



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • October 2024

Saint Teresa of Calcutta was once quoted as saying, "We need to find God and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is a friend of silence." So, what did she mean by this and how can we begin to connect more closely with our heavenly Father? What is it that keeps us from experiencing a foretaste of the tranquility and joy of what Christ our Lord has promised for all of us. I believe that we all know the answer to that question. However, the challenge is finding the time in our 21st century lives to be able to connect to God at a deeper level. With this statement, Mother Teresa was saying to all of us that to truly connect with God, we need to seek a quiet and peaceful state of mind, as God is not present in the chaos and distractions of a busy life. Instead, true communion with the divine can only be found in moments of stillness and reflection.

In today's world, the soft voice of God is often eclipsed by all of the noise and distractions that dominate our everyday lives. We are pulled in many directions and there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day. Time becomes the enemy. We often find ourselves on that constant treadmill running from one place to another never taking the time to rest, to reflect, to contemplate a simpler life. Some of us long for the "Good Old Days," a time before the internet, a time before the emergence of cell phones. No matter how we wish differently, the world is changing at a rapid pace, each day crowding out more of those special times that we had reserved for communion with God.

So how do we gain back this so desperately needed quiet time with our Creator? In my own experience, I have found a simple solution. A solution that does not require a membership or one that requires a large financial outlay. It does not

require a life coach or spiritual coach. All that is required is for each of us to decide to take back a portion of our day to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to listen for his soft voice to speak to us and to guide us each day. This simple solution is available to all who are looking for his promise of abundant life in this life and the eternal life to come.

In order to find this, we have to be intentional about taking time out of our busy schedules for solitary time to discern God's will. Life has a tendency to get messy and cluttered as we add more and more commitments and obligations to what is already a heavy load. What I find helpful as I look to discern the Will of God, is to periodically withdraw from the day-to-day activities that crowd out the voice of God. To do this, I begin by seeking solitude – a place free of all the different kinds of "noise" that bombards our senses on a regular basis. For me, this happens on my daily walks. This is my time with my Creator. As I walk the rural stretches of farmlands near my home or even the sidewalks of Boonsboro's Main Street near the church, I have my time with God to pray and reflect. Because we are called to constant prayer by our Lord, this is one of the most effective spiritual disciplines that I practice. We see in

Romans 12:12 that we are called to, "*rejoice in hope, [to] be patient in tribulation and [to] be constant in prayer.*" During this time of prayer, I ask God to give me guidance in serving Him, and I pray for guidance as I submit to His holy will, accepting his will in all that I do.

In addition to prayer, I also seek to find times of solitude for the study of scripture. This is a time I seek solitude to reflect on the day and to clear my mind of all the earthy issues that tend to prevent me from having a restful night. We see this call to study in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "¹⁶All scripture



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

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is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

During the reading of scripture, I look for guidance found in the gospels, which through the ministry of Christ reveals to us the love God has for us and all of his great creation. The examples set by Christ in his earthly ministry give all of us the example for leading Christian lives in this very secular world that we live in today. We must study this living word of God and allow it to speak to us on a daily basis. We must meditate on these readings, internalizing them in a way that allows us to understand its full meaning for us in today's world, thereby, allowing us to follow these examples in our daily lives.



Praying Mantis outside of the church "praying."

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

When I fail to practice these good worship habits on a regular basis, the noise and troubles of the world, in a very subtle and gradual way, will begin to overwhelm my life, which can lead to physical and spiritual brokenness. For this reason, I have been vigilant in choosing the life of abundance promised to me by my Creator. I urge everyone to take the challenge of trying this lifestyle to see the incredible benefits that it will reap for you. May God be with you as you embark on this challenging journey. Amen.

Pastor Bob

OCTOBER LAY READERS:

Oct 6 — Alyssa Berg
Oct 13 — Terri Hollingshead
Oct 20 — Skip Kauffman
Oct 27 — Toni Wetzel



OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



BIRTHDAYS

Oct 8	Terri Hollingshead	Oct 17	Debbie Lee
Oct 12	Michael Cronise	Oct 22	Tyler Deatrigh
Oct 13	Angela Redden	Oct 24	Sara Breeden
Oct 14	Edward Budnick		Don Dorsey
Oct 15	Ed Beard	Oct 25	Jason Berg
Oct 16	Aliyah Linton		

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 4 Jody & Shelley Breeden
Oct 8 Michael & Vanessa Cronise
Oct 20 Bill & Patty Watson



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to the Trustees for all the work that they do to keep our church running.

To Don Dorsey & Alyssa Berg for all the work put into the Clopper House, and to our youth who have been there for many hours of that work.

Our thanks and prayers go with the VIM Team as they travel to Kentucky for two weeks of home building.

Thank you, Dotty Neal, for organizing our church picnic.

And to each of our many volunteers who work to keep Mt. Nebo going.

YOUTH & CLC NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The youth group is meeting in their new space at the Clopper House while continuing to work on the house to meet their needs. It is wonderful to have this space to gather together! Many youth group members volunteered their time at Boonsboro Days - they are always such great helpers! Plans are in the works to have fellowship events with other area youth groups. 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

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Happy October! We have many fun things planned for our children this month. We are excited to have a firetruck and fire safety trailer visit with us for Fire Safety Week and field trips to the local pumpkin patches later this month. Huntzberry Photography will be here on 10/1 and 10/2 for our annual fall picture day.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER CONT...

Halloween is a fun time of the year here at Mt. Nebo and many exciting things are being planned. Our classroom parties will be in the afternoon on the 31st as all our children will enjoy this festive time.

Our Parents Night Out is scheduled for **Friday, October 11th** from 6 pm to 9 pm. This will be for infants through school age. The cost is \$30 cash per child. We will provide a pizza dinner for those 18 months and older, games, crafts, and a hayride!

As I walk around the school each day, I am reminded of all the efforts that the parents and staff have made to help make MNCLC one of the best in this area. It is because of each of you that we can look at our school both inside and out and be proud of our center and the terrific teachers/staff who make it special. I am extremely grateful to be the Director of MNCLC! We have an amazing group of parents, children, and staff here! Thank you for entrusting your child with us.

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our annual Steak and Salmon Feed was spectacular. We gathered at the impressive home of Don and Jenni Dorsey. Some of us got there early and brought swimsuits for a quick swim in Dorsey's beautiful pool. When I joined Jack Dorsey and Skip, to my surprise, my ability to swim laps was rudely interrupted after 3 or 4 strokes. To survive I continued by treading water and slowly heading for the shallow end of the pool. My absence from swimming for over 20 years left me breathless.

As usual, our Steak and Salmon Feed was accompanied by fresh picked corn, great side dishes, and delicious desserts. Don was a master chef doing all the cooking on his grill. The conversation was lively, but it ended quickly when an ominous thunderstorm was approaching from the south. I presume all reached home safely.

Bruce Smith

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

The fall season is upon us. Our furry friends outside are storing up their bounty for winter. As their activities slow down, we here at Mt. Nebo are speeding up. Our church and CLC can proceed forward only if we have the financial resources to support our efforts. Thus far, the CLC is meeting its goals. On the church side, we are not doing as well. We need all members to give of their time, talent, faithfulness, and resources. Unfortunately, cash is the lifeline of any organization. I know religion is not based on money, but in life, we all have our debts to pay. God bless!

Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair



CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED



FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

As I write this message today, I am reminded that we are winding down from the heat and vacations of summer. Fall is just around the corner and cooler temperatures are knocking at our doors. By the time you receive this, summer will be a distant memory, and fall will be in full swing. Let us reflect on Psalm 19:1: *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.* We indeed live in an area where we are blessed to enjoy all four seasons of the year. May we embrace each one and all that it brings us.

In October, there are several important events in the life of our church. First, we have *World Communion Sunday* on **October 6**. This is when Christians throughout the globe join in the sacrament of Holy Communion. The special day is observed by many denominations and the tradition began in 1933 by Hugh Thompson Kerr who ministered to a Presbyterian Congregation. The roots of this tradition are to bring awareness and cooperation in an ecumenical effort, to bring awareness to how we are all interconnected as Christians, and to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is. This is also one of the six Special Offering Sundays recognized by our denomination. Please consider giving as you are able.

The following **Sunday, October 13**, we share in the CROP walk, which begins in Keedysville at Taylor Park. The slogan is that we walk to feed others. The money raised from this walk helps to “End Hunger Worldwide One Step at a Time.” Mt. Nebo has a history of participation in this event for over 30 years. Please sign up to walk or pledge one of the walkers to help raise money for those less fortunate for us. A percentage of the money raised stays with the South Washington County Ministerium to help those in our own community. Please read Proverbs 22:9.

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER CONT...

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share food with the poor.

Lastly, we are in the process of planning for our annual church conference to be held at Bethel UMC on **Saturday, October 12**.

Cindy Kauffman, Lay Leader

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY—OCT 6

Every year, Christians around the world celebrate *World Communion Sunday*. This is a time when we all celebrate communion in our local churches. It is a time of Christian unity as we each celebrate communion in our own traditions, but we celebrate together as one. We take up a special offering that supports scholarships and leadership development opportunities of international students who are pursuing advanced degrees. These gifts make an impact on the lives of individual students and the religious, social, and civic communities that they will serve. Please be generous. Use the special offering envelopes in the pews or write a check to Mt. Nebo UMC with World Communion in the note area.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The women met in September and decided to change the meeting date to the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Dotty Neal led us in a devotion that reminded us of the importance of second chances to serve Jesus in our lives. We will be planning a soup and sandwich sale for after Christmas. That may seem a long way off, but it takes some planning.

Katie Smith

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Isn't it a great feeling to know that you've made a difference in someone else's life? How about bringing joy to a child in need? Well, here is your opportunity! Every year, *Samaritan's Purse* and *Operation Christmas Child* deliver shoeboxes filled with gifts to children in need. Many of these children live in poverty-stricken and war-torn areas of the world. You can be part of this amazing ministry!

There is a pile of shoeboxes located in the Gathering Room. I encourage you to pick up a box (or two!) and fill it with items for children throughout the world. You will find a brochure inside each box which gives information and lists suggested items, such as school supplies, hygiene items, small toys and stuffed animals. Boxes can be filled for girls or boys in various age groups. Please do not include toothpaste, candy, or anything liquid (bubbles, shampoo, etc.). \$10 (cash or check payable to *Samaritan's Purse*) can be included in your box to cover the cost of shipping. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase items to fill shoeboxes and cover the cost of shipping.

Filled shoeboxes must be returned to the church by **Sunday, November 10, 2024** and can be placed in the conference room. Please contact Alyssa Berg at 301-641-9764 or by email at jasonandalysa@hotmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity with this special ministry!

Alyssa Berg

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Christmas Outreach is a wonderful program started by community church members many years ago. This ministry was created to provide families of S. Washington Co. in need with winter clothing and gifts for their children. The families are chosen from Boonsboro, Sharpsburg, and Pleasant Valley schools. Teachers in the school system have witnessed children without winter coats, hats, and gloves, also without shoes and boots that fit. These items are expensive for one child and most families have 3-5 children.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH CONT...

There are usually 15-20 families and approximately 50 children that the program provides for, and these families are divided among the local churches and the *Nora Roberts Foundation*. The families remain anonymous and are listed as Family 1, Boy age 8, etc. The lists hopefully will be up on the walls in the Gathering Room by the end of October.

The reason we start early is to catch the sales on the larger ticket items such as coats and boots. We also have a Christmas Outreach account for donations. If you don't enjoy shopping in the crowded stores you may participate by putting cash or a check (made out to Mt Nebo UMC and putting Christmas Outreach in the memo area) in the Outreach envelopes in the pews. We will be happy to shop for the items not purchased by other church members for the children.

We hope you will participate in this special ministry and share the Love of the Lord this Christmas. It has brought so much joy to the families that receive these gifts. If you have any questions, you may contact Ann Wright at 301-992-7216.

Ann Wright



FAITHSTEP

It is more blessed to give than to receive.
Acts 20:35 There are several dates coming up where you can serve at FaithStep (pancake breakfast ministry in Hagerstown) - **October 19, November 16, and December 21**. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room! Donations of tarps, feminine hygiene products and men's crew socks are also appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the Gathering Room. If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Berg at 301-641-9764 or jasonandalysa@hotmail.com. Thank you for being a blessing to others!

Alyssa Berg

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

MICAH'S BACKPACK

The Micah's Backpack program began on September 19, 2024 for our South Washington County area. The date for Mt. Nebo will start **Thursday, October 3**, for packing and delivery. Volunteers are welcome and always needed. The location will continue at Trinity Lutheran Church. The time is 1-3 pm on the Thursdays that we serve. Gina, our coordinator, reports the needs of: *Oatmeal packs, Boxes of macaroni and cheese, and Pop Tarts.* Donations can be brought to Mt Nebo and put in the donation box by the stairway.

Thanks as always, Ruth Resh

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

The Tri State Hope Builders are in the process of getting ready to leave town to serve in Hindman, Kentucky. Twenty-nine of us will be leaving Friday or Saturday September 27-28 for the 7-hour road trip through the West Virginia mountains.

The team has 28 members from eleven different churches in three different states. We will be involved in building two new homes that are only 5 minutes from each other and the families that will be living in them will be involved too. Our task is to get them weather tight. We will be starting from the foundation with the plate and floor joist. If all goes well, we may even be able to begin building the interior walls but that remains to be seen.

Please keep the team in your prayers. We are always more successful when we have your prayers of support as we need divine guidance and travelling mercies. May God be glorified through the team efforts and your support.

Cliff Wright

BOONESBOROUGH DAYS

On behalf of the organizers of this year's Boonesborough Days—Alyssa Berg, Patty Watson, and Don Dorsey—thanks go to each and every church member who supported this ministry in one way or another. Whether it was, donating startup funds, praying for our volunteers, making amazing brownies or cobblers, volunteering to set up or break down, or staffing the event—thank

BOONESBOROUGH DAYS CONT...

you! This year saw one of the largest net profits we've had since pre-COVID. Some of the success came from incorporating breakfast (which included Patty's amazing sausage gravy and biscuits) into our menu. God blessed us with perfect weather to sell cheesesteaks, nachos, cobblers, coffee, and ice cream!

In addition to funding the service and/or replacement of Boonesborough Days equipment, such as the ice cream maker, remaining profits will be allocated to the United Methodist Women's, United Methodist Men's, and Youth accounts to continue supporting all the great work done by these groups.

Don Dorsey

Many Hands Make Light Work

John Heywood



MISSION MOUSE

October is a busy month for all of us. We have a unique opportunity to help feed people who don't have enough to eat. This is the CROP WALK. If you can, be a walker, but if you know that walking is not something that you can do, please seek out members of Mt. Nebo who will be walking and support them with a donation. Every little bit collected will reach people in our own community and around the world. Too many people have too little to eat and we can help feed them by supporting our local CROP WALK.

There are collection buckets placed at each sanctuary door on Sundays if you'd like to give that way. Contact Patty Watson with any questions you have about this ministry at 727-303-1026.



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



BLESSINGS FOR VIM

BOONESBOROUGH DAYS



AROUND MT. NEBO & THE COMMUNITY



9-11 PARADE



OCTOBER 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
			6p Pickleball	6p Girl Scouts 6p Choir 7p Bells		9a Pickleball
Pastor Bob Vacation Mon 9/30—Sat 10/5						
6 9a Worship <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	7 630p Trustees Meeting	8	9 6p Pickleball	10 6p Choir 7p Bells	11	12 830a UMM Breakfast 9a Pickleball
13 9a Worship 2p CROP Walk	14	15	16 10a UMW Meeting 6p Pickleball	17 6p Girl Scouts 6p Choir 7p Bells	18	19 730a FaithStep 9a Pickleball
20 9a Worship 530p Youth Pumpkin Carving	21	22	23 6p Pickleball	24 6p Choir 7p Bells	25	26 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
27 9a Worship 2p Girl Scouts Halloween Party	28	29	30 6p Pickleball	31 6p Choir 7p Bells		

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

Change Service Requested

