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Volume 25 - Issue 2 - March / April, 2021

An Encouraging Word

W y preaching theme through April will be **"Come Alive!"** There are two basic groups of people whom God intends to benefit from this biblical theme: People far from God and people near to God.

People far from God benefit by learning that Scripture tells us God created everyone for a right relationship with Him but sin has separated people from God. Sin is like a wall that we build one brick at a time causing the separation. Every person is guilty before God not just for the wrong we have done but also for not doing the right we should have done (not responding to God as He reaches out to us, not loving other people, etc.) Sin results in people becoming unresponsive and increasingly dead to God. However, God wants every person come alive to Him. He's made that possible through faith in Jesus Christ. Faith that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to earth to give His sinless life on

an executioner's cross to erase the debt we owe God because of our sin. And Jesus did that for us by choice. He didn't have to. But He chose to out of His great love for every person. He chose to step in and take the bullet of death for us in order to give us the opportunity to turn to God. Jesus wants us to be saved from the penalty of sin and from the power of sin so that we can Come Alive to God! And He makes it happen for people who are far from God when they repent and admit to themselves and God that they are sinners who need the salvation Jesus graciously offers (Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19, Acts 4:11-12, Romans 10:9-10).

People close to God also benefit from considering the theme Come Alive! It begins with selfexamination of our relationship with the Lord. The Bible includes examples of people who put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and began the life-long journey of growing in a relationship with Him but later became discouraged, defeated, and distant. This can happen to us too. Some causes include: a gradual cooling off spiritually, personal failure and sin, being disappointed by other Christians, the troubles of life, and unmet expectations to name a few. God's answer, Come Alive to Jesus! (Psalm 51:10-12, 1 Peter 5:6-7). We can choose to humble ourselves and ask God to forgive us for our sin or ask God to forgive us for letting circumstances come between us and Him (1 John 1:9). He will gladly help us start over and fill us with the joy of being renewed in our relationship with Jesus.

Easter celebrates that Jesus rose from the dead defeating the power of sin and death. And because of who Jesus is and what He has done, no matter who we are or where we're at (far from Him or near to Him) He's made a better relationship possible. Choose to Come Alive to Jesus and have a great Easter! -Pastor Mike

A New Methodism Is Coming!

The United Methodist Church as a denomination has become increasingly divided over doctrine, most notably over biblical authority and interpretation especially regarding the practice of homosexuality. Those who ascribe to Progressive and Centrist Theological Doctrine affirm a doctrine that reflects the current cultural trends. While those who ascribe to Evangelical Theological Doctrine affirm traditional, orthodox Christian doctrine.

Recently, there has been a willingness among United Methodist leaders to acknowledge that our theological differences are irreconcilable. This eventually led to a proposed solution. It is a document authored by leading representatives from the different theological views within the United Methodist Church. It is titled "The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation." This document will be presented at the next global gathering of United Methodists, the General Conference, which was scheduled to be held in May 2020. However, due to the COVID pandemic it was rescheduled to be held in late August 2021. Now due to continued COVID travel and gathering restrictions, the General Conference has been rescheduled once more and this time for August 2022. Once presented, the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation will be submitted for a vote at the General Conference. An affirmative vote will allow United Methodist Congregations to choose to join with one of the new Methodist denominations that are now in the process of forming. Therefore, it is likely that sometime in late 2022 members of this congregation will vote to join one of the new Methodist denominations that will be formed. The Mt. Nebo Leadership Team and Pastor Mike intends to recommend to the congregation at that time that we join a Theologically Evangelical expression of the Methodist Church.

Monday, March 1st, details of a Theologically Evangelical Methodist Church were announced. The announcement represented many months of work by leading Evangelical Methodists from across the world. The name of this new expression of Methodism is "The Global Methodist Church." You will find their website at <u>www.globalmethodist.org</u>. Following is some of the information shared on this website that you might find helpful in gaining a basic understanding of this new church's core beliefs, mission, vision and structure.



What Is The Global Methodist Church?

It is a church committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. We believe the Global Methodist Church will be filled with warm-hearted, Jesus loving, and Holy Spirit inspired people. They will be grounded in Scripture and the life-giving confessions of the Christian faith as found in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

Why Global Methodist Church Formed?

The Global Methodist Church has not been legally formed and is not operating as a church at this time. When legally formed, the Global Methodist Church will be as outlined on these pages. We expect the Global Methodist Church will be legally formed and begin to operate as a church when the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation which anticipates the creation of new Methodist churches. Alternatively, if it becomes apparent that the leading bishops, centrists, and progressives who covenanted to support the Protocol no longer do so, then the council will consider bringing the new church into existence without delay.

Who Formed The Global Methodist Church?

Officially, the Transitional Leadership Council is forming the Global Methodist Church. However, over a thousand people have had a role in giving shape to it. Clergy and lay people in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, the Philippines and the United States have sacrificially given of their time, talent, and resources to discern God's will for the formation of the Global Methodist Church. Once the Global Methodist Church is formed and begins operations, it will be governed by a Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. Ultimately, duly elected delegates to the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference will prayerfully seek God's will for the church's future. The convening General Conference will adopt a Book of Doctrines and Discipline to replace the transitional document.

Organization

Supported by fervent prayers, faithful discernment, and a sure hope for the future, the Global Methodist Church is a Holy Spirit inspired movement coming into existence!

The Global Methodist Church joyfully shares its mission and vision with you. While not a new church just yet, the Global Methodist Church invites you to learn more about it, and to begin making plans to join brothers and sisters around the world for a bright and bold new future!

Pastor Mike and the Mt. Nebo Leadership Team welcome your prayers, comments and questions.

Leadership Team Members are: Linda Henry, Neal Massengill, Retired Pastor Susan Davidson, Sue Craycraft, Cecil Gibson, Nancy Moore, Betty Smith and Chris Luck.

-Submitted by Pastor Mike



LILY—The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people. CODE: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ $1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8 \ 9 \ 10 \ 11 \ 12 \ 13 \ 14$
<u>1,2</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7,8</u> <u>2,3</u> <u>1</u> <u>7,8</u> <u>2,3</u>
2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3
10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10
3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5
8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10
5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3
<u>3,4</u> 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11
EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV
ANSWER ON PAGE 15





MIt. Nebo UMC will sponsor its firstever Easter Egg Car Hop. It will take everyone in our congregation working together to make this event memorable for children in our congregation, our families, and the community!

How you can help:

-Personally, invite family and friends with children and invite community area families to bring their children.

-Pray that those within and outside our

congregation would sense the Love of God through this event.

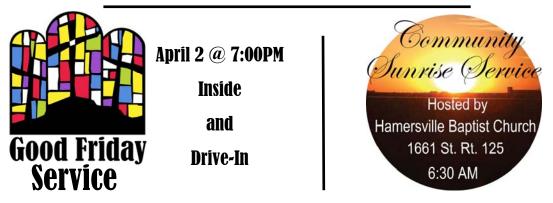
-Pack prewrapped candy, small toys, or stickers in plastic Easter eggs that you can pass out during the event.

-Arrive at the church parking lot by 10 AM and park your car around the perimeter of the parking lot so children can go from car to car collecting eggs.

We all know that Easter is much more than Egg Hunts and bunnies! In addition to the fun of collecting eggs, the children and families will experience firsthand that there are many, many people who care enough to spend time making this morning special. You will be sharing the Love of Christ.

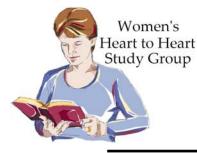
In addition to collecting eggs during the Easter Egg Car Hop, the children will receive a special book with the Easter message and special eggs that help tell that story.

All it takes is a little time and a heart to love others as Jesus did. Please plan to help! It will take each of us to make this time special!



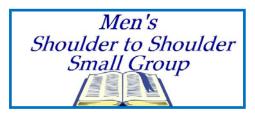
In Honor or Memory of a loved one, be sure to order your Lily by March 21st. The cost is \$10.50 each. Information will be on the Sign-Up table.





eart to Heart is a Women's Small Group that meets face to face in the church narthex every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. The group is beginning a study using the book, <u>Women Who Move Mountains: Praying with</u> <u>Confidence, Boldness, and Grace</u>. Being part of a small group can richly bless your life. If you are interested in Heart to Heart Small Group, please see Elise Starkey.

S houlder to Shoulder Men's Small Group meets each Wednesday via Zoom at 6:30 PM. The group will continue to study the book of Acts in the coming weeks. If you are interested in 'digging into scripture' with other men, please consider joining this small group. Please contact Dan Reed for information and details. It is true, big things happen in small groups.





ark your calendar for May 9th, as several youth who have been part of the Basics of the Christian Faith Class will be confirmed in their faith at Mt. Nebo UMC. Professing their faith by 'making a commitment that counts is something to celebrate as a body of believers; this will be a milestone in their Christian journey, though not an end into itself. It is also a time

for many of us to remember the commitment we may have made in our Christian walk. Please join us as we celebrate with these youth at their Confirmation!

<u>Prime Timers Memories through the Years</u> <u>"Sharing Faith, Fun and Fellowship"</u>

Y ears ago a "young" adult group of church members gathered in the old church basement for an evening of fellowship. We shared a Bible Devotion, a good meal, and some fun activities. We enjoyed the evening so much, that we decided to continue meeting on the first Friday evening of every month...thus the "Prime Timer" group was born! On our next meeting, after naming our group, it was decided that

we needed someone to lead and coordinate each meeting, and chose among us a very talented and innovative lady, "Dorothy Roush". She came up with a lot of neat ideas, including, that on the first month of each year we would plan a theme for each of the following months and to decorate accordingly. Many volunteered to help or host the event of their choice. Most events were held at the church but we did have some interesting trips. I will try to name just a few events but all of them are "unforgettable"! The joy and fun we had at each meeting will never be forgotten and God has blessed us "Old Timers" with strong, loving, and lasting friendships! **"Still young at Heart"!**

Dear Prime Timer Friends,

It has been my pleasure to serve as "leader" of the Prime Timers all these 20+ years, but I couldn't have done it without all of those who so willingly hosted the different events each month. We have had so much fun and laughter plus enjoyed so much fellowship over the years!

One of my favorite events was an evening in August; we had a carry-in dinner and it was one of those times when the program that had been planned fell through and at the last minute I had to come up with something...I had just heard the song, "Angels Among Us" by Alabama and thought, here was a God sent message. We played the song at our dinner and then I asked the group to share times in their lives when that "helping hand" had made a difference. The more we talked the more we recognized how many times those "Angels" had come into our lives at our darkest hours.

Over the past 4 months during a difficult surgery and a long recover I have experienced over and over those "Angels", I call them "Friends". Thank you to my Mt. Nebo family for all of the love, cards, gifts and prayers that carried me through many difficult hours. You are truly "Angels" sent from above.

-Dorothy

Continued from page 8

This is just a small list of Prime Timers past events. Our hope is to show a slide show of pictures during one of our upcoming meetings. You won't want to miss this! Hopefully that will happen soon.

* Hoedown and Square Dance at the King's Barn: "Good old Country Music"

* Thanksgiving Meals: "Counting our Blessings Together", "Turkey in the Straw"

- * Happy Birthday Jesus: Christmas Celebrations at Dorothy's home with "Gag Gifts"
- * Valentine Dinner for the Young Adults: Crowning of King & Queen!

* St. Patrick Event: "Green Eggs & Ham" with a "Hot Potato Toss"

- * Sock Hop: "Poodle Skirts, "Juke Box", "Elvis and Rock in' Roll'
- * Luau: "Paradise Island", "Hula skirts", "Music"
- * Independence Day Celebrations at Pavilion and/or at Dorothy's home with "Guest Music"
- * "Fiesta Time": "Mexican Hat Dance"
- * Valentine Dinners: at Maysville College Culinary Café and The Park View Inn
- * Scavenger Hunt: in rout to Maysville Blue Lick State Park.
- * South Fork Train Ride to Old Mining Town
- * Trips to Creation Museum, Boggstown Cabaret and Renfro Valley
- * Matthew 25 Ministries mission work
- * Gospel Sing at Lynn and Arminta Dunn's Chapel: (Held every Fall), "Walking Tacos"

-Bonnie Oney, Reporter



Joshua Sams, passed away on January 15, 2021, at the age if 37. Josh was the son of Terry and Elaine (Farrell) and nephew of] Troy and Amy Farrell.

Evelyn Davis, passed away on January 21, 2021, at the age of 89. Evelyn was the mother of Johnny Davis and wife Linda. **Helen Calhoun,** passed away on March 2, 2021, at the age of 83. Helen is the mother of Randy Wash and wife Linda.



Our prayers and love go out to all their friends and families.



Valentine Party



This past February, families at Mt. Nebo UMC threw 2 Valentine parties of a different kind! Families chose a night that fit their schedule better, then came to church ready to create and address cards to individuals connected with the Mt. Nebo UMC congregation who live in retirement or nursing homes in the area or have been unable to get with others during the past year on a regular basis. A big thank you to the parents/

grandparents who shared this time with their children to make and send over 150 Valentine cards during the 2-night event. It was a great way for families to spend time with other families while sending a message of Christian love to others. Look for other family nights in the coming months that focus on sharing Christ's love with others!

During our February Family Night, families received a Family Lenten Devotional, Letters from Jerusalem, to use throughout the Lenten season. If you were unable to attend the February Family Night and would like to use this devotional with your family, please contact Brenda Reed to get a copy.

The March Family Night will be **Thursday**, **March 18**, at 6 PM in the classroom area. Join other families for a Bedtime Bible Story, Craft and activity!

SAVE THE DATE—Saturday, April 3rd, beginning at 10:30 AM for Mt. Nebo UMC's first Easter Car Hop. Families



can walk together from car to car - children through 6th grade, bring your baskets to collect eggs or treats at each car, plus a station with a 'take home Easter craft' and a special book with the Easter Story for each young person. (Please extend the invitation to family and friends about the Easter Car Hop). You will not need to RSVP for this event!

The April Family Night will be **Tuesday**, **April 13**, at 6 PM in the classroom area. 'Planting a Garden of God's Love' will be our theme for the evening.

Our May Family Night will be **Monday**, **May 10**, at 6 PM. Watch for details for this family night in upcoming weeks.

Please RSVP for each Family Night so we will have materials especially prepared for you!

A special thanks to Virgie Luck for helping host these evening events for families!



Basics of the Christian Faith



Since February 22, youth, grades 5-8, have been meeting together to learn more about the Christian Faith and what it means to be fully engaged in the life of the church. They are dealing with such topics as: the Triune God (God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit); creation and man's original sin; God's grace; our need for a Savior; baptism and communion;

and their call to be a witness for Christ as they find ways to serve.

Please pray for these youth as they complete 'Basics of the Christian Faith' and continue their faith journey.

Hamersville 6-8 Devos and Donuts

Devos and Donuts will resume meeting face to face Wednesday, April 7th. We will be meeting under the church carport, weather permitting, or the church



narthex if the weather is chilly or inclement. During the month of March, Devos and Donuts will continue to meet via Zoom at 8 AM on Wednesdays. When we begin 'face to face' Devos and Donuts the times will be 7:45 AM—8:30 AM.

Although we have been missing the 'donut part' in this group, Devos and Donuts has continued to meet via Zoom since mid-November. A big shout out to both the youth who have continued to join for devotions and prayer before school each Wednesday via Zoom plus the parents who have encouraged them to be 'online' for this time. A special thanks to Linda Henry for helping with this group!



Do you like looking at calendars with all kinds of days marked? For example, March 1 was National Pig Day, March 2 was National Read Across America Day, March 3 was National I Want You to be Happy Day, March 14 will be National Pi Day and so on.... These days are fun to read on a calendar but having a focus to help us stretch and grow in our faith journey sometimes helps. Here is what is on the calendar for March and April for the high school youth!

MARCH–WORSHIP SERVICE ON THE ROAD MONTH–The high school youth are marking the month of March as Worship Service on the Road month. Several of our youth, eighth grade through seniors in high school, are sharing scripture, devotions and songs of praise with those in Ohio Valley Manor. The group will be taking time on March 7th and March 28th to visit and share with some of the residents at their patio or window.

APRIL–SERVE WITHIN OUR LOCAL CHURCH MONTH–During April the high school will focus on serving God in another way, serving within our local church. Many of these older youth already serve within the scope of helping during worship and activities at Mt. Nebo UMC. During April we will focus on growing in our faith by serving. Dates for April youth devotion will be announced later in March.

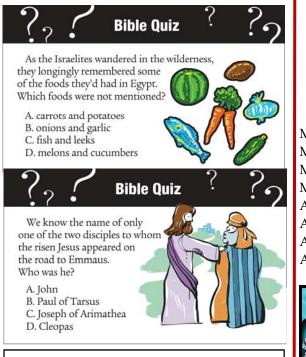
If you are in grades 8 through high school and would like to connect with others your age at Mt. Nebo UMC, we would love to grow in faith and serve with you! Please contact Brenda Reed for more information.

-Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator

S o much of our lives have been interrupted during the COVID pandemic. Last fall a group of women began a study of the Book of Ruth. For those who began this study in the fall, it will 'pick up' where it left off beginning Wednesday morning, April 7th in the church classroom area at 10 AM. We're looking forward to this restart date. If you have any questions about the Study of Ruth, please contact Linda Henry.



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Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 15



n irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the

employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So that's why no one was in church today."





Sermon Series: "Come Alive!" March 7 – Temple Cleaning March 14 – The Other Side of Repentance March 21 – Great Change March 28 – (Palm Sunday) Welcome Jesus April 4 – (Easter) It Happened...Believe Me April 11 – Fellowship Unequaled April 18 – Times of Refreshing April 25 – Trusted Love



he main goal of Backpack Blessings is to demonstrate God's love by providing food to children in need which allows them to be filled both physically and spiritually. These kids may

just look at the food packs and be excited to have something to eat without even realizing the love and prayers that go into them. Hopefully, though, over time they will come to understand just how special they are in the eyes of the Lord. We are now serving 54 children at Hamersville School with food packs. In addition to the item already on the list, you can add **soups, pop tarts, ramen noodles, apple sauce, gummy treats, Vienna sausages, peanut butter crackers and popcorn.** Thank you for all of your support and please continue to pray for these kids and their families!

-Virgie Luck, Coordinator

Mt. Nebo High School and College Graduates



The church family at Mt. Nebo UMC would like to honor our high school and college graduates for all they've accomplished and announce their future plans. These will be featured in the May/June "Mt. Nebo News". We are also making plans to recognize the 2021 graduates during Graduation Sunday on May 16th. We would like to collect information about the graduates by April 14th. You may either email both the picture and information to <u>nancymoore@roadrunner.com</u> or complete the Graduate Information Sheet, along with a picture.

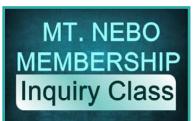
These forms will be available at the sign-up table in the church narthex beginning March 14 and completed forms and pictures may be left at the sign up table through April 11.

We will need the following information:

Graduate's name

Parents'/ Grandparents' Name Graduate of which school (Name of High School or College) Special honors

Future plans (which college—field of further study—military—or other work plans) Contact phone number and address (we will not print phone number or address, but will use them only to contact you with questions and details for grads and families about Graduation Sunday.)



Ant to know about membership at Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church? This 4-week biblical study will explore key membership commitments and invite your questions. Those who attend may decide to become members but aren't obligated to do so. Please bring your Bible. Sundays 6:00pm: March 21 & 28, April 11 & 18

Classroom Area

When God Giggles

Before dinner, our family was preparing to pray, which we do by holding hands. Upon discovering that one child hadn't washed his hands, my husband struck a contorted pose to avoid physical contact. The mealtime blessing quickly dissolved into laughter as we each peeked at him.

Afterward, as we passed around the food, I asked, "What do you imagine God thought about us laughing during prayer?" One child quickly replied, "I think he was laughing right along with us."

Yes! Although prayer is reverent, God invites us to converse with words, emotions – and even giggles! – *Janna Firestone*

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZZES ON PAGE 13

Top—A (See Numbers 11:4-6) Bottom—D (See Luke 24:18)

ANSWER FROM PUZZLE ON PAGE 5

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

We're Lowering Our Mortgage! Mortgage! Mortgage!

This morning as I sat down to read from a devotion book, my heart was heavy while thinking about how much isolation people have been experiencing in the last few months; from the elderly confined to their home without visitors, those sick in the hospital without the comforting support of loved ones surrounding them, the social butterflies who have surrendered their wings to loneliness, those who are in an abusive situation or struggling with an addiction. Even those who think they are fine but need people to encourage them and keep anxiety and depression from creeping in or consuming them. Top that off with the cold death of winter weather and lack of sunshine, and it is easy to be uneasy, holding tight to our cell phones full of politics and coveting others fabulous Facebook lives.

Then I read John 14:27. I am reminded that our peace doesn't come from the world, so I do not need to be troubled or afraid! I know that if I surrender to His spirit and His word that it will lead to life and peace. Spring will come!

I look out my back door and see the snow covered ground. So beautiful but harsh and cold, still and quiet. I turn away feeling melancholy and begin to sip away the chill from my warm cup of coffee. Suddenly, I am startled by the loud incessant chirping of some birds singing their victory song as they sneak some dog food from the bowl of the warm and sleepy dog nestled in his insulated dog house. I am reminded now the "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me!"

I don't claim to know the depth of what others may be struggling with today, but I am praying for you, friend, and want to encourage someone with this reminder. If you know the One who promised the gift of perfect peace, you can rest in that today. His eye is on the sparrow and He is here with me and He is there with YOU! Surrender control and rest in His perfect peace. Spring will come!

Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church 11693 St. Rt. 774 Bethel, OH 45106 Pastor Mike Starkey Phone: 937-379-1225 Fax: 937-379-9038





Invite Friends and Family to Worship!

Service Times: 9:00 AM Worship with Band Service inside and parking lot on 91.1 FM

11:00 AM <u>Worship with Band</u> <u>Service inside and parking lot on 91.1 FM</u>

> Videos of all services are offered on our website www.mtneboumvoh.com and on our YouTube channel (Mt. Nebo UMC).

Our Mission: *To Know Christ and Make Him Known*