



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church December 2022

This year as we enter the First Sunday of the Advent Season, our reading from the Gospel of Matthew will be Chapter 24, verses 36 through 44.

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Many of you may find it strange that our scripture lesson on the First Sunday of Advent starts off with such a dire prophecy about the end times. You may feel, as many do, that we should be reading about the joy of the coming birth of Jesus rather than the doom and gloom of the end times. This belief is common in today's church because the ancient tradition of reading stories of the end of the world as preparation for Advent has long since been abandoned even though it remains in our lectionary readings as a reminder of the deeper meaning of the Advent Season.

Instead of encouraging us to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth by decorating, throwing parties and spending lavishly in order to shower our friends and family with gifts, the ancient tradition of the church invites us into a period of self-examination and penance. It is the opposite of what the world tells us to do - it is countercultural. It tells us to do the exact opposite of what we find going on in this world. It tells us to prepare for the birth of Jesus into the world and for his coming again by living as people who are

prepared to die. This notion definitely lacks the festive holiday spirit. However, it is a vital alternative to what the world offers in preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the world and his coming again.

So how can we participate in the coming reign of Christ? That is what the true challenge of Advent is all about. God promises us a new order, the birth of a world in which justice and righteousness rule. Whether we are among those who will be reborn

with that world depends upon our commitment and allegiance, in each moment of our lives, to the one true God rather than the false gods we so often honor. God shows us the way in the life and words of Jesus, and gives us companions - our sisters and brothers in Christ. But ultimately, each of us must actively prepare if we are to be part of what is being born at Christmas. So, what do we have to do to prepare?

First of all, we have to prepare ourselves by examining our lives and repenting and turning away from those things that are not life-giving. When we accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we begin to look at the world differently. We begin to prioritize our life around putting our faith in Jesus as first and foremost in our lives. Love and compassion begin to replace our selfish earthly cravings for material wealth and luxury. We begin to see the brokenness of the world more clearly and strive to serve as Disciples of Christ in all aspects of our lives - not just once a week for an hour on Sunday, but every day.

We have to live whatever time we have left on this earth in the ways that Jesus came into this world to teach us. This means that we need to model our lives after the life of Jesus. We should be guided by the Gospel accounts of how Jesus made a difference in the lives of everyone he came into contact with during his ministry. His compassion, his love, his desire to submit fully to the holy will of the heavenly Father and his ultimate sacrifice for our salvation should be a powerful lesson for all of us to follow.

We have to participate in the healing of the world.



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

Epistle continued...

This means that we need to go out into the world and “live our faith” in the brokenness of the world. We must work to be agents of transformation – seeking to make disciples of everyone we encounter on our faith journey.

We must offer the prospect of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus was born into this world to share. Each week of Advent we light a symbolic candle for one of the four virtues that Jesus brings to us. As we light these candles, we must recommit ourselves to bringing hope to those who have lost hope, bringing peace by being peacemakers in a world torn by war and strife, bringing joy to the faces of those who have been traumatized and have lost the joy that God has intended for all of us. And lastly, by offering radical love in a world that is filled with so much hate.

When we center our lives on service to God, we are given the greatest gift of all - the promise of everlasting life. Isn't it time for you to rethink how you will celebrate the Advent Season? Amen.

Pastor Bob

DECEMBER LAY READERS

December 4th – The Jarrell Family

December 11th – The Harding Family

December 18th – The Deatrich Family

December 24th Christmas Eve – The Dorsey Family



IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Epistle	Page 1-2
Table of Contents/Church Info	Page 2
Birthdays & Anniv./Sympathy/Bible/Thanks	Page 3
Upcoming Events & News	Page 4
MM/Micah's/REACH/Outreach/Blessings	Page 5
UMW/Youth/UMM/Music News	Page 6
Finance/Congrats/Thank You	Page 7
Pictures Around Mt. Nebo	Page 8-10
December Calendar	Page 11

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9am-1pm

Office Phone: 301-432-8741

Mt. Nebo email: mt.nebo@myactv.net

Website: www.mtneboumc.com

Sunday Event Times:

9:00am Worship Service

10:00am Sunday school (for all ages)

Pastor:

Pastor Bob Ruggieri

443-994-9505

Email: pastorbob2017@gmail.com

Staff:

Administrative Secretary – Brandi Puzonia

Minister of Music – Rose Gamblin

Finance – Tamara White & Shana Wolfe

Sextons/Maintenance –

Dennis & Sallie Dorsey and Mary Moser

Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center

Hours: 6am-6pm Monday – Friday

301-432-6042

Learning Center Website:

www.mtneboclc.org

Director – Samantha Early

director.mtneboclc@gmail.com

Communications Committee:

Toni Wetzel, Katie Smith, Pastor Bob,
and Glenn DeShazo



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Charlotte Leach
- 3 Gary Pryor
- 4 Noah Gollogly
- 7 Jon Gollogly
- 10 Mark Parish
- 13 Sean Gollogly



- 17 Bob Ruggieri
- 20 Jane Lohman
- Jade Ruggieri
- 25 Betty Jones
- 31 Donna Furry



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Genna Gerand
Tony & Dianna Basile

December 10, 2016
December 13, 1973



IN MEMORY...

Mt. Nebo has lost another special member. Leon Jones passed away peacefully and went to be with the Lord on November 21st. Leon was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to Betty, Shawn & Dennis, Tara & Scott, and Abby & Drew. He will be greatly missed by the family and his many friends. Please continue to keep the family in your prayers during this time.



3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

All children in 3rd grade receive a Bible of their own during worship service each year. This year, we had one child in 3rd grade. Levi Young received his Bible on November 6th. We pray that it will bring him years of helping him to grow in his faith. Congratulations Levi!



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Many thanks to each person who provided gifts for the birthdays of Sterling Care residents.

Thank you, thank you to Alyssa Berg for organizing the Shoebox Ministry for us and to each and everyone who packed a shoebox.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Hanging of the Greens and provided food for the luncheon.

Thank you to those who gave a special donation for UM Student Day.

Our thanks to Rose, our minister of music, for all the work she is doing to provide special music for our Advent/Christmas season.

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

MT. NEBO CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE

There is a box in the Gathering Room where you can “send” Christmas cards to church members to save on postage. Just place the cards you’d like to “send” in the folder with the person’s name, and remember to check your slot every week for cards you may have received. Merry Christmas!



INCLEMENT WEATHER

With cold weather here and safety being our top priority, the following will be the policy for church related activities when the weather is bad. If the snow emergency plan is in effect, all events at church are canceled. In the case of Sunday mornings, if it is in effect at 7am, all services are cancelled. The church Facebook page will be updated to reflect all cancellations, as well as an email being sent out. If you are NOT on the email distribution list, or are unsure if you are, please contact Toni Wetzel to be added.



Be safe this season!

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2023 offering envelopes will be available at the church by the end of December for everyone to pick up. If you come during office hours, please call Brandi to open the door for you. If you give online, you will not have envelopes this year. Thank you!

END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS

End-of-year tax statements will be available for pick-up by mid-January. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Wetzel at 240-217-1961.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 3rd – 9am-2pm CLC Christmas Bazaar
- Dec. 3rd – 4pm-8:30pm Parent’s Night Out
- Dec. 4th – 9am Children’s Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 10th – 8:30am UMM Breakfast/Shut-in Visit
- Dec. 15th – 10am Christmas Outreach wrapping
- Dec. 18th – 9am Adult Choir Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 20th – 10am UMW Christmas Meeting
- Dec. 24th – 7pm Christmas Eve Service

SHOE BOX MINISTRY

THANK YOU to everyone who wrapped shoeboxes, filled shoeboxes, donated items for shoeboxes, donated money for shipping, and prayed for the children who will receive the shoeboxes! This year, Mt. Nebo collected 72 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Your generosity will touch children throughout the world this Christmas season!

Alyssa Berg



MISSION NEWS

MISSION MOUSE

Happy Advent, do we ever say that to each other? Advent is a season of preparation for the wonderful news of Christmas. The birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. What can we do to celebrate Advent? It's a time of getting ready...well we're getting ready for Christmas, rushing around, buying gifts, wrapping gifts, writing cards, baking cookies... My hope is that during this season of Advent you will find fulfillment, peace, joy and a song in your preparation, so that the music of the birth event will be with you during the coming year in everything that you say and do.



MICAH'S BACKPACK

Micah 's Backpack is now serving 136 students. With this steady increase, a request has been made for more volunteers to help with packing, sorting and delivery, plus help with additional packing on other Thursdays in the month.

The food needs for Micah's include: Mac & cheese cups, soups (noodle, vegetable, tomato), and snacks like packs of crackers.

Thanks to all who help with this mission.

Ruth Resh

REACH DONATIONS NEEDED

REACH of Washington County is a great agency that provides shelter, food and counseling to homeless persons of Washington County. Each winter they have many needs to help support their program. From the list the following are items in greatest need for them to carry out their work: women's underwear size XS and S, sunscreen, disposable ponchos, shower curtain liners, laundry pods, 45-gallon trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues. There is a box for donations at the top of the stairs next to the church office. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be sent to REACH of Washington County, 140 W. Franklin St., Suite 300, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Thank you for your donations.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

The posters are up on walls in the Gathering Room and six families can use our help. Many of you have signed up to participate, but there a few blank lines where you can sign your name and purchase a special gift. Once purchased and wrapped (if possible), please use a post-it note to label the family #, boy/girl and age. (Family 3, Boy, Age 8). The gifts can be taken to the third floor and placed on the family table. If you would rather not shop, you can still participate by making a donation labeling your check to Mt. Nebo and Christmas Outreach in memo area. We have extended the due date to **Sunday, Dec. 11th**. Wrapping will be Thursday morning **Dec. 15th starting at 10am**. Bring your scissors and we will pretend we are elves wrapping and chatting and munching on cookies. This ministry has brought so much joy to many local families and they seem so very grateful for the help. If you have questions, you may contact Ann Wright at 301-992-7216. May you be abundantly blessed as you bless others this Christmas.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

For many years we have been "connected" with the nursing home across the street - formerly Reeder's, now Sterling Care. As a church, we are called to bless others in response to the many ways God blesses us each day.

This year we have many to thank for carrying on this amazing tradition to help residents feel special on their birthday.

Glenn DeShazo provides very personal cards for each month. Quite a touching commitment. Heartfelt thanks to the following families: Jackson, Dorsey, Berg, White, Resh, Riner, Shank, Pugh, Gerand, Young, and Jarrell.

Anyone wishing to be on our 2023 list of helpers, please let me know. The New Year is fast approaching and the needs and blessings received will always be awaiting our love and service. Thanks in advance.

Betty Lou Breeden

MINISTRY NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

November's UMW meeting began with a devotional presented by Cindy. She shared some highlights from the Women's Bible Study, "A Woman Overwhelmed." While we may feel overwhelmed at times, it is important to remember that God is in control. God is working in and through us at all times. She also shared a Thanksgiving devotional on gratitude. We were reminded to "Let Go and Let God" and be thankful in all situations. Praising and thanking God gives us a deep sense of intimacy with Him.

UMW's mission is to serve women and children. As a group, we decided to give donations to Operation Christmas Child, the Board of Childcare and CASA. We will also be purchasing SHARE holiday packages for all of the Christmas Outreach families. It is always a blessing to be a blessing.

We closed with some fun Thanksgiving riddles! All women are invited to our next meeting on **Tuesday, December 20th at 10:00am**. We will have our usual meeting followed by a Christmas gift exchange, food and fellowship!

Alyssa Berg

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The theme of serving others continued this month. The youth participated in the "Hanging of the Greens" and helped decorate the church for Christmas. They had fun setting up Christmas trees, hanging ornaments and putting up garlands. The youth will be hosting a "Parents' Night Out" on **December 3rd from 4:00pm to 8:00pm**. Parents can drop off their young children for an evening of games, crafts, food and fun! The youth will entertain the kids while parents have an evening to shop or go out for dinner. While serving, the youth always have fun together! Contact Alyssa Berg or Shelley Breeden for more info about the youth group - all youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

Alyssa Berg

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our next Methodist Men's Breakfast meeting will be on **Saturday, Dec. 10th**. After breakfast we will be visiting Mt. Nebo shut-ins and taking a small Christmas gift to them. There are 15 shut-ins, so I hope we have at least 8 men to share in delivery of the gifts. It is a blessing to us who spend time with those we visit. I will be sending all men an email with details of our Dec. 10 breakfast meeting.

Bruce Smith



FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER

As we begin the Advent Season, we can look forward to some longtime worship traditions. The hanging of the greens, lighting a candle each week as we look forward to the birthday of Jesus. This year we will also be doing a joint Christmas Cantata, *Joy to the World*, on **December 4th**. Children and adults of all ages are invited to participate. This program serves multiple purposes, but the main goal is to help our children have a tangible experience with the birth of Jesus.

On **December 18th**, the Mt. Nebo UMC Chamber Choir and Friends, will be doing the cantata, *Down from His Glory*. Our evening practice times are from 6:00pm to 7:00pm on the following dates: **November 22nd, December 1st, December 6th, December 13th**. Additional times may be scheduled at the consensus of the choir.

Our Christmas Eve Service will include special music by various members concluding with our traditional Silent Night and lighting candles.

May we open our hearts and make room for Jesus, the whole reason for this season.

Rose Gamblin

FINANCE & CHURCH NEWS

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

As we enter December, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is one of the most sacred seasons in our Christian Faith.

December is also “the end of the year” month. Many of us will reflect on our past year and make financial contributions based on our own personal well-being. Historically, it’s been a good month for Mt. Nebo as people tend toward more tithing. But it all depends on us, the members of Mt. Nebo. As the year ends, please prayerfully consider your giving for the next year.

We are very blessed at Mt. Nebo, but our church still needs all of us to show our support. We need to share our many blessings with our church.

Have a blessed and very Merry Christmas! God Bless each of you and your families.

Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TRAVIS!!!

Mt. Nebo is proud to share that one of our own members completed the 60th Annual JFK 50 Mile on November 19th. Kudos to Travis Riner for his endurance in running this very difficult race. He completed the trek in 10 hours, 9 minutes! The youth even made a poster to encourage him as he began the race. “Run with Purpose in Every Step” (I Corinthians 9:26). Congratulations Travis and all of the runners! Quite an accomplishment!!!



THANK YOU, BETTY LOU!

Betty Lou Breeden was presented with a plaque made by Glenn DeShazo for the article she wrote for the November Beacon. Betty Lou is a longtime member of Mt. Nebo and plans to continue sharing her faith for quite a while! Thanks, Betty Lou for your great article!!!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Just a quick shout out to all of those who stayed on November 20th to help with decorating the church. It takes a village to get the job done and you all did awesome! Thank you to the ladies that organized the decorations ahead of time, and to Alyssa for helping to get the luncheon ready that day. Thank you also to Skip for helping Cindy to clean up the remnants a few days later. There are always things to do at Mt. Nebo!!!!

Toni Wetzel



HANGING OF THE GREENS PICS



HANGING OF THE GREENS PICS



HANGING OF THE GREENS PICS





DECEMBER 2022

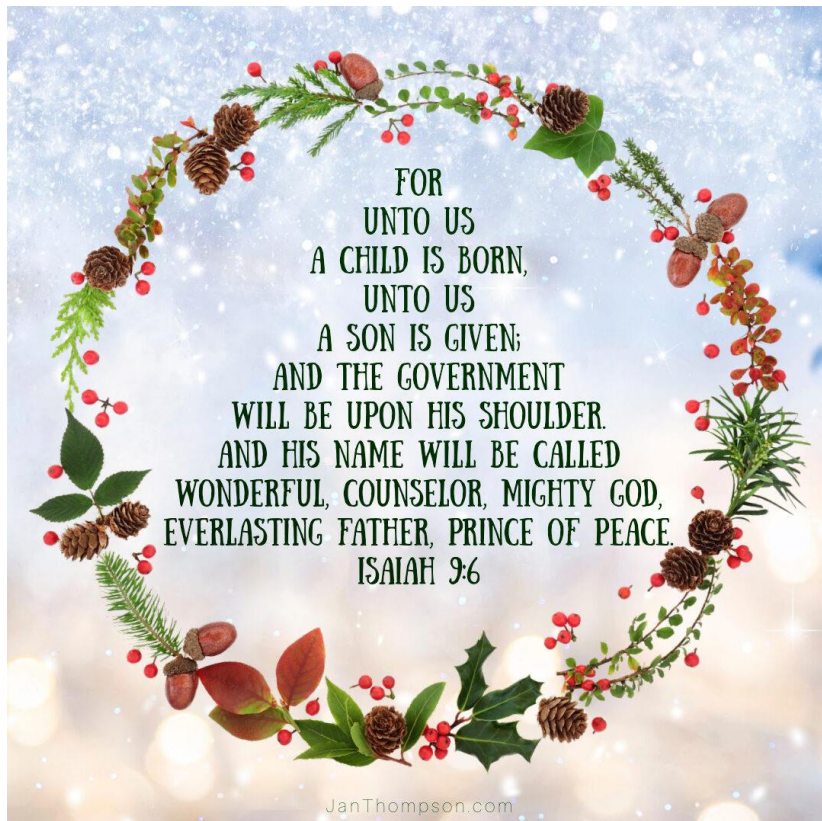


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*FLC – Family Life Center **Sanctuary ***Trinity Lutheran	BB - Basketball			1 **6-7pm Choir practice	2	3 *9am-2pm CLC Bazaar *4-8pm Parent's Night Out
4 2 nd Sunday of Advent **9am Worship Children's Cantata	5 6:30pm Trustees *6:30pm BB	6 **6-7pm Choir practice *8pm BB	7 *6:30pm BB	8 ***1-3pm Micah's BP *6:30pm BB	9	10 8:30am UMM Breakfast & Shut-in visit
11 3 rd Sunday of Advent **9am Worship Christmas Outreach gifts due	12 *6:30pm BB	13 *6pm Girl Scouts **6-7pm Choir practice *8pm BB	14 *6:30pm BB	15 10am Christmas Outreach wrapping *6:30pm BB	16	17 SHARE pickup
18 4 th Sunday of Advent **9am Worship Adult Choir Cantata	19 *6:30pm BB	20 10am UMW *8pm BB No Church Council Mtg.	21 *6:30pm BB  First Day of Winter	22 *6:30pm BB	23	24 **7pm Christmas Eve Service 
25 **9am Worship 	26 *6:30pm BB	27 *6pm Girl Scouts *8pm BB	28 *6:30pm BB	29 *6:30pm BB	30	31  Have a blessed 2023!!!

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

Change Service Requested

December



**WISHING YOU A
VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND
A BLESSED NEW
YEAR 2023!!!**

*From your
communications team
- Toni, Katie, Pastor
Bob & Glenn*