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Volume 24 - Issue 3—May / June, 2020

## *Graduates Issue*

### An Encouraging Word

Look up higher. Those words remind me of something that happened to my father-in-law. At one time, he ran a full-time business and also farmed a small farm in the evenings and on weekends. He was in a hurry much of the time as you can imagine. One day he was walking across the barnyard at a fast pace with his head down looking more to the ground than straight ahead. Because of that, he failed to see the forks of a loader bucket that had been left up in the air about head high. The collision was very painful and left a terrible gash in his head. That day would have turned out much better for him if he had only looked up higher.

A similar principle is true for all of us especially during these days that have been largely focused on the CoronaVirus COVID-19. It's easy for our minds and hearts to be focused downward on the latest questions and concerns. What should I be doing to avoid it? When will it peak? When and how can we safely reopen businesses, churches and travel? Will cases peak again later in the year? When will a vaccine and proven treatments be available? It's easy for our minds and hearts to be focused downward on the latest questions and concerns because the news is dominated by COVID-19 information. On any given weekday (at least up to the end of April) three to four hours of live TV updates are available from our president, our governor, the mayor of Cincinnati and the governor of Kentucky, not to mention nightly local and national news reports. It's hard not to be focused downward. And doing so can make our heads hurt from massive amounts of negative news. And it can make our hearts ache for our losses, for the losses of others and for the loss of a future we had envisioned prior. We're searching for answers, medical treatments, and solutions. We're naturally looking for hope. However, we will not find lasting hope looking down. God tells us to look up higher.

Psalm 121 is part of God's encouragement to look up higher. Verse one reads "I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?" At first glance we may think that the writer of this Psalm is telling us that by looking up to the mountains we find God.

*Continued on page 2*

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However, the meaning is actually the opposite. At the time this Psalm was written, the well-known practice of idol worshippers was to build shrines on the highest peaks. Therefore, to call out for help from their idol, worshippers looked up to the mountains. In verse two the Psalmist declared that he chose not to look to idols but instead he chose to look up higher. "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." He stated that he didn't look up to the mountains and the idols positioned there. He looked up to the Maker of the mountains. The remaining verses of this Psalm go on to describe God the Maker of heaven and earth. Verses three and four: The Lord watches over all who rely on Him keeping them safe and He never sleeps. He is always watching over us. Verses five and six: The Lord watches over and protects us from harm from the elements that surround us (expressed as the sun and the moon). Verses seven and eight: The Lord watches over and keeps us from all harm, when we come in and when we go out both now and forever. Looking up higher to the Lord is where we find the complete help and lasting hope we need today and forever. To what are you choosing to look? Our ultimate help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth! Look up higher, it's our best choice!

Looking up higher with you,  
—Pastor Mike

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### **Eventual Return to Public Worship**

**W**e look forward to the day when we can start up public worship. When we can, we will do so in accordance with federal and state guidelines. These guidelines are grouped under Phase One, Phase Two, and Phase Three. Our West Ohio Bishop Gregory Palmer and a team of leaders in our Conference have compiled a list of specifics that offer help to apply these guidelines to our churches. They of course include social distancing. This will mean that when we can meet together, we will need to wear masks, refrain from handshakes and hugs, and not sit close to other people outside our immediate family. How we receive the offering will change as well as how Holy Communion is served. We will not be able to offer nursery, Sunday School classes, or Children's Church for a while after we can meet. And there will be other necessary changes as well.

We do plan to continue to offer online worship opportunities and some small groups hosted online as options for people who either should not meet with larger groups (because of vulnerability) or who do not feel comfortable resuming face to face when it is first permitted. Eventually, we will get to meet together to worship, profess our faith in Jesus, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds in His name. And any necessary changes needed to do this will fade into the background as we focus on bringing glory to God. Please join me in continuing to pray for each other and our community.

—Pastor Mike

### **Giving Options**

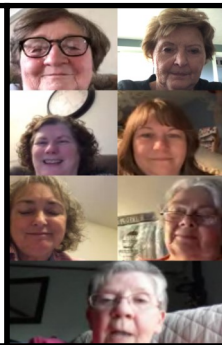
If you would like to continue giving to Mt. Nebo as part of your worship to God, please contact the church office at [mountneboumc@frontier.com](mailto:mountneboumc@frontier.com) for options.

## Adult Small Groups

While meeting together in small groups face to face has not been possible for the last 6 weeks, many of our small groups have explored and used new ways to meet. Whether or not they have been able to continue to study, the people in these groups have found ways to stay connected with one another- through phone calls or texts. If you are not already part of a small group, I invite you to pray about connecting with others to study through a small group at Mt. Nebo UMC. If you are interested in being part of a small group, please contact Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator.

### Heart to Heart

Heart to Heart is finishing a study in May It's Not Supposed to Be This Way by Laura Story. When the group began this study in January, little did the group know how they would begin to say this title over in their heads in this present situation of being physically distanced from others. A big thank you to Elise Starkey for continuing to lead this group through a Facebook video messaging format, so the group could continue to study and grow in faith.



### 7 AM Bible Study Group

The Early Morning Women's Group has also been connecting via Facebook Messenger as they continue their study of the Gospel of John. The amazing part is that the group attendance has grown over the past 6 weeks. It has been a time to study and pray for one another's needs. Thank you to Kristine Brookover for leading this study, even during less than ideal times.



### Mt. Nebo Financial Peace University 2020

Congratulations to the recent FPU graduates from the Mt. Nebo UMC group. The 10 participants in the 2020 FPU group finished by collectively paying off more than \$22,000 in debt and saving an additional \$11,000 over the 9-week period of the course. The course, which began in late January as a face to face small group transitioned to an online format once face to face small groups were postponed in March.

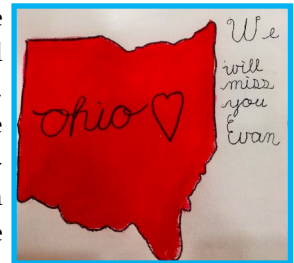
A special thanks to Mike Kirk and Lucas Hiler for leading this course. Despite obstacles, Mike and Lucas helped this group be 'on their way' to financial freedom. If you would like to enroll in FPU, please contact Brenda Reed for details about upcoming dates.



## Your Family Can Make a Difference with a High Five

While we are finding new and different ways to connect... Take the 'High Five' challenge!!! Encourage everyone in your family to connect with 5 people this week who could use some encouragement or a special note; a hand written message,

picture drawn and colored, a special Facetime message or a phone call. We could make someone's day by taking this 'High Five' Challenge. If the 200 people who typically attend Mt. Nebo on any given Sunday took the High Five Challenge we could reach 1,000 people with a little love of Jesus this week.



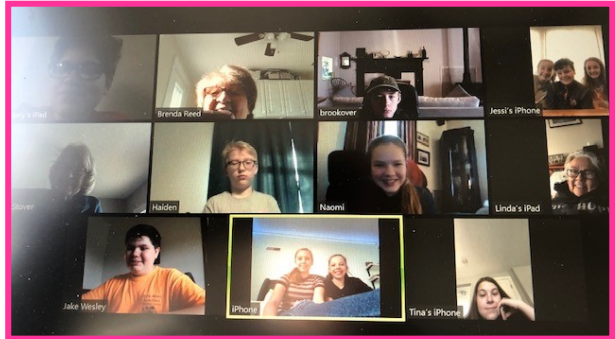
The 4th and 5th graders have stayed connected with their peers from Mt. Nebo UMC over the past six weeks, even when

they have had to change most things in their lives. 4 to 5 has met at 4:30 PM on Mondays since September. Throughout the stay-at-home order it has been great for this group to meet virtually for devotions and a time to share their joys and concerns. The main focus has been Joy, Perseverance, and Faith; these have been topics the group has explored as we study from scripture and discuss how it applies to our lives today. A special thanks to Alyssa Eubanks who has been willing to lead discussions with the group each week, plus a special thanks to parents who take the time to help their sons or daughters use the technology needed to make these group times possible! If you have a 4th or 5th grader in your family that would like to be part of this group, please contact Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator.

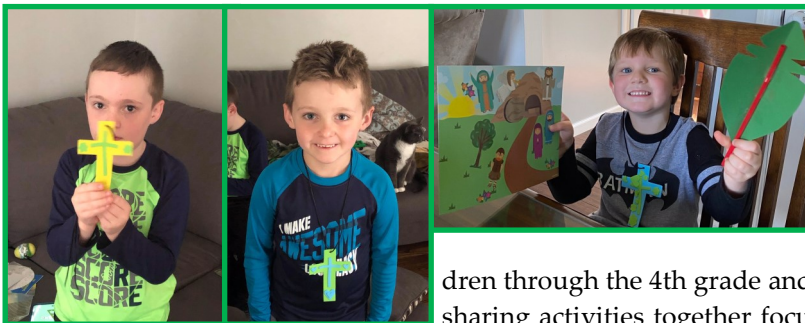
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devos &  
donuts



If it is Wednesday morning, it must be Middle School Devotions and Donuts. Throughout the school year, this group has met weekly to share breakfast, devotions, and time to pray. Since the youth have been having school from home, Devos and Donuts have continued to meet virtually. Although we have not been able to share breakfast together, the middle school group has been faithful to meet for a weekly devotion and time together. This past year we have been grateful for those who have helped with this group. A special thank you to Linda Henry, Jim and Sandy Wesley, and Linda Stover for their willingness to make this small group possible! As the school year comes to an end in a few days, we will be celebrating our 8th graders who will be high schoolers next fall.



### Family Easter Event Bags Delivered

This past year, activity packs were delivered to Mt. Nebo UMC families, so children

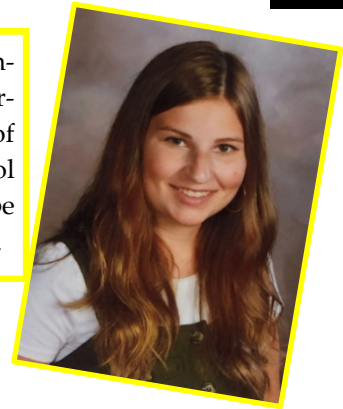
through the 4th grade and their families could enjoy sharing activities together focused on the events leading up to and including Easter. The packs were assembled to

meet the needs of the age of the children in the home. In years to come, when we can once again host a face to face Family Easter Event, providing families with take home bags will let families study and make memories together during the Easter season. Activity packs were delivered to 40 children.

# CELEBRATE



**Maddie Shepherd** is the daughter of Chris and Angela Shepherd and the grand-daughter of Harlan and Nancy Moore. Maddie is a graduate of Western Brown High School and also attended University of Cincinnati Clermont. She was on the Softball team and Cross Country team for 2 years. She will be attending University of the Cumberlands in the fall studying Education.



**Grace Erhardt** is the daughter of Chris and Gail Erhardt. Grace is a graduate of Western Brown High School with Honors. Grace will be attending college in the fall.

**Chance Moore** is the son of Scott and Connie Moore and grandson of Harlan and Nancy Moore. Chance is a graduate of Western Brown High School and attended University of Cincinnati Clermont. He was on the Track and Field team for 3 years and the Basketball team for 4 years. This fall he will be attending the University of Cincinnati studying Civil Engineering.



**Gunner Henry** is the son of Bill and Anna Henry and grandson of Linda Henry. He is a graduate of Fairfield High School with Honors, Advanced Placement Scholar and the Co-captain of the Academic Team. Gunner will attend The Ohio State University majoring in Economics and Political Science.

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**Jami Brosenne** is the daughter of Jim and Jennifer Brosenne and a graduate of Fayetteville High School and Southern State Community College with an Associates of Arts degree. Jami plans to attend Wilmington College this fall and double major in Agriculture Business and Education with a minor in Equine Studies. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Vice President of her FFA chapter. Jami has been named the FFA Star Student all 4 years and has earned her FFA state degree and is an FFA state finalist for the state proficiency project in Nursery/Greenhouse production. She has been a member of the state FFA choir and was the Brown County Fair 2019 Equestrian Ambassador. She will also be a team member of the 2020-2021 Wilmington College equestrian team.



**Emma Sams** is the daughter of Joey and Lori Sams and is a graduate of Western Brown High School and also attended Southern State Community College. Emma was on the varsity Volleyball and Basketball teams for 4 years and has received Scholar Athlete all 4 years. She also was first team for Basketball the past 2 years. She plans to attend Mount St. Joseph to play basketball and major in Business Management.



**Ryan Cooper** is the son of Kris and Heather Cooper and is a graduate of Western Brown High School. Ryan is a Scholar Athlete, D1 Regional Cross Country Qualifier and has received a ROTC scholarship and Cross Country/Track scholarship to Wright State University. He plans to major in Cyber security or Geography at Wright State University.



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**Madison Davis** is the daughter of Mark Davis and Lisa Davis. She is a graduate of Western Brown High School with Honors. Madison was also a member of the National Honor Society and Honor Band. She is attending Ohio University studying Education / High School Science teacher.

**Hannah Carter** is the daughter of Craig and Kristi Smith and granddaughter of Pat Cornett. Hannah is a graduate of Wilmington College with a double major in Animal Science and Vocational Education. She is pursuing a position in this field.



**Samantha Clark** is the daughter of Roger and Michelle Clark. Samantha is a graduate of Thomas Moore University with a Bachelors of Art degree in Biology. She plans to go on to graduate school next year.

**Emma Wells** is the daughter of Marc and Tracy Wells and granddaughter of Mike and Rose Wells and Truman and Carol Sue King. Emma will graduate in August from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with her Masters of Science in Nursing. She is applying to residency programs with a focus on labor and delivery. Emma is a Certified Doula and hopes to move south.



*Continued on next page*



**Evan Wells** is the son of Marc and Tracy Wells and grandson of Truman and Carol Sue King and Mike and Rose Wells. Evan is a graduate of Southern State Community College and will sit for the NCLEX Exam to gain licensure as a Registered Nurse. Evan is moving to Baltimore, Maryland, and will be applying to RN positions in the area. Evan is continuing his education and hopes to one day practice as a Nurse Anesthetist.



**Abby Clark** is the wife of Nick Clark and daughter-in-law of Roger and Michelle Clark. She is a graduate from Nova Southeastern University with her Masters in Public Health. Nick is starting Physician Assistance school at Lincoln Memorial in Tennessee, so they will be moving to TN and she hopes to work at the Center for Disease Control Foundation to help with COVID-19 efforts.

**A Graduate's Prayer**  
 Father, I have knowledge,  
 So will You show me now  
 How to use it wisely  
 And find a way somehow  
 To make the world I live in  
 A little better place...  
 And make life with its problems  
 A bit easier to face-  
 Grant me faith and courage  
 And put purpose in my days-

And show me how to serve Thee  
 In the most effective ways.  
 So all my education, my knowledge  
 And all my skill, may find  
 Their true fulfillment  
 As I learn to do Thy Will.  
 And may I ever be aware  
 In everything I do that  
 Knowledge comes from learning-  
 And wisdom comes from you.  
 (Unknown)



# RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES

Although graduations and celebrations for our graduates may look different in many ways this spring, the prayers and hopes for these graduates have not changed. As a congregation of Mt. Nebo UMC, we are looking forward to a time when we can recognize both our high school and college graduates.

Please keep these graduates in your prayers as they take the 'next steps' into their future. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

for all you do  
you do with love  
you are so special  
a gift from above  
and with all my heart  
I want to say  
I LOVE YOU MOM  
happy mother's day



## *A Father Just Like You*

*I just want to let you know  
You mean the world to me  
Only a heart as dear as yours  
Would give so unselfishly*

*The many things you've done  
All the times that you were there  
Help me know deep down inside  
How much you really care*

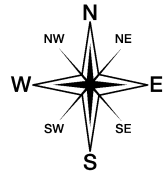
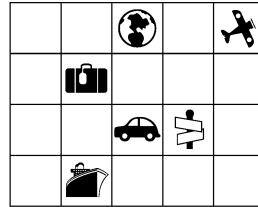
*Even though I might not say  
I appreciate all you do  
Richly blessed is how I feel  
Having a father just like you*

W  
L  
N  
Z  
R

# Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

*Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.*



**Start at the SHIP.**

Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N  \_ \_ \_ \_

**Start at the WORLD.**

Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE  \_ \_

**Start at the SUITCASE.**

Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E  \_ \_ \_

**Start at the PLANE.**

Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W  \_ \_

**Start at the CAR.**

Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW  \_ \_ \_ \_

**Start at the SIGN.**

Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The \_ ORD will watch ove\_ your comi\_g and go\_ng both no\_ and for\_ vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

**ANSWER ON PAGE 15**

# Heavenly Humor

## Little Johnny

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother gently rubbed cold cream on her face. "Why are you rubbing cold cream on your face, Mommy?" he asked.

"To make myself beautiful," said his mother.

A few minutes later, she began removing the cream with a tissue.

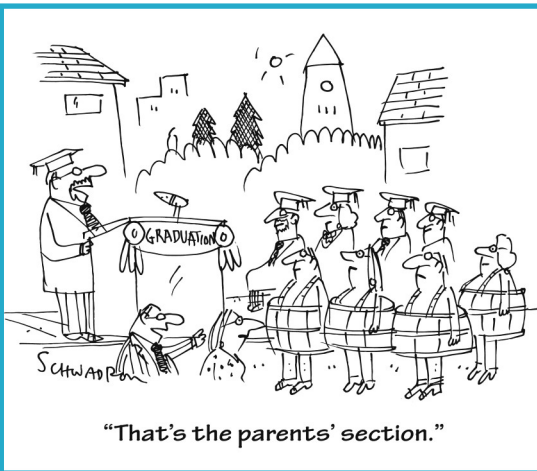
"What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Giving up?"

## The Weigh Scale

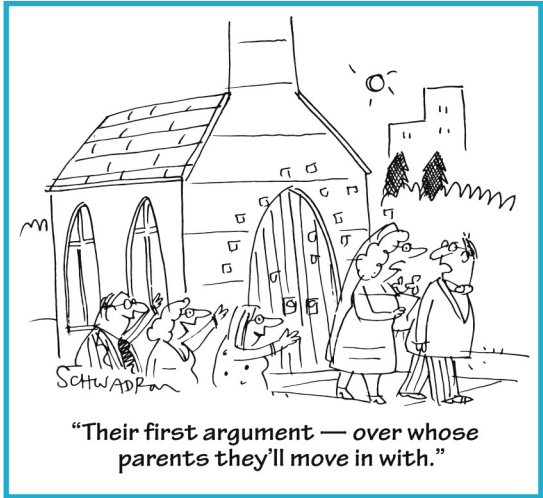
Two kids went into their parents bathroom and noticed the weigh scale in the corner. "Whatever you do," cautioned one youngster to the other, "Don't step on it!"

"Why not?" asked the sibling.

"Because every time mom does, she lets out an awful scream!"



"That's the parents' section."



"Their first argument — over whose parents they'll move in with."

## Your Mother

A young man was walking through a supermarket to pick up a few things when he noticed an old lady following him around. Thinking nothing of it, he ignored her and continued on. Finally he went to the checkout line, but she got in front of him.

"Pardon me," she said, "I'm sorry if my staring at you has made you feel uncomfortable. It's just that you look just like my son, who just died recently."

"I'm very sorry," replied the young man, "is there anything I can do for you?"

"Yes," she said, "As I'm leaving, can you say 'Good bye, Mother!' ? It would make me feel so much better."

"Sure," answered the young man.

As the old woman was leaving, he called out, "Goodbye, Mother!"

As he stepped up to the checkout counter, he saw that his total was \$127.50.


"How can that be?" he asked, "I only purchased a few things!"

"Your mother said that you would pay for her," said the clerk.

**Bible Quiz**

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?


A. Moses  
 B. Joshua  
 C. Jethro  
 D. The Lord



**Bible Quiz**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

A. a time to teach, and a time to learn  
 B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance  
 C. a time to fast, and a time to eat  
 D. a time to work, and a time to rest



**Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 15**



**Mortgage as April 30, 2020:**  
**\$504,295**



**Prime Timers**  
Mission  
Outreach

On March 6th, 15 members of our Prime Timers group went to serve at the Mathew 25 Ministries. Some of those who had not been before were given a tour of the facilities. We all worked together to prepare and pack items to be sent to those who were in need of help after experiencing so many of the tragedies we have heard about. This is always a rewarding experience and we later enjoyed a meal together on the way home. Thanks to Carol Ann King for coordinating this event for us. We hope you can join us the next time we plan to go.

We are uncertain when our next Prime Timers event will be, so watch for more information at a later date.



— Bonnie Oney, Reporter

Newsletters Are  
**Online**  
 “Mt. Nebo News”  
 is on our website  
[www.mtneboumcoh.com](http://www.mtneboumcoh.com)  
 and Facebook page.

# Mt. Nebo's Parking Lot Easter



**Gemma Leighton Farrell**, was born on February 24, 2020, to Luke and Caitlyn Farrell. Gemma weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Gemma was also welcomed by proud grandparents, Troy and Amy Farrell.

**Wesley Allen Starkey**, was born on March 5, 2020, to Luke and Michelle Starkey. Wesley weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long. He was also welcomed by proud grandparents, Mike and Elise Starkey.

**Martha Rose Clark**, was born on March 27, 2020, to Nick and Abby Clark. Martha weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. Martha was also welcomed by proud grandparents, Roger and Michelle Clark.

Congratulations  
on Your  
New Baby!



**D**uring these difficult, unprecedented times the school children are heavy on my heart. I have been keeping in contact with Bethany, the school guidance counselor. When we received word that school would be closing we sent the children home with 3 - 4 weeks of extra food. The Backpack Blessing volunteers and I made up extra packs before school had officially closed and Bethany is making sure they are getting to children that need them during this time. If need arises for more packs to be made before the end of May, we will make sure to have that covered. We have also informed the parents of the food pantry hours and provided the church number in case the need arises in between pantry services. I ask for your continued prayers for our Backpack Blessing children and their families during these difficult times. And as always I thank you all for your support through donations, prayers, and help with making up the food packs!

**May Item of the Month: Canned Pasta items**

**June Item of the Month: Easy Mac**

—Melissa Stephen, Coordinator

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### ANSWER FROM PUZZLE ON PAGE 11

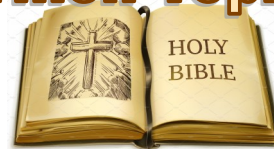
Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase.  
The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 13  
Top — A (See Numbers 11:24-29)  
Bottom — B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)



Congratulations to Dani Tackett and Olivia Cook for completing the Confirmation Classes this past winter. A special thanks to Natalie Cook for her help as we met and discussed the Basics of the Christian Faith. Look for details about recognizing these young people in worship in the weeks to come; continue to support these young ladies with your prayers as they grow in their faith.

## May and June Sermon Topics



### New Sermon Series: "Blessed Choices"

May 3 - Be Real  
May 10 - Be Sad  
May 17 - Hand It Over  
May 24 - Diet Differently  
May 31 - Change Shoes  
June 7 - Clean House  
June 14 - Make Peace  
June 21 - Rejoice  
June 28 - "I Believe" series begins  
**NOTE: All sermons are video taped and on our website [www.mtneboumcoh.com](http://www.mtneboumcoh.com) and also posted on our Facebook page. The May 10th service (Mother's Day) will be a Parking Lot service.**

**Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church**

11693 St. Rt. 774

Bethel, OH 45106

Pastor Mike Starkey

Phone: 937-379-1225

Fax: 937-379-9038



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**Invite Friends and Family to Worship!**



**Service Times:**

9:00 - 10:00 AM Worship with Band

11:00 - 12:00 PM Worship with Band

*All services are video taped  
and on our website  
[www.mtneboumvo.com](http://www.mtneboumvo.com)  
and on our Facebook page.*

**Our Mission:**

***To Know Christ and Make Him Known***