



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • July 2024

Over the last couple of months, we have been reading about Jesus' early ministry and the reaction from the people and leadership of Israel. Even his own family had trouble understanding the changes that they had seen in Jesus in this short period of time. How could he leave an established trade as a carpenter to embark on such a risky journey with a group of followers who were not considered to be the "best of the best."

His chosen group consisted of some fishermen, a tax collector who had turned his back on his own people by profiting from collecting taxes for the despised Roman occupiers, and a zealot nationalist who swore to end the occupation of the Romans even if it meant by force and assassinations. To many, it seemed as though Jesus had completely lost his mind. We see this in Mark 3:20-21, *"Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat."* When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, *"He is out of his mind."*

Jesus' message was so radical that his teachings and behavior were now being closely watched by the Scribes and Pharisees. They didn't trust anyone who was able to reach the people in the way Jesus was able to reach them. He defied those that were in positions of power when he said, *"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants."* It is surprising that the eyes and ears of these Jewish religious leaders were closed and did not recognize this ancient Semitic idiom, which meant that all humans, not just the religious or worldly elite, can know about God. The reference in this idiom to infants referred to the ability of new believers to understand his message. The whole focus of his ministry was to reach all people,

including those who were marginalized, poor, and uneducated. This can be seen by the followers he chose.

Because of his preaching and appeal he had with the people, the "wise and intelligent" Scribes and Pharisees were determined to silence his message. He represented to them a challenge to their authority and their power base. He put them at risk of the wrath of the Roman occupiers. In their minds, he was instigating an insurrection that would put their comfortable lifestyles at risk. He defied them by proclaiming that, *"All things have been handed over to him by the Father."* This was a strong affirmation of Jesus' self-understanding and sense of unique authority as the Son of Man – the living God. Jesus understood all too well how his message would be taken and the ultimate consequences. We find this in Luke 12:51-53, *"Do you think I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three."*

We hear Jesus calling out to them even now, *"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."* He is saying, I myself will lead you into rest. *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Here with Jesus, we see his emphasis was on a personal relationship and not on doctrine or ritual. During Jesus' time, the Jewish rituals became such a burden that it had separated humankind from God, rather than bringing them to Him. Judaism had become a barrier instead of a bridge! Jesus eliminated all the barriers to God. By his breaking of the Jewish rules and ritual, he put himself willingly on the path to the cross.

This rejection of the Lordship of Jesus and the

the
RADICAL
TEACHINGS
of Jesus



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE CONTINUED....

inauguration of the Kingdom of God has continued for over two thousand years from the first century Palestine to our modern-day world of the 21st century. We need to ask why we can't break this cycle of rejection of what is good – of what brings us closer to the holiness of our heavenly Father. How can we break this cycle? How can we eliminate this brokenness in our lives?

One way is to follow the great commandment found in Matthew, 22:36-40, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself.*" Only when we can do this, can we begin to respect the difference of others in our lives. We can no longer judge those that have different ideas, different customs, or come from somewhere else. We need to embrace this commandment and incorporate it into our daily lives. It is not acceptable to practice this great commandment only on Sunday for one hour as it must be internalized in on our being. It must become second nature for us.

Another way to begin is to not worry about what others may think of us. I am sure that most of you would say that you are not subject to peer pressure. Peer pressure is something that our children must endure. However, we all care to a certain extent whether we choose to admit it or not. We care about our appearance; we care about what our neighbors think of us and our importance in our communities. I believe that we should only care about what God thinks of us. We can hide who we are from our neighbors. However, we cannot hide from the scrutiny of our Lord. If we are right with God, we will in turn be right with our neighbors. This is true because being right with our heavenly Father means that we need to be obedient to Him and, of course, that means following his precepts and commandments as revealed to us in Jesus' radical message. Amen.

Pastor Bob

JULY LITURGISTS:

July 7 — Darce Easton

July 14 — Skip Kauffman

July 21 — Toni Wetzel

July 28 — Tamara White

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

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JULY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

July 5 Genna Gerand
July 6 Bob Lowman
July 12 Glenn deShazo
Oscar Rodriguez
July 14 Cliff Wright
July 15 Betty Lou Breeden
July 16 Al Strauss
July 21 JJ Berg
Dennis Palmer
July 22 Cheryl Pryor
July 23 Erin Gollogly
July 27 Ann Stone
July 30 Gary Harding
Olivia Pugh



ANNIVERSARIES

July 10 Jason & Alyssa Berg
Celebrating 25 Years!

July 11 Rob & Patty Young
July 12 Bob & Pam Walker



JADE RUGGIERI RECEIVED AN EMMY

On Saturday, June 22nd, Pastor Bob accompanied his daughter, Jade, at the 66th Annual Capital Emmy Awards Assembly. She was awarded an Emmy for the category of "Evening Newscast Medium Markets."

What a wonderful accomplishment at only 23 years old. Congratulations to Jade and her success in her career at WTVR-TV in Richmond, Virginia.

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to the youth of Mt. Nebo and to all the volunteers who serve others at Faith-Step. **To Patty Watson who is working toward wellness for us all and has added Chair Yoga and Pickleball to activities for us.**

To Rose for all the musical talent she shares with us from playing the organ, to the piano, to the keyboard, and even the accordion!

Our thanks to Andi Jackson and Pastor Bob for filling in for the Praise Team.

To Cliff Wright and the VIM Team who are working on organizing another VIM trip for this fall.

To those who have signed up for and already provided gifts to those celebrating birthdays at the Sterling Care Nursing Home each month this year.

And all our thanks to each person at Mt. Nebo who generously gives to Mt. Nebo with their service, prayers, financial giving, and witness.

YOUTH and CLC NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

Summer is in full swing, and the youth group is looking forward to their annual retreat at the Wright's cabin! It will be three days full of swimming, boating, water skiing, yummy food, Bible Study, and fellowship! Many thanks to Cliff and Ann for opening their cabin again to our youth! Prayers for safe travels are welcomed! Please contact Alyssa Berg or Don Dorsey for more info about youth group - all youth in 6th-12th grade are always welcome!

Alyssa Berg

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

The kids enjoyed the first month of our summer camps! We started it off with a drive-in movie showing "Trolls: Band Together!" Our amazing field trips consisted of outdoor class going to Mt. Aetna Retreat Camp, our school age had an amazing time at Lake Tobias Wildlife Park in PA, and Tree Trekkers. Our 3/4's enjoyed all the animals at the Catoctin Zoo, and our 2's & 2/3's had a ball at Me Land! Check out our pictures on FB!

We're starting off the month of July celebrating "America the Beautiful" during the week of July 1st with some fun activities planned. The children have been asked to wear patriotic clothing to school on **Wednesday, July 3rd** and Kona Ice will be here for a special afternoon treat for the kiddos! Mt. Nebo will be closed on **Thursday, July**

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER CONT...

4th in observance of the holiday. On **Friday, July 5th** we will be providing a picnic lunch for our students. We will be serving hot dogs, watermelon, and chips.

Our July themes are Art Explosion, Ooey Goey Science, Water Works, Mt. Nebo Superheroes, and Sport Spectacular.

Our 2024-2025 school year enrollment letter with new tuition rates was sent out. If you have a child you would like to enroll this Fall, an enrollment form needs to be filled out by **July 26th**. We do have a long waiting list for all of our classes!

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director



School age at Shafer Park



The children in their "cars" they made for the Drive-In Movie activity

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will gather for their annual brunch at the Red Bird Restaurant on **Saturday, August 17th at 10:00 a.m.** It is always a nice time of fellowship and yummy food. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. All women and girls are invited! Please join us! Our regular monthly meetings will resume in September.

Alyssa Berg

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

This past May I had the privilege along with our lay delegates, Tony and Dianna Basile, and Pastor Bob, to attend the 240th Session of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. This year's theme was: "Like Fire Shut Up in Our Bones," from Jeremiah 20:9. There were approximately 571 churches from across Maryland, Washington D.C., and the panhandle of West Virginia, and their representatives who gathered at the conference.

The conference opened with a selection of workshops at 10 a.m. on Wednesday morning. Dianna and Tony attended a workshop called "BLESS." It showed ways to love your neighbor and change the world! BLESS is an acronym for "Begin with Prayer, Listen, Eat Together, Serve in Love, and Share Your Story!" Pastor Bob and I walked to our workshop, "Rooted in Faith: A Mini Pilgrimage Experience," as we went just around the corner to the Old Otterbein UMC, the Mother Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Rev. Bonnie McCubbin gave us a breathtaking tour of the gardens, the old sanctuary, and the magnificent organ and bell tower at this location. There is a very vibrant active, and diverse group of parishioners who gather each Sunday to worship and experience fellowship. Pastor Bonnie wears many hats as well, as she is the Director of Museums and Pilgrimage/Conference Archivist for the BWC.

In our laity session on Wednesday afternoon, we heard Rev. Michael Beck speak about re-imagining church. Rev. Beck is the director of the denomination's Fresh Expression Initiative.

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER CONTINUED

He pastors three churches in Florida, two of which are traditional. The third one is quite innovative with 13 fresh expressions "churches" that meet in unorthodox locations. His church ministers to those that need an addiction recovery program, a food program, and an interracial unity movement. They have meetings in tattoo parlors, in yoga studios, in a Tesla grouping, among many other locations. They have a successful dinner church, called "Family Table," with a Jesus story and they eat, play, and pray together. Their Open Arms Village is used to generate revenue as it houses men who need a place in which to live. Another program is called "Burritos and Bibles," and the list goes on. It is living in church wherever we are. This innovative idea gives one pause to consider how church will be re-invented in the next fifty years.

Opening worship with Bishop La Trelle Easterling preaching was quite stimulating. The theme of worship was built around Romans 12:1-9. Churches can be anywhere and at any time. For example, Susanna Wesley once held church in her kitchen. Church is not a building, but a dialogue amongst people who want to learn more about Jesus. Indeed, we need to share Jesus outside of the church in all types of spaces and situations. The theme of "Like a Fire Shut Up in Our Bones," encouraged us to go out into the world and spread the Gospel. Let's change our lives and transform the world!



CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER CONTINUED

The Plenary Sessions are where the business of the conference takes place. Lay delegates as well as clergy vote in those sessions. Mt. Nebo's voting member is Dianna Basile. The four resolutions centered around reproductive freedom, recognition of sickle cell anemia in our communities, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the reconciling ministries network, and establishing a camping Sunday in February.

Another plenary session focused on restructuring the conferencing by creating six districts into hubs as opposed to the eight-district model we now have. Five to twelve local churches will be grouped in a collaborative hub in a shared, geographically based, mission field. This with re-structuring will not be operational until July 2025.

In a third plenary session the budget for the BWC was presented. There are changes in the clergy pension plan, the base salary and housing allowance were considered. The good news is that the benevolence factor for the Mission Shares (Apportionment) will be reduced to 17.4%.

During the last plenary session, 6 persons were commissioned to be provisional elders, and 13 were commissioned as elders. There were 32 retirees this year as well.

The various exhibits were informative about many of the BWC Ministries. It was interesting to meet many of the leaders of various conference positions and other members of churches across our denomination.

Our Youth can look forward to a newly imagined Youth Conference in 2025. This will take place March 7-9 at Ocean City Convention center and is entitled, "Ignite."

Bible Study on Romans with Dr. Carla Works was the perfect way to end my time at Annual Conference. Her insights into the scriptures were insightful as well thought provoking. Dr. Works is the Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. and her research on the scriptures is stellar.

Cindy Kauffman, Lay Leader

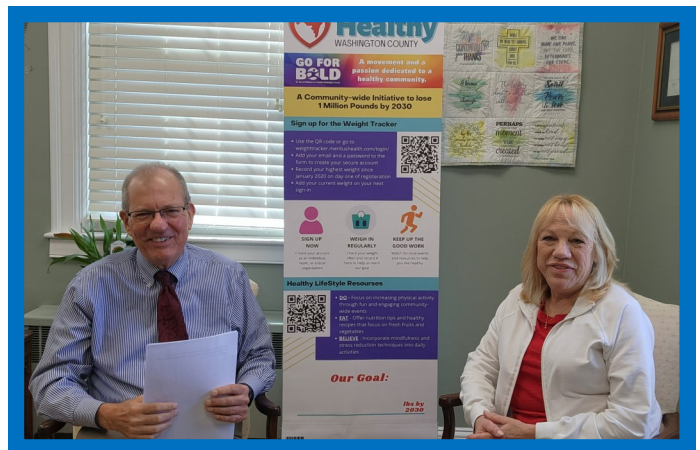
MT. NEBO WELLNESS — GO FOR BOLD

Mt. Nebo Chair Yoga has begun! We meet in the gathering room on **Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.** for 30 to 45 minutes. Not only is it yoga but we are adding Chair Exercise, Chair Dancing, and Chair Aerobics. It's a great way to stretch, increase your mobility, and get your heart rate up! This class is offered through the summer, so come on out and join us!



We've also got a great group of Pickleballers! We've been playing **Wednesday's at 6:00 p.m.** and **Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.** We play for approximately an hour and a half. There are 8 of us, but are always looking for more to join. The pickleball net, racquets, and balls are left up all day Saturday so if you want to come up and practice hitting the ball over the net and to see if you like it, then please do. The net will be up until after church on Sundays. This sport really is a lot of fun and a great workout! Also nice that it is in an air conditioned gym during the hot summer days.

Stay healthy! Patty Watson



Learn More About the Wellness Program [Here!](#)

CHURCH NEWS CONT. & OUTREACH

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING ...

As I write this article, the heat outside is unbearable! For you who invested in a swimming pool—Congratulations!

Throughout life, we face choices every day. We try to be better than 50/50 between right and wrong choices. Either way, they are learning experiences. Mt. Nebo has chosen to be a church that provides great resources to all who come through our doors. As members of Mt. Nebo, we need to do all we can to make sure we will be here for the long haul.

Please enjoy your summer, but do not forget to continue to support our church. It takes everyone to do their part.

God Bless, Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

The team heard information regarding four different locations, two in North Carolina, one in Kentucky, and one in Tennessee.

The two in NC, Plymouth, and Beaufort, are from hurricanes and floods several years ago. There are people living in mold infested homes. These homes do not have basements, so when the floods came, the insulation was soaked, and the floor joist and floors never dried out. The floors are soft and sagging and slowly rotting away. There have been several incidents with dishonest contractors, so the people are having trust issues with anyone they don't know. Many of these homes have been in the same family for generations.

The other two locations, Hindman, KY and near Johnson City, TN are in Appalachia. In 2022, they experienced a massive flood and another one within the same week. Both locations are rehabbing existing homes and also new homes. Many of the buildings and downtown were completely whipped out and both areas are struggling to get back to normal.

So where do we go to serve? Those who have been struggling for years to find a way to live safely in their homes or help those who have lost their homes and possessions altogether?? This is the question the VIM team is praying about and we would appreciate your prayers too. Please pray for guidance as to where to serve and that all the

VIM CONTINUED...

arrangements, housing, and materials will be supplied so we can work for God's glory.

Our next meeting, **Tuesday, July 16th at 7 p.m.** we will decide where to serve. It's the first step in the planning stage and if we get this right, all other issues will fall into place. It always has.

All are invited to attend.

Cliff Wright

STERLING CARE



On **Tuesday, June 11**, Pastor Bob, Rose Gamblin, and Glenn deShazo put a musical show together for the Sterling Care patients. Dan Webb and Adam donated their time for the show that lasted an hour. They played Oldies and old gospel songs that the 28 patients could sing along and they really enjoyed it!

Glenn deShazo

MISSION MOUSE

Did you know it takes 200 to 1000 years for plastic bags, aluminum cans take 200 to 500 years, and plastic bottles 450 years to decompose? Have you heard the words: "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle?" They are three important words to live by to try to help preserve our earth for our future generations. Some things we can do are to try to avoid single-use coffee cups, disposable utensils, straws, and napkins. We can shop local farmers markets. We can re-purpose and reuse various items. Before you go buy something new, consider buying it used. When giving gifts, think about making a donation in honor of the person to a favorite charity. Let's start thinking about the generations to come!



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

2024 GRADUATES



FATHER'S DAY

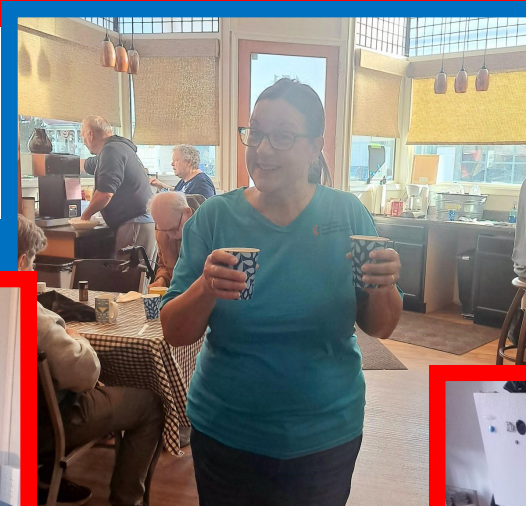


PICS AROUND MT. NEBO CONTINUED

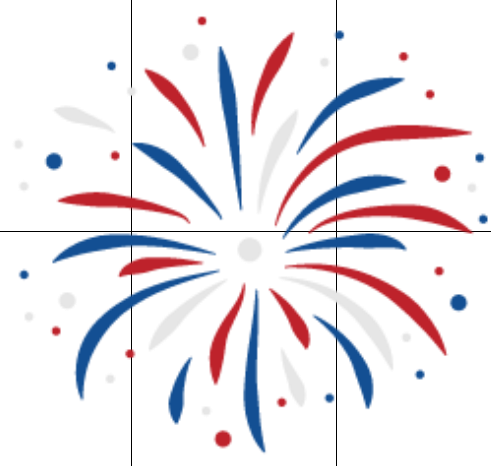


SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY

FAITHSTEP



JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4p Chair Yoga	3	4 4TH OF JULY OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY	5	6 9a Pickleball
PASTOR BOB VACATION 7/1-7/7						
7 9a Worship No Bells	8 630p Trustees Meeting	9 4p Chair Yoga	10 6p Pickleball	11	12	13 730a FaithStep 9a Pickleball
14 9a Worship 10a Bells	15	16 4p Chair Yoga 7p VIM Meeting	17 6p Pickleball 630p CLC Advisory Meeting	18	19	20 9a Pickleball
21 9a Worship No Bells	22	23 4p Chair Yoga	24 6p Pickleball	25	26	27 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
YOUTH TRIP 7/22-7/24			BRANDI VACATION 7/25-8/2			
28 9a Worship Christmas in July Service 10a Bells	29	30 4p Chair Yoga	31 6p Pickleball			
BRANDI VACATION 7/25-8/2						

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

Change Service Requested



**For you were called to freedom,
brothers and sisters; only do not use
your freedom as an opportunity for
self-indulgence, but through love
become slaves to one another.**

Galatians 5:13