

THE BEACON

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

Newsletter of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church • January 2025

As we have entered the New Year, many of you may have thought of ideas for your New Year's resolutions. Among the top resolutions for 2024 were: saving more money, exercising more, eating healthier, losing weight, reducing stress, and spending less time on social media.

The desire to start the year off with positive personal goals is a great idea. Following through on these resolutions is where many tend to fail. Of all the Americans that make New Year's resolutions, less than 10% successfully keep them, with a significant portion (23%) giving up within the first week and 43% by the end of January. Younger adults are more likely to make resolutions than older adults, with the largest group being those aged 18-29. With so many failures, maybe it is time to try a different type of resolution - resolutions that are spiritual in nature. Resolutions that lead to abundant life without requiring any investment in high cost gadgetry or memberships to succeed.

But the real question is, how do we get started on these spiritual resolutions? How can we start to make real changes in our spiritual life? One way is to start with a few small changes and then allow the Spirit to lead us to further change. Once we open the door to the Spirit of the Lord, it will take the lead and guide us.

To begin, try taking a rest from all the media noise that bombards us on a regular basis. Although we need to be responsible, informed citizens, we don't need to overwhelm our senses with all the noise of this world buzzing in our heads. We need to replace this time with a time for prayer and reflection. Because we are called to constant prayer by our Lord, this is one of the most

effective spiritual disciplines. 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.*" This action is linked to the first part of the great commandment found in Mark 12:30, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*"

Another step in this journey is to replace focusing on our own needs and issues with focusing on the needs of our brothers and sisters around us, and connecting in a way that is meaningful with true love and compassion. We can do this by always showing kindness and patience to our brothers and sisters. At the same time, we should all work to eliminate envy and boastfulness, arrogance, and rudeness in all that we do. We should reach out to those that have the greatest needs. At all times, we need to remain steadfast in this care. This is the call that we receive from the second part of the great commandment found in Mark 12:31, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" I know this is not easy and can be a challenge, especially when we practice this in every interaction that we have in our lives! Not just in church or once a week for an hour, but for every waking moment in our lives for as long as we live!

We must also take time in our lives for the study of scripture. We need the 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, gives us the example for leading Christian lives in this very secular world that we live in today. We must read this living word of God and allow it to speak to us on a daily basis. We



EPISTLE & CHURCH INFO

EPISTLE Continued

must meditate on these readings and internalize them in a way that allows us to understand the full meaning for us in today's world. By regularly reading scripture, tied to a Bible study where we freely discuss scripture, we are opened to many new interpretations and possibilities gained from the diversity found in our Christian community.

Separating ourselves from earthly things requires us to not only give of ourselves, but to joyously and with a happy heart make offerings to the church and other charitable organizations. This frees us from the desire to accumulate earthly possessions, which allows us to focus on being the servants of God in this very broken world. In Luke 6:38, we are told to, "Give and it will be given to you."

A final step is to attend church services on a regular basis and to take part in the sacrament of communion whenever it is offered. In our church attendance, we stand in the holy presence of God. By partaking in communion, we are united with God in a holy mystery that provides spiritual nourishment for the journey. By receiving this spiritual nourishment on a regular basis, we can be strengthened in our faith, which will allow us to endure all the challenges that our faith in Jesus will face in this world.

By setting a New Year's resolution to begin a spiritual journey with these simple practices, we will begin to see the fruits of this effort working in all that we do. As you start down this path, the Spirit of the Lord will guide and strengthen you and perfect you in the love of God. Your heart will be opened, and your ears will hear. You will be eager and joyous in serving our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Pastor Bob



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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JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

January 1 Mary Wade
January 2 Will Riner
January 7 Skip Kauffman
Bella Wade
January 11 Lucinda Beard
January 14 Jenni Dorsey
January 15 Harper Shank
January 20 Pat White
January 23 Patty Watson
January 25 Landon Parish
January 29 Jimmy Thompson

ANNIVERSARIES

None for January



CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you have not already, please be sure to pick up your Christmas cards from the Mt. Nebo Post Office in the Gathering Room!



JANUARY LAY READERS:

January 5 — Toni Wetzel
January 12 — Mary Ellen Roelkey
January 19 — Rob Wetzel
January 26 — Bella Wade

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT (Actual vs Budget)

Week of 12/29/2024 totals:

Regular Offering needed weekly - \$3,400.00
Last Sunday collected - \$2,043.81
YTD collected - \$165,923.83
YTD budgeted - \$176,800.00
Short of budget - \$10,876.17
Building Fund needed weekly - \$577.00
Last Sunday collected - \$60.95
YTD collected - \$32,000.22
YTD budgeted - \$30,004.00
Ahead of budget - \$1,996.22

Figures from Christmas Eve service 12/24/2024:

Regular offering collected - \$1,403.75
YTD collected - \$163,880.02
Short of budget - \$9,519.98

THANKS-GIVING FOR THANKS-LIVING

Many thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for our Christmas season.

To all the men who delivered small gifts to our Mt. Nebo shut-ins.

Thank you, thank you to Ann Wright and all her many helpers who were able to purchase and wrap gifts for 5 families in our area who were in need.

To all who purchased meals for these families and to Cindy Kauffman for getting this part of our Christmas Outreach organized.

Thank you to our Music Ministry for providing special music for the Church Historic Tour.

To Pastor Bob for his leadership for our Advent Bible Study.

To the Trustees, the youth leaders and to the youth for working to fix up the Clopper House and holding an Open House to share this work with us.

Special thanks to each family who led the lighting of the Advent candles as part of our worship services for the season.

CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A new year brings new opportunities for the United Methodist Women! Our mission is to serve women and children. In an effort to do that, we are holding a Soup and Sub Sale to raise funds for our mission. Choose from pints (\$4) or quarts (\$7) of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable soup. For subs (\$5), choose from Ham/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!

SAVE THE DATE! On **Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 5 p.m.**, we will be hosting a Family Dinner and a Movie Night! The meal will include baked spaghetti, salad, bread, applesauce, and dessert with a movie to follow.

Our regular meetings occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 15** at 10:00am!
Alyssa Berg

“SAVE THE DATE”



Saturday, Jan 25 at 5pm

Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Bread,

Applesauce & Dessert

Hosted by the United Methodist Women

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Mt. Nebo men made time during the busy Christmas season to deliver Christmas greetings, cards and a cute gift to our shut-in friends. Upcoming events will include Souper Bowl Sunday, a fund raiser for the Society of St. Andrew in February.

We will meet for breakfast on the second Saturdays in January through April. Plan to join us at each of these meetings.

Bruce Smith

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Happy New Year! I want to start the year by not harping about Mt. Nebo's financial situation. We are behind budget with our giving, but "it is what it is." Thankfully, by the grace of God, our overall financial position is excellent. Anyone who wants details, please come and ask me. My only concern is that our yearly operational budget is not being met. Let God lead you in your personal giving. Mt. Nebo's mission depends on its faithful members. I know that you have our church's well-being in your heart!

God Bless, Skip Kauffman, Finance Chair

MUSIC NOTES

Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church has a four-octave set of English Handbells. Currently, we have enough ringers to play two octaves, but we pray that others will join us so we can use all four.

The modern form of English handbells was developed in the late 17th century by the brothers Robert and William Cor, who were blacksmiths in Aldbourne, England. English handbells are primarily made from a bronze alloy, usually a mix of 80% copper and 20% tin, known as "bell bronze." The bells are cast in molds and then carefully machined and tuned to ensure they produce the desired pitch. Since the 17th century, they have refined the design to make a pure and tunable tone, creating the instrument we recognize today.

In England, tower bells in churches and cathedrals were rung in sequences called change ringing, requiring teamwork and precise coordination.

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

MUSIC NOTES Continued

However, practicing with massive tower bells disrupted communities due to the noise and effort involved. Handbells provided a quieter, portable alternative for practice. Over time, musicians recognized the potential of handbells as a musical instrument. By the 18th and 19th centuries, handbell ringing evolved into a performance art form, with players ringing tunes instead of sequences. Each bell is tuned to a specific note, making them ideal for harmonic melodies and precision. Handbell ringing requires multiple synchronized players, each responsible for specific notes.

MUSIC NOTES Continued

The movements of the ringers, combined with the pure tones of the bells, create a captivating performance experience. Today, English handbells are used in sacred and secular contexts for everything from Christmas carols to complex concert pieces, fascinating audiences worldwide. For more information you can check out the following link from Willowsford Weekly:

<https://www.willowsfordlife.com/CivicSend/ViewMessage/message/187897>

Rose Gamblin

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

In this new year, the youth will continue to expand their faith through Sunday School, community service and fellowship. Work on the Clopper House over the past several months has brought us to the point of being able to use that space! Thank you to everyone who supported this project and who joined us for the Open House!

We have 4 students who will be graduating from high school in just a few short months - Anna, Caitlyn, Lilly and Owen. As we come closer to this milestone, Alyssa will be stepping back from the youth group. For the youth group to remain successful, we will need a second non-related adult to work with Don. 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



CLC NEWS

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and a relaxing break with your families. The holiday season is such a great time to reflect and count our blessings! Thank you to all of you who brought us cards, goodies, and gifts! It is time to settle back into our routines and continue our learning journeys. We have lots of fun things happening in January!

During January, the children will be learning about Artic Birds, Animal Hibernation, Snowmen and Snowflakes, and Outer Space.

Also, we will be celebrating *National School Choice Week* during the week of **January 26th**! What is school choice? It is the process of allowing every family to choose the best educational program that fits their children. Every child deserves an effective, challenging, and motivating education. Each child has their own unique set of talents, interests, and challenges. What works well for one

CLC Continued

child may not work well for another child! In short, school choice ensures that each student can find a learning environment that allows them to be inspired, successful and happy. We are so grateful to have Mt. Nebo CLC as an early childhood education experience. For this celebration, we will be having a fun-filled spirit week with fun activities planned!

Outdoor play strengthens the immune system with the fresh, chilly air which helps fight off infections and builds resistance to allergies. It also helps burn extra energy, promotes problem solving and cognitive thinking, boosts Vitamin D levels, and uplifts moods. The Outdoor Class will be bundling up to go outside every day.

WCPS will be closed on **Monday, January 20th** and **Tuesday, January 21st**, so a tubing field trip for our school agers is being planned.

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

Hugs and High Fives, Ms. Kim, Director

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH NEWS

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

It is with a grateful heart that we write to inform you there are twelve local children wearing lovely clothes and new boots, sneakers and a warm winter coat. There were many toys to be put under the tree for each of them to use for months ahead. The five families each received a Share Holiday package of a delicious meal for this Christmas. This was all possible because of the care and concern our church family has for those in need.

A big "Thank You" to each one who purchased items for these children and for the giving hearts of those who donated funds so that we could purchase gifts that were still needed. True appreciation to the UMW and individuals who provided for the Share packages. Most of the gifts were wrapped in bright paper, but there were still some that needed special elves to complete the wrapping, labeling and organizing all the gifts into a Santa bag for each child.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH Continued

Can you feel it? The real JOY of this season. Your loving, generous spirit is sharing Our Lord's light in our community to those less fortunate at this time. May you be blessed in the year ahead.

Ann Wright



Thanks Cindy, Candy, Katie, Toni and Ann

MISSIONS IN OUTREACH Continued

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS 2025

Each year the *South Washington County Ministerium* puts together a devotional to use through the season of Lent with members of the churches submitting devotions from scriptures. If you would like to be involved in writing a devotional for 2025, please contact the church office so that the list of scriptures can be sent to you. You choose the scripture you would like to write about, you share your own thoughts and reflection of the scripture in 200 words or less, then send the devotion to Mt. Nebo's office to be printed. **The deadline for the devotions to be written and sent in is February 10th!** If you have any questions, please email Brandi at mt.nebo@myactv.net or Pastor Bob at pastorbob2017@gmail.com.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY — JAN 19

On **Sunday, January 19, 2025** we will be joining all other Methodists in taking up an offering for *Human Relations Sunday*. This is a day when we try to follow the second commandment that Jesus gave us. That is to love our neighbor as ourselves. The special offering taken up on this day goes to work toward eradicating hunger, poverty and homelessness. Please give generously so that in some small way we can show our love toward our neighbors.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article>

ERT (EARLY RESPONSE TEAM)

Ann and I participated in an ERT trip on November 18, 2024. The team went to Fries, VA, (according to the locals, this is pronounced Freeze in the winter and Fries in the summer) to help with the damage left by Hurricane Helene in October. This town is located south of Wytheville, VA

ERT (EARLY RESPONSE TEAM) Continued

just north of the NC border near the New River. We stayed in the lodge at Camp Dickenson, a UMC camp similar to our Camp Manidokan.

There were 17 on the team with 5 of us from the *Tri State Hope Builders*. This turned out to be a mini-VIM trip as we installed a bathroom vanity, put a new roof on a bathroom that had previously been added to the back of a home and sanded the concrete floor of a church to prepare it for new vinyl flooring. It was a challenge as we were prepared to remove water damaged sheet rock and soaked household goods, but among all who served, we found the tools we needed to complete the projects. This was another lesson in being flexible.

We ended up leaving a day early as snow was predicted for the homes of several of the others who came from West Virginia and the Cumberland area. A few stayed for a couple of hours to finish up the roof project, but all of us arrived home safely. What a pleasure it was to serve with this team. They all have servant's hearts.

Cliff Wright

MISSION MOUSE

At a time where there is so much going on in the world that seems to be negative and hateful, the following words of Henry W. Longfellow bring peace to my heart:

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And mild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had roll'd along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.



And in despair I bow'd my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men"
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep:
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

PICS AROUND MT. NEBO



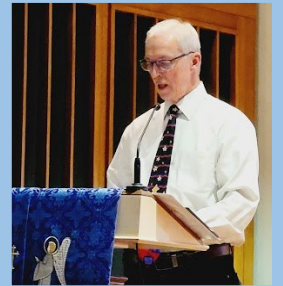
PICS AROUND MT. NEBO

Christmas Eve



Gift Bags for the Kids

Youth Gift Exchange

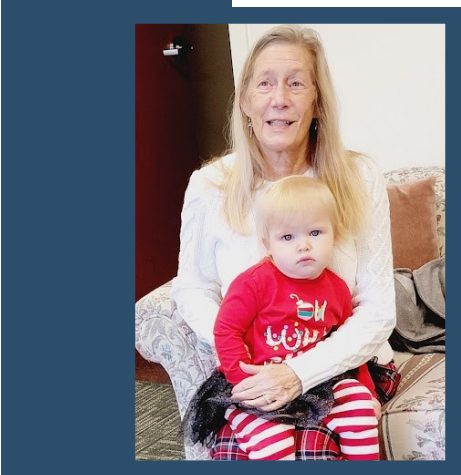


COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Historic Tour of the Churches



Amanda handmade and delivered 111 cards and ornaments for the residents at Sterling Care.



January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BAAA and Jr Warrior Basketball in FLC every M/W 630-830p Tu 630-830p			1 <i>HAPPY New Year</i>	2 Micah's Backpack 1p Girl Scouts 6p NO Choir	3	4 9a Pickleball
5 9a Worship FLC Occupied 5p	6 630p Trustees Meeting	7	8	9 6p Choir 7p Bells	10	11 830a UMM Breakfast 9a Pickleball
12 9a Worship	13	14	15 UMW Meeting 10a Newsletter Articles Due	16 Girl Scouts 6p 6p Choir 7p Bells	17	18 SHARE Pickup 8a 9a Pickleball
19 9a Worship <i>Human Relations Day</i>	20	21 630p Council Meeting	22	23 6p Choir 7p Bells	24	25 9a Pickleball 5p Family Dinner & a Movie Night
26 9a Worship	27	28	29	30 6p Choir 7p Bells	31	

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

Change Service Requested

hello
WINTER

