



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • February 2026

As we enter the month of February, our thoughts begin to turn to the Lenten Season of preparation. This forty-day period of preparation, not counting Sundays, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday – the day before Easter. This year, Ash Wednesday will fall on February 18, 2026. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. This is a time of reflection – a time to move our thoughts from the activities of this world to a focus on our spiritual lives. This focus is essential for making Lent a truly special time of personal growth and on-going conversion.

During our Ash Wednesday service, we are called to remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return as we pray: *"Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen."*

This is a reminder of our mortality – the fact that this earthly realm is not our final destination. There is something more that is far more important than anything else in this life. It is the eternal life that has been made possible by the ultimate sacrifice by our Lord. For this reason, this period is sacred and somber.

So how should we prepare ourselves during this forty-day period? Many Christians prepare by reading from scripture, being more generous, and fasting, all of which are the traditional marks of the 40 days of Lent. Most of us understand about the reading of scripture, prayer and being more generous in supporting our church financially, as well as with our time. However, when we think of fasting, we often think of it as a willing abstinence of food for some period of time, but it also in-

cludes the notion of giving something up other than food. This giving up of something seems to be the hallmark of what many Christians do during the time of Lent. I believe that if we were to take a survey of Christians walking down the street, most would say Lent is about what they "gave up" until Easter.

This year, I challenge you to look at this "giving up of something" differently. The challenge is based on a reflection of a truly inspirational author and pastor, William A. Ward. This practice will help you shift your emphasis from "giving up something" to really "doing something positive" during this holy season. When Lent moves from just "giving up" or fasting to "feasting" on good habits, the transformation can be truly amazing! The following Fast and Feast list challenges us to discover the power of truly positive, Christian living.

1. Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
2. Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.
3. Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
4. Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
5. Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
6. Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
7. Fast from anger; feast on patience.
8. Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
9. Fast from worry; feast on divine order.
10. Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
11. Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
12. Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
13. Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.

EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE Continued

14. Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
15. Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
16. Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.
17. Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.
18. Fast from facts that depress; feast on verities that uplift.
19. Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
20. Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
21. Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
22. Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
23. Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.
24. Fast from blind ambition; feast on God's blessings.
25. Fast from excessive work; feast on time with family.
26. Fast from overindulgences; feast on good health.
27. Fast from procrastination; feast on positive action.
28. Fast from email and text communications; feast on in-person connections.
29. Fast from hate; feast on love.
30. Fast from conflict; feast on peace.
31. Fast from indifference; feast on connections.
32. Fast from criticisms; feast on tolerance.
33. Fast from idleness; feast on God's work.
34. Fast from talking excessively; feast on listening more.
35. Fast from destructive behaviors; feast on behaviors that promote healing.
36. Fast from being self-serving; feast on the focus on serving the needs of others.
37. Fast from self-righteousness; feast on the will of God.
38. Fast from being fearful; feast on being confident and courageous in God's care.
39. Fast from spite; feast on forgiveness.
40. Fast from vanity; feast on humility.

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
with 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.mtnebocl.org

Director – Kim Kelly

director@mtnebocl.org

Communications Team:

Toni Wetzel, Katie Smith, Pastor Bob,
Glenn deShazo, and Brandi Puzonia

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EPISTLE Continued

As we prepare for the holiest day of the Christian calendar, let us all commit to a daily reading of scripture, evening prayer and a commitment to serve and give more in the church and our greater

community and a commitment to feast on all that will help us become more spiritually awake and better followers of Jesus during this upcoming Lenten Season.

In Christ, Pastor Bob

FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Lydia Kowalski
February 4	Finley Parish
February 15	Lilly Berg
February 18	Shawn Palmer
February 20	Mike Gamblin
	Caitlyn Merrill
February 27	Jody Breedon

A NEW LITTLE BLESSING

Another one of God's little miracles has been born! Karyn and Garrett Queen give thanks to God for the birth of their daughter, Savina Myrtle Queen, Thursday, January 22 at 6:18 a.m., Measuring at 7lb 10oz and 20", Savina, Karyn, and Garrett are all doing well, and thank you for your prayers. Savina is the granddaughter of Bob and Donna Snyder. May God bless this new little one as she grows.



ANNIVERSARIES

None for February



FEBRUARY LAY READERS:

- February 1 — Mary Ellen Roelkey
February 8 — Corey Carter
February 15 — Travis Riner
February 22 — Tony Basile

PROCLAIM & SOUND BOARD:

- February 1 — Rob Young & Levi Young
February 8 — Levi Young & Will Riner
February 15 — Will Riner & Rob Young
February 22 — Amanda Mathis & Levi Young

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Many thanks to everyone who helps with the Beacon, from writing articles to the final work by Brandi of formatting the Beacon.

To everyone who helped with the taking down of the Christmas decorations.

Special thanks to Pastor Bob Snyder for leading the winter Bible study of the Chosen.

To those who have helped with leading the Children's Church.

And thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the funeral meal for the Breedens, including bringing food, setting up, tearing down, and serving.

CHURCH NEWS

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

We have just finished the Advent and Christmas Season, and we were certainly blessed with our services and music ministry! Now we must look toward Lent. Lent is a time to reflect and prepare us spiritually for the Easter Season. Ash Wednesday this year is on **February 18, 2026**, which is just around the corner. Mt. Nebo will host a community service at 7:00 p.m.

In January, we began Season Two of "The Chosen." Our very own Bob Snyder, both a member and retired clergy, is leading this study. The group meets right after the service on Sunday mornings in the conference room.

Mt. Nebo offers various opportunities and ministries to serve our community and congregation. I find that service to others gives satisfaction and joy in my own life. Micah's Backpack is an ongoing ministry to serve children in our area who experience food insecurity. Currently 159 children are being helped by this ministry. Every month, an opportunity is given to Mt. Nebo for this important ministry. We are helpers on the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. We meet at Trinity Lutheran Church pack and deliver these food bags to the schools. Packing only takes about 40 minutes, but we often stay to help prepare for the next week and deliver to several schools. Let us begin to focus on giving food items to this ongoing ministry. Due February 1, please plan on bringing instant oatmeal. There is a container provided in the gathering room for these items.

Have you considered my idea to "adopt" a shut-in and provide a monthly visit at a time of your choice? These folks are often isolated and so desire visitors. We have 16 who would love a visit with you.

Retired? Join our ladies group every third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. We have a time of devotions and discuss ways that we can support the church and community. We also sponsor the monthly birthday gifts to Sterling Rehab Center just across the street from our

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER Continued

church. Members of our congregation sign up for a month and provide goodie bags to the residents with birthdays each month. If you can help, please see me or sign up for a suitable month on the Bulletin Board. There are many available months still left to claim.

Interested in a new idea? What if Mt. Nebo had a Blessing Box for the community like many of the churches in our town do? It would be a great ministry for someone in our congregation to begin!

Lastly, I am looking for a creative person to provide monthly help with our bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Currently, I have been recycling the gorgeous canvases provided by Lisa Hale last year. Please consider taking on this project.

I hope you will join us in one of these important opportunities to serve!

God Bless You! Cindy Kauffman



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Orders for the United Methodist Women's annual Soup and Sub Sale are due by Sunday, February 1! Choose from pints (\$4) or quarts (\$7) of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable soup. For subs (\$5), choose from Ham/American or Turkey/Provolone, all with lettuce and tomato. All of the soups and subs will be made by the United Methodist Women. Please sign up for your order on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Order Pick-Up will be on Wednesday, February 11 from 4-6pm in the Gathering Room. Proceeds from the sale will go to ministries that support women and children.

The next UMW meeting is on **Wednesday, February 11 at 10:00am** and all women are invited to join us! Please note that February's meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday (instead of the usual 3rd Wednesday) to coincide with the Soup and Sub Sale.

Alyssa Berg

CHURCH NEWS Continued

MT. NEBO ORNAMENT PHOTOS

Thanks to everyone who took the time out of your busy Christmas schedule to look for our Mt. Nebo Christmas Ornament. It's with great pleasure that we announce the winner of the **\$15 Stone Werks gift card goes to Cindy kauffman!** We look forward to next year's contest and in the meantime, remember to shop and support your local businesses as they too make Boonsboro the best place to be!

Don Dorsey



MISSION MOUSE

As we start the second month of the new year, please stop and remember that there are often different ideas of how to accomplish various activities, work, and life. By being a member of the church of God you look to God for guidance. In every way that you have contact with others, remember that God sent Jesus for us to learn how to treat others. How did Jesus treat the tax collector, or the lady at the well? As you react to someone with a different viewpoint, stop and listen. Don't try to impose your views and beliefs, but find a way to respond peacefully and with love and caring.

Pray for peace in your life and in the lives of others, find a peaceful way to live together. This takes strength. Be strong.



FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

As we continue in the grasp of winter weather, I always find warmth in our church, here at Mt. Nebo. I hope and pray that you do as well. Thank you for being here and supporting the ministry provided. Please do all you can for our church. Mt. Nebo needs us as much as we need the family worship experience offered here.

God Bless, Skip Kauffman

YOUTH & CLC NEWS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We welcome Shane McMillan to Mt. Nebo. Shane will start working with the Children's Church program and then work with Don Dorsey with the Youth Program. Please take time to welcome Shane and his family to Mt. Nebo and to support the programs with which he is working.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

February has arrived, bringing Valentine's Day and thoughts of love. This is an especially nice time of the year to show those we love just how much we care and appreciate them. Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center staff pray that our school would be a place where the love of Christ is evident, and the joy of the Lord is witnessed. One of the most important jobs we have as teachers at Mt. Nebo CLC is sharing Jesus' love! Not in just showing God's love, but instilling in the little ones that God loves them all the time, no matter what, wherever they go, and whatever they do.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Our students will learn about local and influential African Americans through books, learning experiences, art, and classroom discussions this month.

CLC Continued

Also, our students will learn about the importance of Dental Health and Hygiene. We hope to have a local dentist office come onsite for a dental presentation for our preschoolers later this month. Here are some suggestions to help keep your child's mouth and teeth healthy: Brush your teeth twice a day, floss every day, limit sugary snacks and drinks, and see your dentist regularly.

Parent's Night Out is scheduled **for Friday, February 13th from 6 pm to 9 pm**. This is open to all ages, and the cost is \$40 per infant/toddler and \$30 for preschool/school agers, cash only. We will serve dinner, games, activities, and close the night with popcorn and a movie.

We will celebrate love and friendship at our **Valentine's PJ Day Party on 2/13 @ 3 pm** for all ages. WCPS will be closed on **Monday, February 17th**. Our school agers will be going to Warehouse Cinemas.

Summertime is just around the corner! I am currently preparing for our summer camp themes, field trips, on-site presentations, and many fun activities. Summer camp enrollment forms will be going out next week. We are all looking forward to warmer weather!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me M-F 9a-5p.

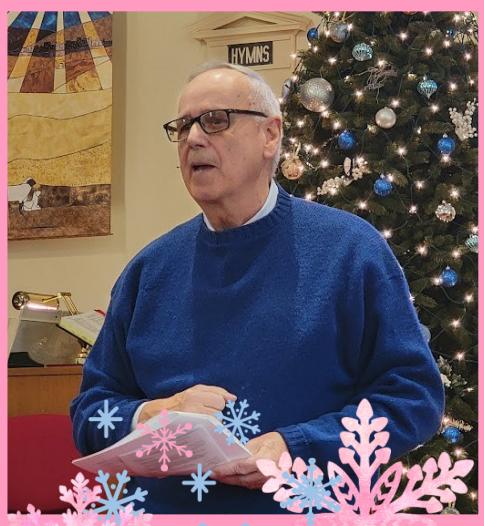
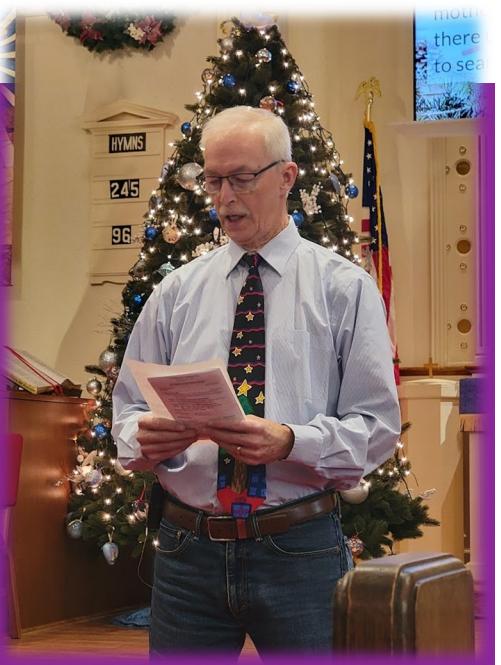
Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO Continued



FEBRUARY 2026

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

Change Service Requested

