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Volume 24 - Issue 4 - July / August, 2020

## An Encouraging Word

**F**amily – in God’s wisdom, He created us to be connected by family units. Family is God’s idea! During COVID-19, what difficulties have your family experienced? What blessings have your family experienced? One thing for sure, every family has experienced some kind of change. And change includes a certain amount of stress. We are creatures of habits and we have been forced out of some of our habits. Change can be uncomfortable, even good change.

It is common for families to experience struggle. Change can cause it. Relationship issues can cause it. Health issues can cause it. Financial issues can cause it. Bad choices can cause it. Not to mention that the enemy of humankind, Satan, can cause families to struggle.

Families are uncommon by nature. First of all, because every one of them is made-up of unique individuals and has a unique history. Secondly, each family is uncommon because of their unique struggles and the unique ways they choose to respond to those struggles. However, some families are more successful at handling struggles than others. Why? Because whether they realize it or not, they work at developing certain Scriptural traits. What are these traits? Connect with us in worship starting Sunday, August 2 and we’ll figure it out together.

—Pastor Mike

## Worship Service Options

At the time that I share this information (July 1st), our plans are to continue to offer drive-in worship services in the church parking lot at 9:00am and 11:00am each Sunday. We also plan to continue to offer a video of the services on our website ([www.mtneboumcoh.com](http://www.mtneboumcoh.com)) and on our church YouTube channel (Mt. Nebo UMC). This online worship service will be available late afternoon or early Sunday evening. We plan to offer the 11:00am worship service inside the building once the drywall repair and painting of the church building are completed. When we do so, the 9:00am service in the parking lot will continue. The in-building service will be structured differently to provide appropriate social distancing. Details will be forth-coming along with the date it will begin.

—Pastor Mike



Many of the small groups continued to meet, even when we were not in the building for worship. Some small groups met via Facebook video Messenger, some through Zoom, some small groups stayed connected via group texts, and some were able to meet by practicing social distancing face to face in recent weeks. For me, personally, it was a way to stay connected for study and prayer, even though we were miles apart. It has been a time to grow in my faith and share praises and concerns with one another. It is often said that Big things happen in Small groups—prayer, care, and share are just a few of the big things that small groups do. If you are not already actively engaged in a small group, please consider allowing the time to commit to being part of a small group at Mt. Nebo UMC. Please let me know if you would like to be part of a small group! A new brochure of small group studies will be available in late August!

—Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator

### FAMILY EVENT

### PARKING LOT CHALK PAINTING EVENT

July 9 at 6:00PM

As a family, choose a Bible story, Bible verse or one of God's creations as you design chalk art for one of the parking spaces. We will designate a set of parking spaces to be decorated so that they may be enjoyed by those attending worship Sunday, July 12th. Come with your design and work together as a family to decorate a parking space! We will have chalk available or feel free to bring your own!



## Back to School Backpack Event

Mt. Nebo and our Hamersville Community partner churches will again offer this backpack and school supply event on Tuesday, August 4th starting at 6:00pm. The rain date will be Wednesday, August 5th. The event will take place in the front parking lot of the Hamersville Elementary and Middle School in an effort to make it easier for custodians who will be sanitizing the building.



Great news, an additional church will be involved this year making a total of four. Included are: Bible Chapel United Church of Christ, Hamersville Baptist Church, Hamersville Church of Christ and Mt. Nebo United Methodist. Here is the list of needed supplies provided by Principle Mindy Pride and Staff:

- Backpacks
- Loose Leaf Paper (no spiral notebooks)
- Divider Tabs
- Composition books
- Dry Erase Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- 1 Inch, 3 Ring Binders
- Pencils
- Large Erasers
- 2-Pocket Folders with or without prongs
- Highlighters
- Crayons

If you would like to participate by purchasing any of these items to help school children in need, please plan to drop them off to the church office by Sunday, August 2nd. We also welcome your help setting up and hosting in the school parking lot on August 4th. Please arrive at 4:30pm. Thank you!

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## God Amid Pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online: pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, *“Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you”* [43:1-2, paraphrased]. And Jesus echoes, *“I am with you always”* [Matthew 28:20].

—Sandy Hyland



**July 13, 14, and 15 — 6:00 PM at the Pavilion**  
**Join us for S'more Joy, Love and Jesus**

This event is for families with children – Each evening we will have a Bible story, craft, special activity and snack. So that we can plan for the crafts, activity supplies and snacks, families need to sign up for this event. Each evening will feature a different story, craft, and activity, so let us know which evening(s) you can come join us! To sign up just call or text Brenda Reed 513-509-8498 or call the church office. Feel free to bring a blanket to spread out for your family as they listen to Bedtime Bible stories. Pre-registration is needed to plan for activity and snack packs for each evening. Please register by Thursday, July 9th.



**CHILDREN'S**  
**MINISTRY**  
**NEWS**

These young people may be visiting a relative, riding on a Gator, enjoying the outdoors, yet still have made time to meet as a group via Zoom. A big thanks to Alyssa Eubanks for planning and sharing devotions for the group, as well as scheduling the Zoom meetings. It has been great for our 4th and 5th graders to be able to meet this summer and hope they can all stay connected and meet once school begins in the fall!



—Continued on next page



This summer Devos and Donuts has met on a summer schedule, allowing the middle schoolers a few extra hours to sleep this summer! At our first Zoom meeting, once school was out, we had a 'send off' for the youth who are going to high school and becoming part of High School Youth Group! We will miss these youth being with the middle school group! Thanks so much to Linda Henry and Linda Stover for helping with this group as we have met via Zoom this summer!

We began a High School Youth Group this summer and have been meeting via Zoom. This has been a great opportunity for those who have just completed the 8th grade to help get their high school years off to a great start by connecting with those who are already in high school.

Many school activities are offering athletic conditioning this summer and there is much that competes for a person's time. I am so very proud of the teens who are making it a priority to include a scheduled time for devotions and find fun and fellowship with a Zoom Scavenger Hunt! I'm looking forward to a time when we will be meeting face to face for youth events and ways for high school youth to meet when school begins!



# Mt. Nebo's High School Graduate's



**Maddie Shepherd**



**Chance Moore**



**Gunner Henry**



**Jami Brossenne**



*Continued on next page*

Emma Sams



Ryan Cooper



Madison Davis



Grace Erhardt



*Men's  
Shoulder to Shoulder  
Small Group*



**M**en's Shoulder to Shoulder Small Group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings beginning July 8th at 6:30PM in the Murphy Pavilion (in case of inclement weather, the group will meet in the 'old sanctuary' of the Ministry Annex. The group will begin a study of the book of Acts when they meet July 8th.

# WITNESS PUZZLE

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Genesis 2:15	S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
Genesis 11:9	J	J	O	R	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	
Genesis 35:1	E	S	G	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M	
Exodus 13:18	R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
Ruth 1:1												
1 Kings 18:19	U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
1 Chronicles 11:4												
Isaiah 23:1	S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
Isaiah 23:2												
Isaiah 23:3	A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
Jonah 1:2	L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
Matthew 3:6	E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
Matthew 4:18	M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	E	L
Matthew 26:36												
Luke 24:13	G	H	N	O	A	S	C	E	E	E	M	
John 2:1	I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
Acts 8:5												
Acts 11:22												
Acts 17:16												
Romans 1:15	T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L

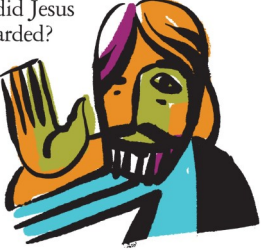
**ANSWER ON PAGE 11**



**Bible Quiz**

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

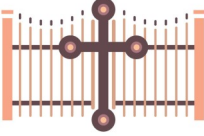
- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug



**Bible Quiz**

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.



**Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 11**



**Mortgage as June 30, 2020:**  
**\$500,309**



**Looking Forward To Fall**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Timers unfortunately had to cancel all our Spring and Summer events. I am sure we would have enjoyed the "Movie Night" at the church, the celebration of "Ladies and Gentlemen's Dinner", the "Independence Day Picnic" and the B&B Riverboat Cruise and Dinner, which we all look forward to later. Maybe next year!

Please keep in your prayers that God will bless us with a beautiful day on Saturday, September 19th! This is the day planned for the annual "Song Fest", to be held at Dunn's litter prayer chapel. Lynn and Armenta always host a wonderful evening, as we sing and are treated to many of the old gospel songs, making a "Joyful Noise unto the Lord". Afterwards we are treated to walking tacos and desserts at their picnic shelter. Watch for more details at a later date. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us!

**Virtual Hugs to all of you!**

*—Bonnie Oney, Reporter*



**"Mt. Nebo News"**  
 is on our website at  
[www.mtneboumcoh.com](http://www.mtneboumcoh.com)



**Jim Brown**, passed away on May 15, 2020. Jim leaves behind his wife, Andra Brown and many family and friends.

**Richard Waterfield**, passed away at the age of 86 on June 8, 2020. Richard leaves behind his sister-in-law, Janice Waterfield, and nephew, Kenny Waterfield, and many family and friends.

**Ennes "Sonny" Ireton**, passed away at the age of 80 on June 18, 2020. Sonny leaves behind his wife, Penny Ireton, and many family and friends.

**Debbie Delaney**, passed away at the age of 66 on June 19, 2020. Debbie was the sister-in-law of Elise and Mike Starkey. She leaves behind her husband, John Delaney, and many family and friends.

**Harold Lucas**, passed away at the age of 75 on June 25, 2020. Harold leaves behind his wife, Patti Lucas, and many family and friends.

**Our Prayers and Love to all family and friends.**

**Graham Elijah Frazier**, was born on June 10, 2020, to Tyler and Jaimie Frazier. Graham weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 21 inches long. Graham was also welcomed by his excited brother, James, and proud grandparents, Jim and Gail Frazier.

Congratulations  
on Your  
New Baby!



I hope everyone is having a great summer so far. Thanks for all your support with the Backpack Blessings. It's that time of the year when we need to replenish our shelves and get ready for the beginning of school.

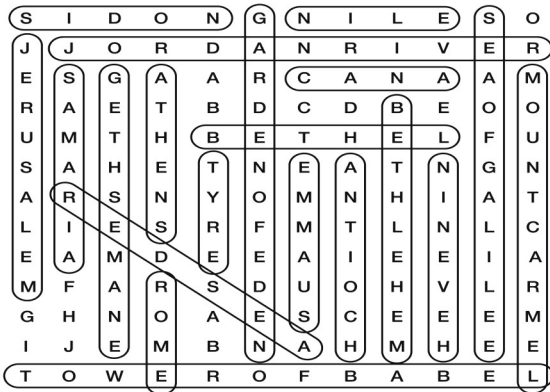
Please be in prayer for our schools, our children and teachers during this difficult time.

**July Item of the Month: Kool-Aid packages**

**August Item of the Month: Granola Bars**

—Melissa Stephen, Coordinator

**ANSWER FROM PUZZLE ON PAGE 8**



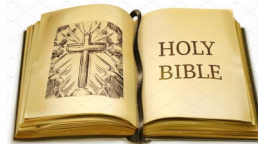
Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 9  
 Top—C (See Matthew 10:42)  
 Bottom—D (See Revelation 21:21, 25)

**Usher Duty**

It's human nature to sometimes slip into judgmentalism and arrogance: "I'd never do what she did!" we think or say. Or "People who [fill in the blank] shouldn't call themselves Christians. They don't belong in the church." Jesus clearly said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1, ESV) and, memorably, made his point with the image of a speck in someone else's eye and a log in one's own.

In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff reflects further on what Jesus' response would be when we put ourselves in positions of authority over others: "[Jesus] said people who followed him should think of themselves more like ushers rather than the bouncers, and it would be God who decides who gets in.

**July and August  
 Sermon Topics**



**Sermon Series Continues:**

**Blessed Choices**

- July 5 – Do Good
- July 12 – Follow Directions
- July 19 – Greg Stover Preaching
- July 26 – Tracy Gibson Preaching

**New Series:**

**Common Traits of Uncommon Families**

- August 2 - Priorities On-Point
- August 9 – Relationship Balance
- August 16 – Healthy Dependency
- August 23 – Positive Communication
- August 30 – Home Security

**NOTE: All sermon videos are on our website [www.mtneboumcoh.com](http://www.mtneboumcoh.com) and also posted on our YouTube channel (Mt. Nebo UMC). We will continue to have parking lot services until further notice.**

**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 - 10:00 AM Worship with Band

11:00 - 12:00 PM Worship with Band

*Videos of all services are offered on our website [www.mtneboumvooh.com](http://www.mtneboumvooh.com) and on our YouTube channel (Mt. Nebo UMC).*

**Our Mission:**

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