



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • August 2024

What?! Christmas in July? Why in the world would we do that? Well, that is exactly what we did last month, and for good reason. It all started with an idea from our Music Minister, Dr. Rose Gamblin, during one of our weekly staff meetings. At the meeting, she suggested that we should do something special, something different, during the slow months of summer. This something would be a celebration of Christmas in July – a reminder of what we could expect in a short six months - the joy and anticipation of the birth of the Christ child.

This wasn't such a novel idea. In fact, I had posed a similar question in our December 2018 Newsletter while describing the warmth and love that is felt by so many on Christmas Eve. I asked, "Don't you wish we could just stay in this moment a little longer?" However, while I was only musing on the idea back in my 2018 article, Rose was now actively planning how we could recreate that excitement and rekindle the anticipation in July of 2024.

So why celebrate Christmas in July? A celebration of Christmas in July gives us an opportunity to forget the cares of the world for one day - to be lighthearted and to be able to look at the world with the awe and wonder of a child again. We live in a fast-paced complex world. There never seems to be enough time in the week for all of the activities that we have planned. Sometimes we just need to stop and disconnect from the world for a short time for the benefit of our own mental health. Christmas in July allows us the opportunity to experience that, if only for a very short period of time.

It also reminds us of what God expects from us as adopted members of his family. It is a reminder of what it means to be a Christian. We are a called people – called to compassionately reach out to those that are marginalized in our society. We are

called to sacrifice our own needs so that others may be served. We see this in the ministries we support from Volunteers in Mission (VIM) to FaithStep in Hagerstown, and all the in-between ministries we support. Each year we have expanded the ministries we support and at times gone far beyond the boundaries of Washington County.

It reminds us that we are called to open our hearts for the joy that God has intended for all of us. We serve with joy – the joy that is God-given through His grace. Our Christmas in July makes a statement to our community that we are passionate in our faith every day of the year – not just during special seasons.

The moment as we approach the birth of the Christ Child, we are reminded again of the joining together of the wonder of child-birth with the wonder of God's saving work and how this invites us to consider how the experience of "expecting" teaches us something about the ways of God's gracious work in human experience. We wait with great hope and expectancy for what is to come. Every birth is a sign of salvation, of finding favor with God, of being blessed, of living with promise, and of realizing its fulfillment. It is a universally felt human experience. It is something each one of us feels when the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, and we feel ourselves overwhelmed with gratitude, joy, and a feeling of deep assurance and love.

This same feeling was felt by Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, when Mary, the mother of Jesus, greeted her. Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And*



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONTINUED....

blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:42-45).

Elizabeth was not talking just about the baby growing in her womb. She was talking about the experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. She was talking about the joy of being in God’s holy presence. She was talking about assurance of faith. She was talking about the miraculous uplifting we know when we consider the gift of Christ to this world and to each of us.

This is why we celebrated Christmas in July. Amen.

Pastor Bob



AUGUST LITURGISTS:

August 4 — Tony Basile
August 11 — Mary Ellen Roelkey
August 18 — Tamara White
August 25 — Shelley Breeden

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

10:00 a.m. 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 – 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

Director – Kim Kelly

director@mtneboclc.org

Communications Team:

Toni Wetzell, 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



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to Rob Wetzel and Lisa Riner for filling in for Pastor Bob when he was on vacation. Those sermons were inspiring to all of us.

To Tyler and Trevor for the beautiful music they shared with us.

To each and every one who volunteers to be a Lay Reader on Sunday mornings.

To the volunteers in the music ministry of Mt. Nebo. You all have made our Sunday worship more meaningful by sharing your talents and covering for each other.

Many thanks to Glenn DeShazo, Dan Webb, and Adam for organizing and presenting a musical program to the Sterling Care Residents.

Thank you to Ms. Kim Kelly for her dedication and strong effort as Director of our Christian Learning Center.

YOUTH NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group had an incredible retreat at Cliff and Ann's cabin on the Susquehanna River! It was 3 days full of swimming, boating, tubing, water skiing, delicious food, Bible study and fellowship. Huge shout-out to Cliff and Ann for opening their home to the Youth Group and for being such wonderful hosts!

As the Fall approaches, the Youth Group is looking forward to helping at Boonsboro Days and working on their new space in the Clopper House.

Please contact Alyssa Berg or Don Dorsey for more info about the youth group - all youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

Alyssa Berg

MT. NEBO YOUTH GRANT UPDATE

As previously announced, the youth received an impressive \$5,000 grant from the Baltimore-Washington Conference to expand the youth's presence in the church. The generous grant has provided the youth with upgrades to their youth space, including a new computer and video conference system to allow the youth to virtually connect with other youth groups and churches. The grant also funded the youth's proposal to design and print new sanctuary banners which will be used throughout the year to bring more local images to the church. The youth visited all sorts of landscapes throughout the Boonsboro Valley to capture their impression of how God works his wonders here locally. They spent several hours reviewing various photos and chose scriptures or phrases of how they intertwine in their lives. These pieces of art were printed on large 2'x6' fabric banners and will be showcased throughout the

MT. NEBO YOUTH GRANT CONT...

year in the sanctuary and other locations.

Furthermore, the youth developed and presented their vision/request to the Trustees to utilize the old Clopper House next door as their meeting location. Together, they proposed a wide range of opportunities for this house and even developed 3D renderings of the space. After careful consideration, the Trustees voted to allow the youth to commence with their phase-in approach to update the Clopper House. Please stay tuned to some upcoming volunteer sessions needed to enhance the area. The finished space will allow the youth opportunities to grow, and it will provide opportunities in the church to utilize for future adult classes, the CLC teachers to have their breaks, and wellness cooking classes! Stay connected to these ongoing exciting times!

For more information regarding the youth and the Clopper House, please see Don Dorsey or Alyssa Berg. The Youth appreciate the Trustees, Lay Leader, Pastor Bob, and all involved for providing the opportunity to move forward with their vision for the Clopper House and utilizing the grant to advance our church in connecting to more local youth in our community!

Don Dorsey



CLC & CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Wow...Is August here already? It feels as though the summer just started instead of 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 Paint Splatter, IFLY, Jay Dee's Water Park & Germantown Splash Park last month! A favorite on-site event was our annual FOAM Party! Special thanks to the Boonsboro Fire Company for coming out for a splash day to spray our kiddos! It has been exciting to create these memories and make new ones as well!

Our teachers do a fabulous job keeping the kids busy and engaged in learning during the summer!

Our August themes are Construction Zone with a special Touch A Truck event for the kids to enjoy all modes of construction vehicles! We will visit Crystal Grottoes for our Crystals & Gemstone Mining week, and we will close out the summer program with our Carnival theme full of games, prizes, treats, music, and magic!!

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 **Friday, August 25th** for our in-service day as our teachers take a 6-hour training course on Conscious Discipline. We are always excited to continue our professional development to ensure that we are providing the highest quality of care to every student in our learning center.

Our fall program begins on **Monday, August 28th**. 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.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER CONT.

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!

Mr. JJ, Mr. Thomas, and Ms. Kendall will be preparing to head back 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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women's annual brunch at the Red Byrd Restaurant is coming up on **Saturday, August 17th at 10:00am**. It is always a nice time of food and fellowship. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room so we know how many to expect. All women and girls are invited! Please join us! Our regular monthly meetings will resume in September.

Alyssa Berg

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

As we continue through summer, everything slows down. The weather seems to dictate our pace. Likewise, here at Mt. Nebo, our financial giving also slows down. Many are on vacation. Some relax a different way.

Please know that while some things slow down, Mt. Nebo's expenses do not. Our general fund still has wages for staff, higher electric bills, and fixed expenses all year round. Please do your part. Mt. Nebo is the beacon of light in Boonsboro and South County. We need to continue to do god's work on this earth. Your support is critical and appreciated.

God Bless, Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

CHURCH PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE! **Sunday, September 29**, Worship Service followed by the Church Family Picnic in Shafer Park in Boonsboro. There will be more details to follow.

Dotty Neal



CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

TRUSTEES NEWS

We hope everyone has been staying cool with this hot weather we've had! Trustees have been busy over the past few months helping to maintain property for both the Church and CLC.

One of our larger projects has been working to bring life back into the Clopper House to support the needs of the CLC and Youth Ministry. We received a home inspection a few months ago and while the home is in need of some repair and is due for upgrades (electrical/plumbing), over all, the home is in decent shape! Our initial focus has been to solicit quotes to repair and re-coat the standing seam roof and repair/replace the gutter system. Thanks to the CLC and Youth Ministry, the cleanout of unwanted items is well underway and we're putting plans together for next steps!

Another large project you've likely heard about is the new playground equipment that will be installed! The CLC has purchased the set, and it was delivered last month! The CLC and Gary Harding have been working to find a Contractor to install the equipment with a requested completion of August. Trustees will help with a demo of the old playground equipment, which includes relocating some pieces to the nature scape area. Stay tuned as this project begins to take shape!

Thanks to everyone that supports the Trustee efforts that may not be "official" members! There's too many to name, but know your efforts are appreciated!

Respectfully, Andy Pugh, Trustee Chair

MUSIC NOTES

"KIDS ARE DISTURBING MY WORSHIP SERVICE"

During the past forty years that I have been involved in worship services, I have repeatedly heard the phrase, "The kids are disturbing my worship service." At my church in Gettysburg all the children wanted to sit with me and the parents were happy to let them (the sermon itself lasted an hour, so by the time you were through with all the preliminaries the children had been in the sanctuary for more than an hour and a half). In addition, the church had a strict rule that there

MUSIC NOTES CONT.

should be no snacking in the "sanctuary." Sitting far away from the parishioners that might be disturbed, I set out quiet toys, coloring books, and played a game I liked to call, "Track the Sermon Words." In this game, we labeled a piece of paper with the words that we thought the pastor would say, words

such as, Lord, God, Thankfulness, Holy Spirit, etc. All the players would pick two words that they thought would be spoken the most, put them at the top of their paper, and anytime the preacher said that word they'd mark it with a tally mark. At the end of the sermon, we'd see who won.

The last Methodist church I served had a Children's Church every Sunday and when the children left, the sanctuary became very quiet. However, while the parents were able to focus on the message and get a blessing out of the service, those doing the Children's Church weren't.

Here are the reasons why I think it is beneficial to have children in the church service:

1. **Spiritual Growth:** It helps them understand and experience the rituals and teachings of their religion from an early age.
2. **Community Integration:** Being present during services helps children feel a sense of belonging and connection with other members of the congregation.
3. **Role Modeling:** Observing adults and older children participating in the service provides positive role models for younger children and helps them see how to behave, participate, and engage with the service.
4. **Family Bonding:** Attending church as a family



CHURCH NEWS CONT. & OUTREACH

MUSIC NOTES CONT.

can strengthen familial bonds. It allows families to worship together, discuss the service, and share their spiritual journey.

5. Educational Opportunities: Church services often include stories, songs, and activities that can be educational for children. These elements can make learning about faith more engaging and memorable.

6. Community Support: Children being present at church services allows them to receive support and guidance from a broader community. This can be especially important during times of personal or family challenges.

If you ever feel a child is disturbing your worship, say a prayer for them. After all, they are the future of our church.

Rose Gamblin, Music Minister

BOONESBOROUGH DAYS, SEPT 7&8

We are looking for volunteers to work this year's Boonesborough Days. After the great success from last year, our menu will be expanded to include breakfast sandwiches in addition to our Philly cheesesteaks and nachos. We will also be serving our famous soft served ice cream and our church's very own brownies and fruit cobblers! Please consider signing up to provide your tasty fruit cobblers and brownies to go with the ice cream. Signups are posted on the bulletin board. We are also looking for help to set up and break down. If you have any questions, please reach out to Alyssa Berg or Don Dorsey.

Don Dorsey



VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

The team decided on **July 16th** we would be serving near Johnson City, TN. This was a difficult decision and there are so many opportunities to serve and so much need. We will be serving with ASP, Appalachian Service Project, an organization that has served for several decades. They are well organized and are looking forward to our two weeks of serving. The residents experienced two floods in 2022, both within two weeks. We will be building new homes on higher ground. The exact location will be determined closer to the dates of our trip, as it is difficult to predict what the status of the ongoing projects will be.

We will be leaving **September 28th** and returning **October 12th**. The schedule is very flexible, and you can serve for a few days, a week, or for the whole two weeks. We can work it out!!

Cliff Wright

MISSION MOUSE

Hi there Mt. Nebo members. Did you realize that our church has many needs and one of the most important ones is our financial gifts? During the summer it seems like the giving to Mt. Nebo falls off. Please step up and be sure that your weekly gift is there for the needs that our church has such as, electricity, water, various insurance bills, repairs. We are fortunate to have a few volunteers who do the repairs, but there are costs of parts and various items that the church pays.



I've heard a few complaints that we shouldn't be supporting the Conference with our Mission Shares. The Conference is very generous with the money they receive. Do you know that our Mt. Nebo Youth Group got a \$5,000 grant for the work they are doing? Many of our students have gotten Student Scholarships to help cover college costs. We need to support the Conference so they can continue with their work of supporting local churches.

Please continue to support Mt. Nebo financially. The gifts you give will be multiplied and shared so that the work of God can continue to grow.

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

PICKLEBALL



**YOUTH
TRIP TO
THE
WRIGHT'S
CABIN**



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONTINUED



2024 AG EXPO AND FAIR



SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY



4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN THE PARK



FAITHSTEP





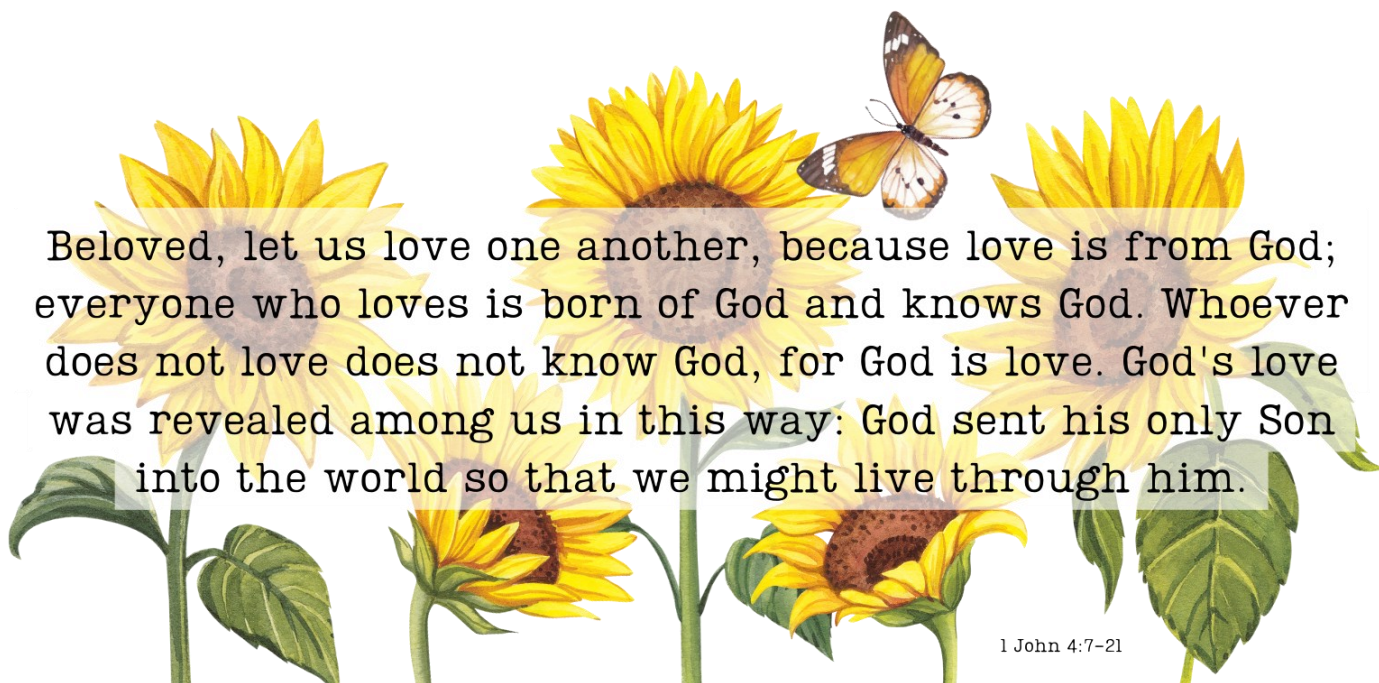
AUGUST 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9a Pickleball
				BRANDI ON VACATION		
4 9a Worship 10a Bells	5	6 4p Chair Yoga	7 6p Pickleball	8	9	10 9a Pickleball
11 9a Worship 10a Bells	12	13 4p Chair Yoga	14 6p Pickleball	15	16	17 9a Pickleball 10a UMW Brunch @ Red Byrd
18 9a Worship 10a Bells	19	20 4p Chair Yoga 7p VIM Meeting	21 6p Pickleball	22	23	24 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
25 9a Worship 10a Bells	26 BACK TO SCHOOL	27 4p Chair Yoga	28 6p Pickleball	29	30	31 9a Pickleball

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

Change Service Requested



1 John 4:7-21