



THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • February 2025

As we enter the month of February, we look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day. A day where we offer expressions of our love to those around us that mean so much to us in our challenging journey through life.

As I reflect on this special time, chapter 13 of the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians comes to mind. Many of you may already be familiar with these words written over 2000 years ago to the ancient church in Corinth. It was a time that this Christian community was struggling with just getting along with each other. In this passage, Paul delivers the following powerful poetic message of love: *"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails."*

I have often wondered how a man like Paul, who had never married, nor had children, could understand the meaning of love so well. Maybe it is because he had spent so much of his life without love and that when he received it, through the outpouring of the Spirit of Christ on that road to Damascus, he could understand it far better than most - to be able to understand it in the way it is described in 1st John, Chapter 4, Verse 16a, that *"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."*

I believe that this beautifully written poetic passage should be internalized so that we can successfully face all the trials and tribulations that we may encounter in our personal lives. By understanding how we are called to love, we will better endure the times in our lives that cause stress and

conflict. Indeed, there will be times of struggle when the advice from Paul to an ancient church that couldn't get along, will be as relevant to you today in the 21st Century as it was the day it was written.

In these times, you will see that our love for each other will be the glue that will keep our families and communities together. It will be needed in good measure for those times when we are overwhelmed with the challenges of daily routines that tend to, at times, overwhelm our abilities to cope and maintain our sanity. It may be a time at home when a child has been up all night sick and crying - at a time when you and your spouse are exhausted, just wanting five more minutes of sleep - negotiating who will get up this time!

It will be needed in good measure in your relationship when you are overcome with anger and frustration over finances. When there are more expenses than income with more on the way. It will be needed when the car breaks down, or the washing machine doesn't wash. There will be many times that it will be this kind of love that will pull you through - through all the hardships that life can throw at you - when your loving family and community reaches out and protects and preserves you by "circling the wagons" in your times of need.

Even in good times, love will amplify your joys and hopes in times such as the birth of a child - the delight and joy of the grandparents and family. Those first steps, thoroughly documented with hours of video - the rejoicing at family dinners and on vacations, a fullness of life that can only be experienced with love in our hearts, abiding in God who is love and who abides in us when we love. And even though you will go through good



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE Continued

times and bad times, love will be the bond – love will preserve and protect because as the Apostle Paul tells us, love never fails.

Always remember that the lost opportunities for love and family in our lives, those special moments, can never be re-lived or recovered. So, live your lives wisely, full of love surrounded by family and community. Never allow those special heartfelt moments that serve to bring us closer to God and each other escape you. Write these words of Paul upon your hearts so that they will always be close and will serve you in your times of need.

When you finally get the hang of the ups and downs of life, whatever your age, it will be this type of love that will give you such immense joy and contentment that you will understand why it was worth all the effort, and you will pray to God with thanksgiving for all your blessings.

Let your love for each other be a shining example for all to see, not only on Valentine's Day, but for all the days of your lives. Amen.

Pastor Bob



FEBRUARY LAY READERS:

- February 2 — Don Dorsey**
- February 9 — Cindy Kauffman**
- February 16 — Tony Basile**
- February 23 — Lisa Riner**

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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FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Lydia Kowalski
February 4 Finley Parish
February 15 Lilly Berg
February 18 Shawn Palmer
February 20 Caitlyn Merrill
February 22 Ashley Baal
February 25 Teri Baal
February 27 Jody Breeden



ANNIVERSARIES

None for February



FROM A FORMER MT. NEBO MEMBER

"I am so happy to learn that Mt. Nebo's future has Mom and Dad "smiling down." It is wonderful to hear that young families are benefiting from all Mt. Nebo has to offer. Some of my fondest memories of growing up involve Mt. Nebo, the Youth Choir, Youth Fellowship, Easter Sunrise Services, Camp Penn, convocations, and family worship service.

Mt. Nebo helped shape my life and ingrain my faith. How reassuring to know that circle of faith is strong and well. It is hard to believe Mom has been gone 19 years passing on New Year's Eve 2005. Dad passed in 2007. All three of us miss them today and always."

Letter sent to and shared by Betty Lou Breeden

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT (Actual vs Budget)

Week of 1/19/2025 totals:

Regular Offering needed weekly - \$3,400.00
Last Sunday collected - \$4,978.23
YTD collected - \$8,606.37
YTD budgeted - \$10,200.00
Short of budget - \$1,593.63
Building Fund needed weekly - \$577.00
Last Sunday collected - \$30.83
YTD collected - \$1,298.18
YTD budgeted - \$1,731.00
Ahead of budget - \$432.82

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Special thanks to Amanda for being an inspiration for us all with her generosity and giving for the elderly people at Sterling Care.

To everyone who gave to support the United Methodist Human Relations Day offering.

To all who take the time to write an article and contribute pictures for our Beacon and to Brandi for formatting the Beacon.

Thank you, thank you to the Trustees for working to get the heating system back up and working.

Lots of thanks to those who took the time to take down the wonderful Christmas decorations.

To everyone who donated to help the Walsh family following the devastating fire they experienced.

To all who worked so hard to set up and take down the Family Life Center for the worship service when there was no heat in the sanctuary. And thank you to the brave souls who came to our worship service.

And to Brandi who has been working above and beyond during the time our heating system is on the fritz.

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women are having a Soup and Sub Sale to raise funds for our mission of serving women and children. Choose from pints (\$4) or quarts (\$7) of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable soup. For subs (\$5), choose from American or Turkey/Provolone, all with lettuce and tomato. All of the soups and subs will be made by the United Methodist Women. Baked goods will also be available for purchase when you pick up your soups and subs! Orders are due by **Sunday, February 9** and pick up will be on **Wednesday, February 19 from 4-6pm** in the Gathering Room. Please sign up for your order on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room or call or email Cindy at 301-432-6254 or ckauff6254@aol.com!

Our regular meetings occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 19 at 10:00am!**



Alyssa Berg

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

As we continue through the “bleak midwinter”, we need to be thankful for our church and our church family. To me it’s very uplifting to gather each Sunday to worship and catch up with each other. It is impressive to witness how well behaved our young people are during the worship service. Several of them are ready to lend a hand to help clean up communion, put away decorations, and acolyte, to mention a few things. Going forward, I would like us to commit to enriching their worship service and environment to have their own place to have some Christian Education. It will take planning and money. The least we can do is to provide the resources. Please tithe to Mt. Nebo so we can not only keep the lights on, but

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING Continued

give money for programs for our church as well.
Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Wow! It seems as if we have just finished celebrating Christmas and the New Year; however, it’s already mid-January as I write this. We are planning some exciting social and spiritual opportunities here at Mt. Nebo. Our Women’s group has planned a soup and sandwich sale for February to tide us through the cold of winter. Please see details on the bulletin board. Our movie night previously planned for January 25 has been rescheduled to March 1 and features an Italian theme. Please see the bulletin board to sign up and reserve a space. As usual, our youth group is busy and needs our support.

Spiritually, we need to look forward to the Lenten Season and Easter. The Lenten season begins on **March 5, 2025**. The *South Washington County Ministerium* is once again planning to publish a Lenten Daily Devotional. These devotionals will be a joint effort among the community churches. It is one way to observe Lent to reflect and prepare us for the joy of Christ’s resurrection, observed on Easter Sunday. I would strongly encourage the members of our congregation to choose a scripture and write a reflection and insight on that scripture. Brandi, in the church office, already has a list from which we can choose. For now, prayerfully consider being a part of this vital ministry and email her to sign up for a scripture. These are short devotions that can be reflective of your life and thoughts in relation to scripture. I try to pattern my devotional writing in the same vein as the Upper Room, which is a year-round devotional that we provide. Pick up one and browse through it. These are generally written by ordinary people just like you and me. I would also encourage our young people to do the same. It’s refreshing to read how they are feeling and their response to faith and scripture.

God Bless every one of you! You are all vital to our church!

Cindy Kauffman, Lay Leader

YOUTH AND CLC NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group recently enjoyed a pizza and game night at the Clopper House! It's wonderful to be able to gather at the Clopper House for activities after many months of working on renovations there! There is still work to be done, but it is a good feeling to be able to enjoy the fruits of our labors!

The youth group is still looking for another adult volunteer to work with Don when Alyssa steps back later this Spring. Please consider volunteering your time with the youth group! 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

February has arrived, bringing Valentine's Day and thoughts of love. This is an especially nice time of the year to show those we love just how much we care and appreciate them. Mt. Nebo Christian Learning Center staff hope that each one of you see and know the love we have for the children. We pray that our school would be a place where the love of Christ is evident, and the joy of the Lord is witnessed. One of the most important jobs we have as teachers at Mt. Nebo CLC is sharing Jesus' love! Not in just showing God's love but instilling in the little ones that God loves them all the time, no matter what, wherever they go, and whatever they do.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Our students will learn about local and influential

CLC Continued...

African Americans through books, learning experiences, art, and classroom discussions this month. Our students will learn about the importance of Dental Health and Hygiene. We hope to have a local dentist office come onsite for a dental presentation for our preschoolers later this month. Parent's Night Out is scheduled for **Friday, February 7th from 6 pm to 9 pm**. We will serve dinner, games, activities, and close the night with popcorn and a movie. We will celebrate love and friendship at our **Valentine's Day party on 2/14 @ 3 pm** for all ages. WCPS will be closed on **Monday, February 17th**. We will be planning a field trip for our school agers that day.

Summertime is just around the corner! I am currently preparing for our summer camp themes, field trips, on-site presentations, and many fun activities. Summer camp enrollment forms will be distributed by the first week in March. We all are looking forward to warmer weather!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH

MICAH'S BACKPACK AND WASH. CO. FOOD PANTRY

As of Jan. 2nd, 141 bags were packed and delivered each week for Micah's Backpack. We are thankful for all the helpful volunteers at Mt Nebo. Next packing will be **Tuesday, Feb 4 at 1pm.**

The Food Pantry continues at the Lutheran Church on the first and third Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 pm. They have been serving only 3 to 4 clients at each opening but choose to stay open to serve those who need this service. Canned veggies are always needed here.

Ruth Resh



MISSION MOUSE

As we start the second month of the year 2025, we are encouraged to make this a year where we keep the work of Christmas that embraces the spirit of generosity, that impels us to give of our time and talents as well as our dollars, to care, to share, to love and to labor for the greater good.

Take time to read the following poem by Howard Thurman each day and to live up to its words:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are gone,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:*

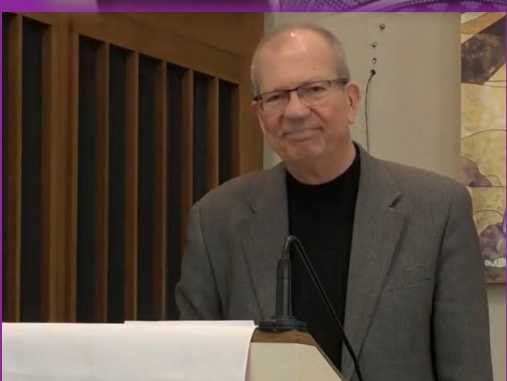
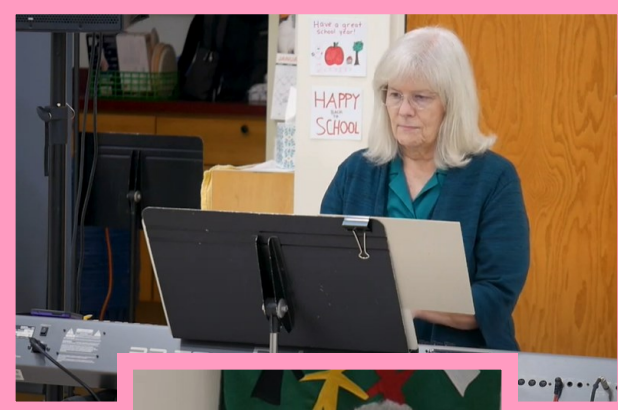
*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



PICS AROUND MT. NEBO Continued



FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BAAA and Jr Warrior Basketball in FLC every M/W 630-830p Tu 630-830						1 9a Pickleball
2 9a Worship	3	4 1p Micah's Backpack	5	6 6p Girl Scouts 6p Choir 7p Bells	7	8 9a Pickleball
9 9a Worship Soup & Sub Orders Due	10 Lenten Devotions Due	11	12	13 6p Choir 7p Bells	14	15 9a Pickleball Newsletter Articles Due
16 9a Worship	17	18	19 10a UMW Meeting 4p-6p Soup & Sub Pickup	20 6p Girl Scouts 6p Choir 7p Bells	21	22 8a SHARE Pickup 9a Pickleball
23 9a Worship	24	25	26	27 6p Choir 7p Bells	28	

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

Change Service Requested

