



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • October 2025

Every first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is a tradition that many of us have been doing for as long as we can remember. However, how many of us still remember the real meaning of this sacred act? In some cases, we have repeated it so many times that like reciting the Lord's Prayer, it becomes routine, its true meaning lost or forgotten. We go through the steps and may not remember the significance and the power of this sacred act. Let's take a moment to review some of the basics of this sacrament before diving deeper into its meaning and power.

First of all, Holy Communion, also known as Holy Eucharist, is one of the marks that defines us as Christians and draws us together. It was given by Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper. It is an essential part of the Christian worshiping community. Our basic beliefs in the United Methodist Church are found in the publication: *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*. In this publication, it states that "Jesus Christ, who is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being (Hebrews 1:3), is truly present in Holy Communion. Through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, God meets us at the Table. God acts in and through Holy Communion. Christ is present through the community gathered in Jesus' name (Matthew 18:20), through the word proclaimed and enacted, and through the elements of bread and wine or wafer and juice shared (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The divine presence is a living reality and can be experienced by all participants; it is not only a remembrance of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion.

During the service, communion elements are consecrated and consumed in the context of the gathered congregation. Our communion liturgy



invitation begins with words spoken on Jesus' behalf *inviting all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another*. Holy Communion is a reminder that we commune with both God and one another at the Table. We begin this liturgy by inviting ALL to the Table. There are some Christian denominations that have a "Closed Table." This means that only

members of that denomination can accept the elements. This can be seen in the Catholic Church tradition. Guests who come to the Table in these denominations will receive a blessing rather than the consecrated elements. This is why our United Methodist Church invitation must provide this inclusive

statement in the liturgy. The words of the invitation also include confession and pardon, so that all may understand the openness of the Table of the Lord and the expectation of repentance, forgiveness, healing, and entrance into new life with Christ. No one will be turned away from the Table because of age or mental, physical, developmental, and or psychological and neurological capacity.

This sacrament is to be made available to people who are in hospitals and hospices; convalescent and rehabilitation facilities; correctional and custodial institutions; or other situations that make it impossible for them to receive it at the church. Although the consecration of the elements must be performed by an ordained elder or person authorized under the provisions of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, laypeople may serve the consecrated elements to those unavoidably absent. This is considered an extension of the Table. An elder or deacon should offer the appropriate training, preparation and training for this important task. Bishops, pastors, and congregations are expected to use the services of Word and Table found in the United Methodist hymnals and books of worship.

EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

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EPISTLE CONTINUED....

We receive spiritual nourishment through Holy Communion. Wesley wrote, "This is the food of our souls: This gives strength to perform our duty, and lead us on to perfection." As we encounter Christ in Holy Communion, we are repeatedly touched by divine grace, we are progressively shaped into Christ's image. It is a lifelong process through which God intends to transform us into people motivated by love and empowered to do Christ's work in the world.

The sacrament of Holy Communion prepares us to go into the world to proclaim the good news of the gospel and to make Disciples of Christ for our Lord. Once we leave the protection of the sanctuary, we are subject to the harsh realities of life in this earthly realm – needing the spiritual nourishment that is provided through this sacrament. This world is broken and corrupt in many ways – it can drain us and weaken us in our spiritual resolve. For this reason, it is important for all of us to partake in this sacred ancient tradition of communion as often as possible. It prepares us by strengthening us spiritually, so that we can become one body with other Christians as we go forth in ministry – serving our Lord in discipleship-making. Even when our VIM team is away from Mount Nebo, they seek out a church to partake in this sacrament when spiritual nourishment is needed the most. Through this act, we receive healing and are enabled to aid in the healing of others.

Our loving God meets us at the table and gives

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

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

us the gift of eternal life. Jesus' presentation of himself as the spiritual bread of life in the Eucharistic account found in John 6:25-58, makes clear the connection: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." Amen.

Pastor Bob

OCTOBER LAY READERS:

Oct 5 — Mary Ellen Roelkey
Oct 12 — Cindy Kauffman
Oct 19 — Tony Basile
Oct 26 — Rob Wetzel



OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



BIRTHDAYS

Oct 8	Terri Hollingshead	Oct 22	Tyler Deatrich
Oct 12	Michael Cronise	Oct 24	Sara Breeden
Oct 13	Angela Redden		Don Dorsey
Oct 15	Ed Beard	Oct 25	Jason Berg
Oct 17	Debbie Lee		

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 4 Jody & Shelley Breeden
Oct 8 Michael & Vanessa Cronise
Oct 20 Bill & Patty Watson



BOX BREATHING

Did you know that 62% of adults worldwide say they feel stressed? Even worse, many experience anxiety more often than not. Those aren't odds we want to accept. So, how can we reduce these numbers? In the Bible, we are reminded that God gives us only what we can handle. Whether we feel ready or not, He knows our strength. You might find yourself asking, "Lord, can't you choose the next person in the pew instead of me? I can't do this." But that's not the prayer God answers. He chose you for a reason.

Now it's time to build your "breathing box"—a tool to help you stay grounded and ready when God says, "Go and do great things!" Please join us in fellowship immediately after church on **October 19th** to create your own Box Breathing Cross Box.

Don Dorsey



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to everyone who participated in the Mt. Nebo Food Booth...those who served, those who set up and took down, those who cooked or baked, and especially to Don Dorsey and Patty Watson who organized, shopped, and just saw that all went smoothly.

To Rose, Mike, Oscar and all who saw that the sound system was working for the Community Service in the Park for Boonesborough Days. Thank you to everyone who handed out bulletins, sang in the choir, participated with the Praise Team, took up offering, shared the water and cookies, and who attended the worship service.

Many thanks to everyone who took a Flat Jesus with them on their vacation and then shared the wonderful pictures at our worship service. Flat Jesus traveled far with our Mt. Nebo members. **And to Patty Watson for getting our Children's Church program organized and working.**

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our recent meeting began with a reading from Dotty, which reminded us that Jesus is always waiting for us to turn to Him in troubled times. We need to maintain our faith and seek answers from Him.

We discussed our plans for purchasing gifts for the November birthdays at Sterling Care and will assemble the gifts at our next meeting. We decided to make donations to the VIM Team, as well as to the CROP walk. Mark your calendars for a **COOKIE SWAP** to kick off the Advent Season! All women/girls are invited to join us on **Monday, December 1st at 6:00pm** for a Cookie Swap! Bring 2 dozen homemade cookies (plus copies of the recipe) and you'll go home with 2 dozen of a variety of cookies that others have brought! We look forward to hosting this evening of fellowship and cookies! A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in early November where you can designate which type of cookie you plan to bring.

We hope you will join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, October 15 at 10:00am**.

Alyssa Berg

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



It's All About Perspective

Do you remember when churches had no air conditioning? No microphones? No cushions on the pews? No drums, guitars, or amplifiers? The following story comes from those simpler days—not so long ago.

One warm summer evening, during a midweek prayer meeting, the choir was singing its special number. The windows were wide open to catch the breeze, and outside the crickets were chirping.

MUSIC MINISTRY CONTINUED...

Two men sat together in a pew. One leaned over and whispered, “Man, isn’t the choir sounding good tonight?” The other nodded and whispered back, “Yes... and to think, they do it with their hind legs!”

The windows of our church no longer open, but the light still shines through the stained glass. There are cushions on the pews now (though some would argue they’re still uncomfortable). The choir is smaller, faithfully carrying on, and our sound is bigger thanks to modern amplification. Praise music fills the sanctuary with drums, guitars, and keyboards—and with today’s technology, our worship can even reach thousands beyond these walls.

But one thing has not changed: the heart of worship. Community, fellowship, and praise remain at the center. Church is still our privilege. Consider believers in nations where worship must happen in secret—they can’t open windows, sing freely, broadcast online, or amplify their music. Yet, at great risk, they still gather to worship. Let’s not take for granted what we have. Don’t forget to come to church—we have a place for you! Whether it’s in music, storytelling, children’s ministry, audio/visual support, reading Scripture, or simply being a friend in the pew, your presence matters.

Worship Service Upgrades

- New speakers have been installed in the sanctuary.
- Plans are underway for new software to enhance our praise music.

Choir News

Here are our upcoming performance dates—consider joining us for these special services:

- **All Saints Sunday** – “Whispering Hope” and “Wonderful Peace”
- **Thanksgiving Sunday** – “Simple Praise”
- **Christmas Cameo** – A seasonal celebration, similar to our Easter presentation

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

MUSIC MINISTRY CONTINUED...

Children & Youth Participation

We are inviting children and youth to take part in upcoming services! Opportunities include skits, Scripture reading, playing instruments, or leading in praise music. Watch for an upcoming email with more details.

Bells

We need a couple of new ringers so our music minister can direct rather than play. The bell choir is planning to participate in the Christmas Eve service this year.

Ukulele Club

Meets the first Tuesday of every month. Families, beginners, and experienced players are welcome! We have six ukuleles available to try.

Please see the bulletin board for a list of opportunities to participate and serve in Mt. Nebo's Music Ministry.

Rose Gamblin

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's church has started, and the kids are enjoying it. They attend the first part of worship and then go to the Conference Room after the Children's Message. We look forward to more children being able to have this time to learn together in the upcoming months. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help. We welcome anyone who would like to be involved.

Patty Watson

YOUTH NEWS

Middle and high school sports and activities are alive and well with our youth! Whether they are on a field, court, stage, or at home, they give their all with passion. Through God's loving eyes, our youth continue to amaze our Mt. Nebo family!

Please take a moment to reach out to our youth—ask what activities they are involved in, and make it a point to see them in action. Our youth are as strong as our church's love.

Parents, please send Don Dorsey your child's activity schedule so our church family can come and support them doing what they love most. I would like to post opportunities on our bulletin board for our congregation to cheer them on!

Don Dorsey



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY—OCT 5

Please remember to make your special offering on **Sunday Oct. 5, World Communion Sunday**.

This offering goes to provide scholarships to youth around the world who have been active in the United Methodist Church. Many of our Mt. Nebo youth have received scholarships from this scholarship fund.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our Methodist Men will be continuing our Saturday Breakfasts the second Saturday of October. We will meet at **8:30am** in the gathering room. I will be sending an email to men in advance of our meeting, regarding food to bring. Men, don't miss this meeting. We always have plenty to eat and I have a really good idea for an autumn fund raiser. See you **October 11th**.

Bruce Smith



CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER NEWS

CLC ADVISORY

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates from our Christian Learning Center (CLC)! Under the dedicated leadership of Kim Kelly, our CLC Director, the center continues to provide an exceptional early learning experience rooted in Christian values. Our curriculum includes both Christian education and music enrichment programs, nurturing children's minds and spirits.

We're especially excited to announce that our center has applied to participate in Maryland's Outdoor, Nature-Based Child Care License Pilot Program. This three-year initiative, led by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), aims to broaden access to high-quality, year-round early childhood education through immersive outdoor learning environments. Selected providers will help shape the future of nature-based education in Maryland by showcasing innovative practices that support children's growth and development.

In preparation, we've made several enhancements to our facility. Our playscape has been upgraded with new equipment, with even more additions planned in the coming month. We're also developing a dedicated outdoor space beside the garden for our two-year-olds, which we hope to launch in October.

Transportation has received a boost as well—we've purchased two new vans to replace our older ones. These vehicles not only look fantastic, but they also offer improved safety and convenience, allowing teachers to stand while securing children's



CLC ADVISORY CONTINUED...

seat belts.

To further improve safety and accessibility, we've installed a new chain link fence around the playground area, extending across the driveway and around the water overflow pond.



Our CLC operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM and currently serves 160 children, ranging from infants to five-year-olds. We're blessed to have a waiting list of over 40 children eager to join our program—a testament to the impact and reputation of this ministry.

God continues to bless the work of Mt. Nebo through our CLC, and we remain committed to reaching families and sharing His word through love, learning, and community.

Rob Wetzel, Chair, Christian Learning Center



CLC NEWS CONTINUED

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Happy October! We have many fun things planned for the children this month. We are excited to have a firetruck & fire safety trailer visit with us for Fire Safety Week and field trips to the local pumpkin patches later this month.

Halloween is a fun time of the year here at Mt. Nebo and many exciting things are being planned. Our classroom parties will be on the 31st as all our children will enjoy this festive time. NO WEAPONS of any kind may be part of a costume.

As I walk around the school each day, I am reminded of all the efforts that the parents and staff have made to help make MNCLC one of the best in this area.

CLC CONTINUED...

It is because of each of you that we can look at our school both inside and out and be proud of our center and the terrific teachers/staff who make it special. I am extremely grateful to be the Director of MNCLC! We have an amazing group of parents, children, and staff here and we're thankful to the parents for entrusting their children with us.

Our Thanksgiving program will be on **Thursday, November 20th**. Upcoming closures: **Thanksgiving - 11/27 & 11/28, Christmas/Winter Break 12/23 - 1/1/25**.

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS

MICAH'S BACKPACK

Mt. Nebo will be packing backpacks on **the first Wednesday of each month**. This activity takes place at Trinity Lutheran Church just down the road from Mt. Nebo. Our next date for packing backpacks is **October 1st at 1pm**. This activity takes about an hour, and it benefits over 150 children in the Boonsboro area. Join us and enjoy serving the youth of our community.

MISSION MOUSE

This month is a month to look beyond ourselves, our church, our community and our country. The Shoebox Ministry has begun. There will be shoeboxes available for all to pick up, take home, and fill. Each box will contain a list of suggested gifts and items that should not be included. They also include a tag that lists the sex and age group of the child for whom you have packed the box. After reading the lists, see what special items you can find to include in the shoebox. The shoeboxes will need to be turned in early November. Remember these are gifts that go to children around the world, many of whom have never received a gift. We can share Christ's love in this special ministry with children who may have never gotten a gift. Be sure to say a prayer as you pack the box, when you turn the box in, and then as you think of the child receiving the box. What a special gift you can share this Christmas.



VIM TEAM NEWS

The VIM team will be serving near Elk Park, NC this year beginning on September 29th. We will be arriving on the 27th to set up our lodging and checking out the job sites. We are staying at the Gilmer Retreat Center and it promises to be an excellent facility for the team.

At the time of this article we know there is a foundation for the team to begin to frame up one home and several other locations to finish up the details such as painting, trim, door installations and the last minute jobs before the families can move in to their new digs. It's always a blessing to see them feel the blessings of a new home. It's all for God's glory!!

There will be 28 of us serving the first week and 26 the second week. There are several different churches involved from Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia of different backgrounds and skill levels. We all love serving for God's glory and feel blessed we have the time and resources to serve.

Please keep the team in your prayers for travelling mercies and safety wherever we serve. Thank you for your support!!

Cliff Wright



MISSIONS IN OUTREACH CONTINUED

CROP WALK

CROP Walk is on **Sunday, October 12**, and we've started raising money. There are donation jars at the entrance of the sanctuary and in the gathering room. Please bring any spare change you can each Sunday to put in them or find a walker to donate more.

We are working on giving away t-shirts to those who walk and 25% of all donations will go to the *South Washington County Emergency Fund*, which supports *Micah's Backpack* and those in our local community who ask for help with food or a utility bill. If you are unable to walk, you can give your donation to someone who will be participating. Checks can be written out to **CWS/CROP**.

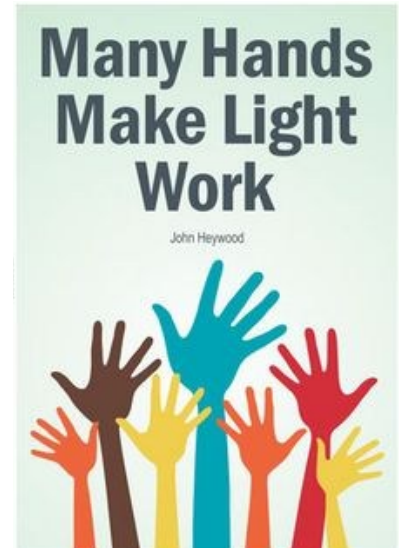
The Youth will be putting up the signs for the CROP Walk. Please see Pastor Bob if you would like to help with the event.

Patty Watson

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will be wrapping boxes for the Shoebox Ministry on **Sunday, Oct. 5** after worship. All are welcome to stay and help as it would be greatly appreciated in reaching our goal of having 100 boxes to fill and send. Grab a box or two to take home to wrap and/or fill. Filled boxes are due to the church by **Sunday, November 9**. Please include a donation of \$10 for the cost of shipping. This can be done online or be put in the box with the form. Thank you for being a part of this successful ministry as it continues.

Patty Young



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



FLAT JESUS PICS & SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Bob and Mt. Nebo Church Family,

Dennis and I want to express our deepest gratitude to each of you. During Dennis' recent cardiac event followed by open heart surgery, we were overwhelmed by the love and care that poured out from Pastor Bob and our church family. The abundance of food you provided, the thoughtful cards, the phone calls filled with encouragement, and most importantly, your prayers that carried us through this difficult time.

Dennis is truly God's miracle, and we know your prayers were a vital part of his healing. Your kindness lifted our spirits, reminded us that we are never alone, and reassured us that God is always in control.

We are blessed to be part of such a loving, faithful, and compassionate church family. Thank you for being the hands and feet of God when we needed it most.

With love and heartfelt gratitude,

*Dennis and Shawn Palmer
Betty Jones*



AROUND MT. NEBO & THE COMMUNITY



**New Pickleball
tape after
stripping the
floors and
Installing New
Speakers**



Prayers for VIM



Boonesborough Days Ecumenical Service





OCTOBER 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 1p Micah's Backpack 6p Pickleball	2 6p Girl Scouts 5p Bells 6p Choir	3	4 9a Pickleball
5 9a Worship Wrap Shoeboxes 1030a Bible Study	6	7 5p Ukelele Club 6p Pickleball	8 6p Pickleball	9 5p Bells 6p Choir	10 Youth post CROP Walk signs —————>	11 830a UMM Breakfast 9a Pickleball VIM Returns
12 9a Worship 1030a Bible Study 2p CROP Walk	13	14 6p Pickleball	15 10a UMW Meeting 6p Pickleball	16 6p Girl Scouts 5p Bells 6p Choir	17	18 9a Pickleball 10a Church Conference
19 9a Worship 1030a Bible Study Blessing Box Fellowship	20	21 6p Pickleball	22 6p Pickleball	23 5p Bells 6p Choir	24	25 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball Pastor Bob
26 9a Worship 1030a Bible Study	27	28 6p Pickleball	29 6p Pickleball	30 5p Bells 6p Choir	31	
Pastor Bob Vacation Sat 10/25—Fri 10/31						

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

Change Service Requested

