish them much success and hope to have them back next summer!

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



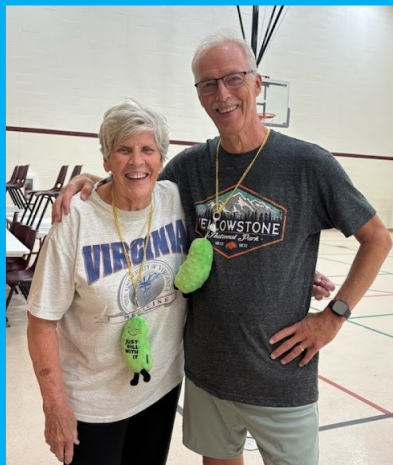
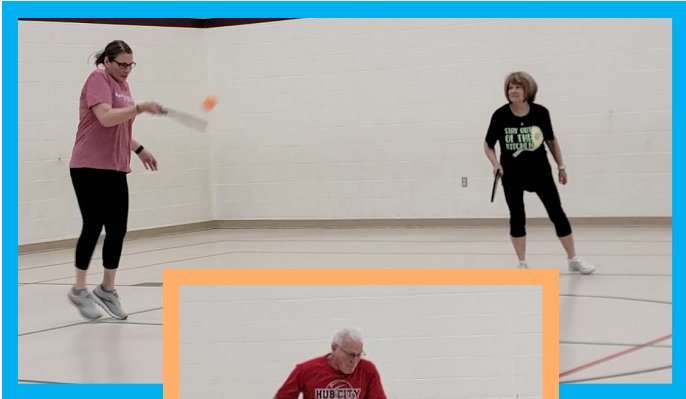
# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

## ALOHA SUNDAY



# PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONTINUED

## PICKLEBALL

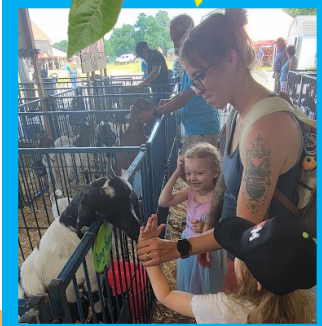


## JUST DILL WITH IT



# PICS IN THE COMMUNITY

FLAT JESUS,  
FIREWORKS,  
& FAMILY  
TRADITIONS



AG EXPO





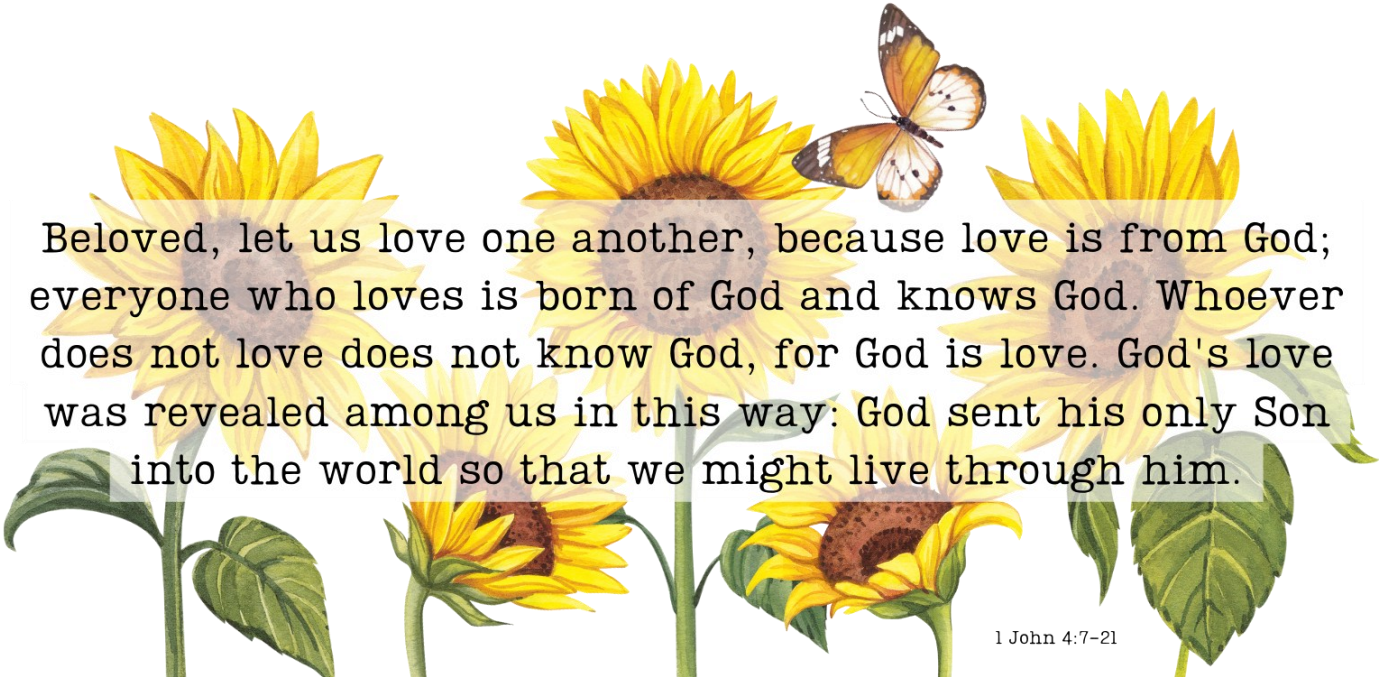
# AUGUST 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9a Pickleball
					PASTOR BOB VACATION	
3 9a Worship	4	5 530p Ukelele Planning Mtg 530p National Night Out 6p Pickleball	6 6p Pickleball	7	8	9 9a Pickleball
	BRANDI VACATION					
10 9a Worship with Reception of New Members	11	12 6p Pickleball	13 10a UMW @ Red Byrd 6p Pickleball	14	15	16 9a Pickleball
17 9a Worship	18	19 6p Pickleball	20 6p Pickleball	21	22	23 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
24 9a Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks	25 BACK TO SCHOOL	26 6p Pickleball	27 6p Pickleball	28	29	30 9a Pickleball
31 9a Worship Flat Jesus Photos Due Youth Survey Due						

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

**Change Service Requested**

A large illustration of several yellow sunflowers with green leaves and a small orange and black butterfly flying above them. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4:7-21