



THE BEACON

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



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

Children & Youth Coordinator —

Shane McMillan

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,

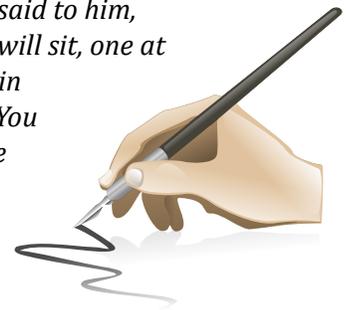
Glenn deShazo, and Brandi Puzonia

Pastor's Epistle

Just a short two weeks ago, on Transfiguration Sunday we read the story of Jesus taking his most trusted disciples, high up on to a mountain to pray. Jesus wanted to be sure beyond all doubt that it was God's will that he should go to the cross. On that mountain top, witnessed by Peter, James and John, it was revealed to Jesus that it was truly God's will for him to continue on his journey to the cross. God spoke for all to hear, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to Him!"

As we move on from that "Mountain Top" experience, we see a side of two of the trusted disciples showing their desire for power and ambition ignoring the will of God. We see the stark reality of life in "The Valley" and the human struggles that we encounter along the way.

No one is exempt from these very human experiences - even Jesus's closest followers! We see this in Matthew, 20:20-28, "Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to



In This Issue

Pastor's Epistle	Page 1-3
Church Info	Page 1
Lay Readers/Audio Visual Volunteers	Page 2
Thanks-living/Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 3
Announcements/Mission Mouse	Page 3
Church News	Page 4
Christian Learning Center News/St. Patrick Prayer	Page 5
Mt. Nebo Music Photos	Page 6
March Calendar	Page 7

Epistle Continued..



sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

In this reading, we hear James and John seeking to be in the position of importance by sitting at the right hand and the left hand of Jesus. So, what kindled this ambition? Maybe it was kindled because on more than one occasion Jesus had made them part of his inner circle, the chosen three. Maybe they were a little better off than the others and believed that they deserved more recognition. In any event, they showed themselves as men in whose heart was an ambition for first place in an earthly kingdom. It shows they were unable to separate in their hearts, their own will versus the will of God, and the message that Jesus sought to teach them during his three-year ministry. Through his teaching, we see that we can only return to the "Mountain Top" by submitting to the Holy Will of God and accepting the Lordship of Christ Jesus.

Two thousand years later we are still struggling with our acceptance of the Holy Will of God. Our hearts have not changed much. We may still have a "Mountain Top" experience on occasion; however, most of our lives are lived in a very broken, earthly realm devoid of that close inner connection with our heavenly Father.

Henri Nouwen, the great author and pastor, aware of this very issue, wrote that we live in a society that is obsessed with competition and success. From the moment we begin to interact with others, we are trying to become winners, since losers get left behind. Nouwen goes on to say, parents, teachers, and friends impress upon us from the moment we are able to pick up the cues that it is our 'Holy Task' to make it in this world. To be a real man or woman is to show that one cannot only survive the long competitive struggle for success, but also come out victorious."

Christian scriptures base salvation NOT on upward mobility, but on the freedom that comes from downward mobility: "The divine way is indeed the downward way." God took on flesh in the form of a carpenter from Nazareth.

He never once adhered to the model of popularity, success, or power. He lived to set an example for all of us to follow. He was the prototype for the perfect human being. Nouwen calls us to walk the selfless way of Christ and to serve others in humility. Nouwen's words speak with truth, and one can almost hear the author turn them toward himself in his book, *The Way of the Heart*: "Our true challenge is to return to the center, to the heart, and to find there the gentle voice that speaks to us and affirms us in a way no human voice ever could. The basis of all ministry is the experience of God's unlimited and un-limiting acceptance of us as beloved children, an acceptance so full, so total, and all-embracing, that it sets us free from our compulsion to be seen, praised, and admired and frees us for Christ, who leads on the road of service.

This experience of God's acceptance frees us from our needy self and thus creates new space where we can pay selfless attention to others. This new freedom in Christ allows us to move in the world uninhibited by our compulsions and to act creatively even when we are laughed at and rejected, even when our words and actions lead us to death."

Nouwen wants us to ignore the lure of upward mobility and the temptations to be relevant, to be spectacular, and to be powerful.

March Lay Readers

March 1 – Rob Young
March 8 – Cindy Kauffman
March 15 – Lisa Riner
March 22 – Toni Wetzal
March 29 – Don Dorsey

Audio/Visual Volunteers

March 1 – Gary Harding & Will Riner
March 8 – Don Dorsey & Rob Young
March 15 – Rob Young & Levi Young
March 22 – Levi Young & Dave Collins
March 29 – Toni Wetzal & Rob Wetzal

Thanksgiving for Thanks-living

Special thanks to everyone who volunteers to be a lay reader for our Sunday morning worship services.

To the UMW for the delicious soup and sandwich sale and the members who helped to prepare the food. Also, to everyone who purchased some soup and sandwiches.

Many thanks to Kim and to all of the CLC Staff for their devotion and hard work that provides a Christian setting for learning for so many little ones.

To everyone who provided packs of instant oatmeal for the Micah's Backpack Ministry.

And to each person who volunteers to help with all the audio-visual work that is done each Sunday to enhance our worship services.

Thank You

March Birthdays

March 6 - Chad Powell
March 8 - Ruth Mullendore
March 14 - Alyssa Berg
March 16 - Vanessa Cronise
March 19 - Alma Eichelberger
March 23 - Tony Basile



Anniversaries

March 17 - Mike & Rose Gamblin

Epistle Continued...

Instead, the Gospel presents a goal of a self-emptied heart and the disciplines of spiritual formation. Only by following the guidance of Jesus found in the Gospel, can we begin to find a way of life that leads to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Maybe the greatest power we can have is when no one lords over the others, when we offer ministry together, each giving from his or her unique set of gifts. Only then will we see that our power as a congregation comes not from the strong leadership of one, but from the strong leadership of many.

Pastor Bob



Mission Mouse



As I think about the most valuable things in life, I realize that time is one of the most valuable and irreplaceable things that I have. I can give of my money, I can give up things for Lent, but my time is something that somehow slips through my fingers and that time is lost. Each day as I plan out my schedule, I remember the importance of giving time to God. For the month of March, I will make a conscientious effort to start serving God with each moment of the day. Some moments will be to give time as a volunteer at church, some moments will be to spend time in prayer and some moments will be trying to let God's love fill my mind, heart and soul and run over as I touch other's lives. Take a moment and read Ephesians 5:15-16a: *"Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time."*

Micah's Backpack

We are collecting Granola Bars to donate to Micah's in the month of April. Please have to the church by **Sunday, April 5.**

Spring Forward

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to sleep on **Saturday, March 7.** Daylight Savings begins at **2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.**



Church News

United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent UMW Soup and Sandwich Sale! All of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go to ministries that support women and children. The UMW will be sponsoring a breakfast at **7:45am on Easter Sunday, April 5**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you'd like to donate something.

Our meetings are always a time of devotion, business and fellowship. We hope you'll join us this month on **Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00am!**

Alyssa Berg



Boonesborough Days Planning is Here!

Please consider assisting in planning and co-leading the upcoming Boonesborough Days event on **September 12 & 13, 2026**. While this seems far away, it creeps up quickly, and there are several small tasks needed to be completed before the actual event. This is the Church's biggest fundraiser which is typically split amongst the Women, Men, Youth, and Children's ministries - so a big deal which impacts everyone! We will be serving breakfast sandwiches, sausage gravy, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, nachos, and perhaps some other items based on the committee's preferences. If you have any interest in assisting, please reach out to *Don Dorsey* at dwdorsey@gmail.com or 240-529-2202. This also is your first reminder to put on your calendars to come out and volunteer at this event in September! We will have shifts for both days and truly hope everyone can pitch in. Be watching for the signup sheets that will be posted over the summer.

Don Dorsey



BOONESBOROUGH DAYS



Pickleball

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Saturdays at 9 a.m.



Christian Learning Center News

Spring came suddenly bursting upon the world as a child would burst into a room, with a laugh and a shout! We welcome Spring with open arms! This is the time of year here at Mt. Nebo when we learn to dress in layers! In the spring, we experience winter and summer all in one day! We do go outside every day as the weather permits.

Our themes for the month: Celebrate Reading and Dr. Seuss, Five Senses, Dinosaurs, Insect and Bugs and Pond Life!

March 3rd through the 7th, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and *Read Across America*! Our students and staff will participate in daily activities. Who knows, there may be a special visitor from either Cat in the Hat or Thing 1 and Thing 2!

Did you know that St. Patrick used the three leaves of the Shamrock to tell others about the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? St. Patrick's Day is on **Tuesday, March 17th**, and we will be celebrating with everyone wearing green attire! May the luck of the Irish be with you!

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful to be able to share Jesus' amazing love with our children during our weekly Christian Education class with Ms. Amy.

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director



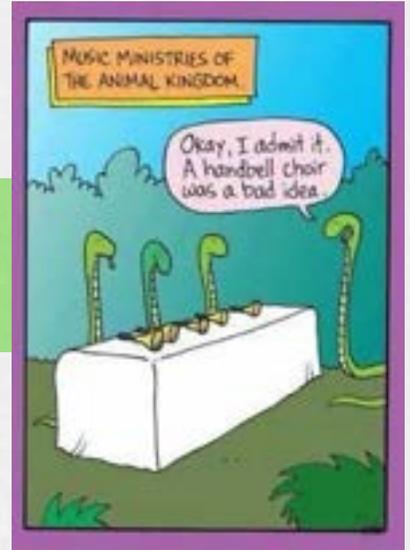
The Breastplate Prayer of St. Patrick

As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.



Mt. Nebo's Music Program



Community Choir
for Ash Wednesday
Service



MARCH 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>1</p> <p>9a Worship</p> <p>Applesauces Due</p> <p>1030a Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>630p Trustee Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6p JW Basketball</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1p Micah's Backpack</p> <p>6p Pickleball</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5p Bells 6p Choir</p> <p>6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>World Day of Prayer</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9a Pickleball</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>9a Worship</p> <p>Daylight Savings Begins</p> <p>1030a Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6p JW Basketball</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5p Bells 6p Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9a Pickleball</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>9a Worship</p> <p>UMCOR Sunday</p> <p>1030a Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p> <p>630p Church Council Mtg</p> <p>6p JW Basketball</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5p Bells 6p Choir</p> <p>6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Spring IS IN: The air</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8a SHARE Pickup</p> <p>9a Pickleball</p> <p>8-11a Community Breakfast @ Benevola UMC</p>	
<p>22</p> <p>9a Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5p Bells 6p Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9a Pickleball</p>	
<p>29</p> <p>9a Worship</p>  <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>HOLY WEEK We Believe</p> <p>Mar 30-Apr 4</p>	<p>31</p>					

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

Change Service Requested

Welcome
March



CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD,
AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT
WITHIN ME.

Psalm 51:10