

THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • November 2024

As we move into November, I want to carry forward on the theme of those things that we don't often discuss that keep us from fully developing in our Christian faith - willfulness, ambition, and the need for power.

In October, a great amount of time was spent on our willfulness and our ambition to satisfy our selfish needs – putting ourselves first and ignoring the needs of others. We continue this journey by adding the need for power and honor.

Example of power-hungry leaders abound in scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments. Almost like an old western movie, we see the pow-

er-hungry leaders selfishly abusing their powers to gain their objectives at any cost – most of the time at the expense of innocent people in their path.

We see the "good guys" as the leaders that are selfless, giving all that they can, promoting fairness and justice. However, when we see

power-seeking behavior occurring in the inner circle of Jesus' followers, we see the "good guys" behaving like "bad guys," it creates a dissonance in our minds. Maybe that's a good learning opportunity for all of us. It demonstrates clearly that no matter how close to God we are, we must be intentional in our desire to clear our minds of thoughts and actions that will lead us from our beloved creator. This can be seen in the disciple's behavior in Mark 10:35-40: James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what vou are asking. Are vou able to drink the cup that I



drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

In this scripture reading, we see James and John looking to be Jesus' chief ministers of state. Maybe this behavior was kindled because on more than one occasion Jesus had made them part of his inner circle. 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 hearts was the need for power and control in an earthly kingdom.

> It tells us that they completely failed to understand Jesus and his message. The amazing thing is not the fact that this incident happened, but the time at which it happened. After,

Jesus shared with them his fate – his ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Words were powerless to rid them of the idea of a Messiah of earthly powers and glory. Only the cross could do that.

The actions of James and John aroused deep resentment among the other ten. Immediately the old controversy about who was to be greatest began to rage again. However, Jesus takes immediate action. He calls them to him and makes it quite clear the different standards of greatness in his kingdom and in the kingdoms of the world. In the kingdom of the world, the standard of greatness is power. In the kingdom of Jesus, the standard is that of service. Greatness consisted not in reducing others to one's service, but in reducing oneself to their service.

Two thousand years later, the hearts of men

EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

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EPISTLE CONTINUED....

and women have not changed much. Henri Nouwen, the great author and pastor, observed 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 - "Our 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 to also come out victorious."

The 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 flesh in the carpenter from Nazareth, and he never once adhered to the model of popularity, success, or power. Nouwen calls us to walk the selfless way of Christ and to serve others in humility. Here are words that are very authentic, and one can almost hear the author turn them toward himself: "Our true challenge is to return to the center, to the heart, and to find there the gentle voice that speaks where we can pay selfless attention to others. This to us and affirms us in a way no human voice ever new freedom in Christ allows us to move in the could. The basis of all ministry is the experience of world uninhibited by our compulsions and to act God's unlimited acceptance of us as beloved chil- creatively even when we are laughed at and rejectdren, an acceptance so full, so total, and all- ed, even when our words and actions lead us to embracing, that it sets us free from our compulsion death." to be seen, praised, and admired and frees us for Christ, who leads us on the road of service.

from our needy self and thus creates new space presents a goal of a self-emptied heart and the

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Office Phone: 301-432-8741 Mt. Nebo Email: mt.nebo@mvactv.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

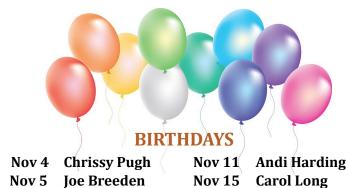
Nouwen wants us to ignore the lure of upward mobility and the temptations to be relevant, to be "This experience of God's acceptance frees us spectacular, and to be powerful. Instead, the Gospel

EPISTLE CONTINUED....

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. Amen.

Pastor Bob

NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Nov 5	Joe Breeden
	Toni Wetzel
Nov 8	Michelle Wright
	Rob Young
Nov 10	Ryan Shank

Nov 11 Andi Harding Nov 15 Carol Long Nov 25 Mary Ellen Roelkey Nov 26 Jack Dorsey Ruth Resh Nov 29 Cindy Kauffman

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 5Ed & Lucinda BeardNov 10Tyler & Katie DeatrichNov 12Dennis & Shawn Palmer





NOVEMBER LAY READERS:

Nov 3 All Saints Sunday — Katie Deatrich Nov 10 — Rob Young Nov 17 — Dianna Basile Nov 24 — Darce Easton



THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to those who gave to support the World Communion Special Sunday Offering. To everyone who walked the CROP Walk to support helping those who are hungry both around the world and here in our local community.

Our thanks to the Wrights and the Wetzels for giving of their time and energy to spend two weeks working in Kentucky with the VIM Team building homes for folks who lost their homes two years ago in a flood.

To everyone who has worked with FaithStep. We hope and pray that the program can continue when repairs are completed.

And to the youth for changing the location of the banners, so that we can enjoy seeing all the beautiful banners that they made.

"Thank you so much for the prayers for my surgery. They worked well. Thanks for all the great food and meaningful cards." Katie Smith

THANKFUL

YOUTH NEWS

MT. NEBO YOUTH NEWS

The youth group recently had a fun evening of fellowship while carving pumpkins together! There were lots of laughs and creativity! They are planning their 3rd Annual Parents' Night Out which is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7th**. Parents can drop off their children (ages 2 through 5th grade) and the youth group will entertain them for a few hours with games, crafts, dinner and fun! See the bulletin board at church for more information and registration forms. 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

PUMPKINS FOR THE YOUTH

Shout-Out to Meadows Sunny Garden Center for donating 16 fullsize pumpkins to the Mt. Nebo Youth Group for their Pumpkin Carving event! Please support Sunny Meadows when you get a chance!

Alyssa Berg



After the Youth submitted their final grant report detailing all of the accomplishments, development of the local sanctuary banners, and purchasing various furniture for the Clopper House youth space, the Church Conference expressed their interest in visiting the youth.

On **November 10th**, Ms. Meghan Humbert, the Baltimore/Washington Church Conference's Young People's Ministry Organizer will be visiting the youth from 6-7pm. The youth will present what they have accomplished thus far, express their future desires, and share how they want to

CONFERENCE TO VISIT CLOPPER HOUSE

grow closer to God. While Ms. Humbert joins our youth for the night, she will talk to the youth about what her visions are as well as the Church Conference's desires to expand/grow the youth through the UMC.

Don Dorsey

YOUTH SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

When you see our Senior Youth, please give them some love! On October 15th, two of our Senior Youth played their hearts out in their respective sports:

Anna Jackson #3 and the Volleyball Girls won 3 sets in a row against Catoctin High.

Owen Parish #21 won against Catoctin High in Boys Soccer by a landslide of 9-1, enacting the mercy rule to win the game early! Lilly Berg is splitting her time between Boonsboro High and Hagerstown Community College, as well as working as an aide at Mt. Nebo's Christian Learning Center!

Caitlyn Merrill has quickly gravitated to loving nature's beauty and has a soft spot for animals of all kinds. She started her own pet sitting business and all her reviews are A+!

Don Dorsey



CLC NEWS

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

As we enter November, it is a great time of year to talk to our children about the importance of giving thanks to family and friends. Teaching children to say "thank you" for a kind act is just the beginning. Being kind to others and appreciating the kindness of others are great lessons to instill at a young age. The best way to teach these lessons is by setting good examples and modeling behavior for our children. We are going to be coldrv foods and supplies lecting for the South County Food Pantry this month as a community service project until Friday, November 15th.

On **Tuesday, November 21st** at 11 a.m., we will be having our Thanksgiving Program for our Toddler 2, 2's, 2/3's, 3/4's and Outdoor classes. Our Thanksgiving feast will follow in the gym.

We Are Thankful....

1. For each child in our program and the privilege of being among their first teachers.

2. For the trust you place in us to partner with you and care for your child.

3. For spontaneous hugs, those that come in quiet moments and those that come in with a running start.

4. For the laughs.... These kids are hilarious!

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER CONT...

5. For the tears and the chance to dry them.

6. For the Aha moments, too many to write!

7. For the opportunities to witness love and kindness every day.

8. For the opportunities to witness that sense of accomplishment when a child climbs the play structure, catches the ball, solves a problem, sounds out a letter... the list could go on and on.

9. For the privilege of being that trusted adult when a child has a need, a joy, a concern, or even a boo-boo.

10. For the village that begins here and remains over the years!

11. For God who chose to redeem us for all eternity through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and for that we can give thanks to God every single day!

Mt. Nebo CLC will be closed on **Thursday**, **November 28th and Friday**, **November 29th** in observance of Thanksgiving.

The staff and I want to wish you and your family a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

> Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director

CHURCH NEW

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On a chilly Fall morning, ladies from UMW gathered for the monthly meeting. Cindy shared a devotional which reminded us that Jesus is always with us. We have eyes to see, ears to hear, and a



heart for Jesus. When we spend time each day in prayer, we can give our burdens to Him. We packed birthday gifts for the November birthdays at Sterl-

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CONT...

-ing Care. They will surely bring a smile to the residents there! There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to provide birthday gifts for one month next year. Betty Lou shared a cute story at the end of our meeting about Halloween and children's costumes for the "dish that ran away with the spoon" and the "cat and the fiddle." Join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, November 20** at 10:00am!





CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED UNITED METHODIST MEN TRUSTEES CONT...

With many men unavailable for our October 12th breakfast, I cancelled the event. A good-sized turnout on our **Saturday**, **November 9th** breakfast will be a blessing. We will be preparing for Christmas delivery to our church shut-ins following our **December 14th** breakfast. Also, we are looking forward to Souper Bowl Sunday in February.

Bruce Smith

TRUSTEES NEWS

It's been a busy early fall season as we work through our yearly inspections and continue to improve the property.

We appreciate everyone's patience over the past few months as we have addressed issues with our outdated, unsupported access control system. Unfortunately, we were caught off-guard with the timing and things took longer than expected to be addressed. Thanks to Cindy and Brandi for helping to work with Regional Fire and others during this process!

Since my last Clopper property update, we continue to try to finish the roof and gutter work after the weeks of rain forced us to hold off. The work with Happy Home Roofing will be completed during the last week of October. Thanks to Katie Deatrich for her work to secure grant funding that will cover 50% of the costs! The interior upgrades are in a holding pattern until we receive quotes to address the electrical and plumbing issues and decide how to tactfully restore these utilities. Recently, the dehumidification unit in the basement has been replaced and the work performed by the Youth looks great!



To support the CLC and their needs, we are working to install a new fence between the new playground equipment and stormwater pond. Inside the building, a washer and dryer will be installed in the mechanical space. We are trying to find a way to permanently fix the door frame leading into the FLC, and a security camera needs to be replaced.

We are currently seeking to identify new members to join the Trustees. Several members have terms ending this year and we need your help! If interested, please contact Andy or Pastor Bob.

Andy Pugh

CLOPPER HOUSE OPEN HOUSE

As the youth and Trustees continue to enhance the Clopper House, the Youth will be sponsoring an open house towards the end of November/ beginning of December. Stay tuned for the announcement as the date becomes closer!!

Don Dorsey



FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Happy November! This month reminds us to give thanks for our many blessings! For many of our brothers and sisters in flood and hurricaneprone areas, it must be hard to give thanks due to the recent misfortunes. This is where we step in and try to lift their spirits and provide some relief and hope for them. Through Mt. Nebo we have UMCOR that sends every penny donated to go directly to the relief effort. Our flood buckets and hygiene kits also go directly to those in need. And do not forget our Shoebox ministry. The list goes on. There are a lot of needs out there. And last, but not least, please support our church. Mt. Nebo is the hub of all that is good. "We must truly do God's work on this earth," as President John F. Kennedy once said. We are God's people.

> God Bless, Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

The United Methodist Student Day is a day when a special offering is taken to support scholarships for the education of our youth. There are young people from Mt. Nebo who have gotten scholarships with this program. Every dollar of your donation goes to support his program. It is a denomination-wide program celebrating our value in education. Scholarships are given to incoming college freshmen through students working for advanced degrees.

Please give generously on **November 24**. By working together, we can achieve so much more to make a difference in a student's life, than what any one person could do alone. You can give by writing a check to Mt. Nebo with UM Student Day in the note area, or you can use a special offering envelope to give a cash gift. Please put your name on the envelope and you will be given credit on your year-end statement.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who picked up and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! There are still shoeboxes available in the gathering room and each box contains a flyer which explains the ministry. Shoeboxes can be filled with small toys, school supplies, hygiene items and stuffed animals. Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to the church by **November 10** and they can be placed in the conference room. Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used for shipping costs. Checks should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child! Your generosity will spread joy to children throughout the world and provide them with opportunities to learn about God. If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Berg at 301-641-9764 or jasonandalyssa@hotmail.com.

Alyssa Berg



FAITHSTEP

Thank you to everyone who has supported FaithStep by volunteering there, donating items and/or money and praying for the ministry. Faith-Step is closed for the foreseeable future due to building repairs. I will update if/when they are able to reopen. Please keep them in your prayers.

Alyssa Berg

MISSION MOUSE

This month is the month to think about giving. There have been so many needs expressed for hurricane relief. Our first request comes from our United Methodist Committee on Relief

(UMCOR) for short. When you give to a need with UMCOR every bit of your donation goes to support the mission that you are giving to. Many of the other agencies that ask for donations



go to the administration of the mission. To give to UMCOR make a check payable to Mt. Nebo UMC and put hurricane relief and a check will be made out and sent to UMCOR. If you want to give cash, put the cash in one of the special offering envelopes and put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or take it to the Mt. Nebo office. Please mark the envelope with your name and write hurricane relief on the envelope.

You have all heard of Samaritan's Purse. What I think of is packing a shoebox when I hear that name, but they are wonderful at hurricane relief programs too. At present, they are working in North Carolina as well as Florida and other areas that have been affected by the latest hurricanes. They are there organizing people who volunteer for the day or who come to volunteer for longer periods. They do an amazing job. This all takes money and they accept donations also. You can mark your donation to be given totally for the project you have in mind, or you can give part of your donation for administration work. You can check out their web site or mail a donation to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000 Boone, NC 28607.

Another thing that we are doing at Mt. Nebo is filling flood buckets. The church is providing

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH CONTINUED

MISSION MOUSE CONT...

buckets and asking folks to pick up a list of items that need to be placed in the flood buckets. Please check out the lists and bring items to the church so we can fill the flood buckets and get them sent in as soon as possible. The need is great and we can help.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Christmas Outreach is a wonderful program started by community church members many years ago. It was created to provide families in the South Washington County area in need with winter clothing and gifts for the children. There are usually 15-20 families with close to 50 children divided amongst some local churches with Mt Nebo taking five or more families. The families remain anonymous and are listed as *Family 1, Boy 9, etc.* These lists will be up in the Gathering area by the first week of November.

You may participate in this ministry by choosing a child and signing up for needed items you would like to purchase for them. Once purchased and wrapped please label them with a post-it note that states the family # and child with age. Example: Family 2, Girl 7. Please have all gifts to the church by **Sunday, December 8**th.

We also have a Christmas Outreach account for donations. If you can't or do not like to shop the crowded stores, you may participate in this way. The money is used to purchase items that are not signed up for, usually the coats or boots, etc. We can accept cash in the Christmas Outreach envelopes in the pews, or by writing a check to the church and marking Christmas Outreach in the memo line at the bottom of the check.

Thursday, December 12th, will be a fun day of wrapping and labelling each gift and bagging them for pick-up or delivery. We will start at 9am and only ask you to bring scissors.

This ministry has been a real help to many local families, and they truly seem very appreciative. If you have any questions, you may contact Ann Wright at 301-992-7216.

May you find joy as you share God's Love in this way this Christmas. Ann Wright

TRI STATE HOPE BUILDERS—VIM

We served in Hindman, Kentucky this year. This town and the surrounding counties experienced two one hundred-year floods in two weeks. Forty-four people lost their lives with 22 of them in the Hindman area.

We served from September 28th to October 11th. The schedule was very flexible as we had 28 in the first week and 18 the second.

New construction was what we worked on exclusively. In every case, these new homes were built on higher ground. I don't think any of the homeowners had flood insurance as they were not living in a flood plain. These homes replaced much older homes and because of their age, the insurance coverage was on an actual cash value basis and not replacement cost. More than likely the homeowner only received about 60% of what the replacement cost would have been.

We worked with ASP (Appalachian Service Project). They are well funded and whatever we needed we received it in a timely manner. They provide these homes with a \$120,000 mortgage. Every year for 5 years \$20,000 of the mortgage is eliminated until the home is free and clear. For this to work the homeowner must live there for 5 years, it cannot be rented, no interior walls can be moved or modified, and they can't sell the home. After 5 years it is the homeowners free and clear, and they can do what they want with the home. Every family we met told us of their experience the morning of the flood. It began at 1 AM with no warning and there are many incidents of heroism and tragedy they shared with us. We have no idea about the damage and the horror these people experienced.



MISSIONS IN OUTREACH CONTINUED...

We worked on two homes in Sassafras, KY. One home had the exterior walls up and by the end of our time, the roof and siding were finished, the interior walls were up and the sheet rock was hung and finished and the plumbing and electrical were nearing completion. We worked with the contractors and in some cases side by side.

The second home in Sassafras was within a few hours of completion when we left on the last day. We built a set of steps, hung kitchen cabinets, hung all the doors, painted the walls and installed the quarter round. The only thing we didn't finish was the installation and painting of the baseboard. We were so close, but it was not to be. I'm sure they were in within a few days.

The home in Whitesburg was in move-in condition after we were done. We insulated the floor working from the crawl space, completed the painting and repaired a couple of doors that were unable to shut. We installed the handrails on the ramps and seeded the lawn.

In Neon, KY we painted the exterior of the foundation and did the same thing in Hazard.

In Wayland the team installed a much-needed ramp.

One of the reasons we were unable to finish the home in Sassafras is because we stopped working about noon on the last Friday we were there. We always take the time for the whole team to go to each of the homes and pray with the owners and bless the home. This has always been one of the highlights of the mission as we pray for good health and protection for the homeowners and the home.

This trip was one of the best ones I have experienced in the last 30 years. We stayed at the Hindman Methodist Church. Jan, my contact who helped with the arrangements, could not have been more helpful. She is married to a doctor, and he was very helpful with keeping our team in good health with prescription needs and health supplies. The second Sunday their drummer was not able to attend church, so Jeff Palm played the drums with them. This church is alive and well. Already they are helping with the recovery from Hurricane Helene sending the victims a pickup truck full of flood buckets and other items they will need.

Thank you for your support. We know the thoughts and prayers and the financial support are extremely important to the success of our mission and for God's glory. The planned date for next year's VIM Trip will be **9/29/25 to 10/10/25**.

Cliff Wright



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



IN THE COMMUNITY





NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			A A		1	2 9a Pickleball
3 9a Worship <i>All Saints Sunday</i> Flood Buckets Due	4 630p Trustees Meeting	5 Election Day	6 6p Pickleball	7 1p Micah's Backpack 6p Girl Scouts 6p Choir 7p Bells	8	9 830a UMM Breakfast 9a Pickleball
10 9a Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16
Shoeboxes Due 6p Confer- ence Visits with Youth		Jr Warrior Basketball Starts 630p-830p	6p Pickleball	JW Bball 8-930p 6p Choir 7p Bells	Newsletter Articles Due	9a Pickleball
17 9a Worship	18	19 630p Church Council Mtg JW Bball 630p-830p	20 10a UMW Meeting 630p CLC Advisory Meeting 6p Pickleball	21 6p Girl Scouts JW Bball 8-930p 6p Choir 7p Bells	22	23 8-9a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9a Worship United Methodist Student Day		JW Bball 630p-830p	Brandi Vacation 6p Pickleball	Happy Thanksgiving! Office	Closed	

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

Change Service Requested



