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Volume 25 - Issue 3 - May / June, 2021

Graduates Issue

An Encouraging Word

I don't know about you, but experiencing this spring has been especially encouraging. Once dormant plants and trees are now green and bursting open with God-given life. Psalm 95:1-7 are words of praise the Psalmist wrote as he experienced the awe of who God is by looking at what God has created. Maybe it expresses some of what you are feeling.

"Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to Him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to Him. For the Lord is a great God, a

great King above all gods. He holds in His hands the depths of the earth and the highest mountains. The sea belongs to Him, for He made it. His hands formed the dry land, too. Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God. And we are the people He watches over, the flock under His care." (Psalm 95:1-7 New Living Translation)

Seeing the earth green and come back to life is part of God's reminder that He's the One who gives life. He gives life to the once dormant plants and trees around us. And God gives life to people like us too even after a year that felt like we lay dormant under the cloud of COVID-19. I hope your response to the Lord is: "I will worship, bow down, and kneel before God my Maker! Because He is God and He has watched over me and kept me under His care!"

By now, most of you have heard that the Mt. Nebo Leadership Team and I have agreed that the next responsible step related to COVID is to no longer ask you to wear face masks starting Sunday, May 9th. However, if you want to continue to wear a mask you are most welcome to do so. We encourage you to be responsible for your health and do what you think is best for you. Every other row of chairs in the sanctuary will continue to be left vacant

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to allow distancing during worship services. We will also resume receiving our giving to the Lord by passing offering plates on May 9th. Sunday School classes will resume June 6th. And Vacation Bible School will be offered July 27th – 30th.

Our Leadership Team has served our congregation exceptionally well during the challenges of the last several months and I want to remind you who they are and ask you to keep lifting them up to the Lord in prayer: Linda Henry, Sue Craycraft, retired Pastor Susan Davidson, Cecil Gibson, Chris Luck, Neal Massengill, Nancy Moore, and Betty Smith. Here's what led us to make these decisions. COVID infection rates, hospitalizations, and intensive care admissions continue to drop significantly. A high percentage of eligible people in the US have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine and have some level of protection. Brown County statistics reported on the Center for Disease Control website for April 26, 2021, are: 57.1% of people in Brown County age 65 and older are fully vaccinated. And 25.8% of people 18 and older fully vaccinated. Vaccines are now readily available to Ohioans and the majority of people in Ohio who want to receive the vaccine will have received it and therefore be protected in May and early June.

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Madison Kirk is a graduate of Western Brown High School and the daughter of Mike and Sandra Kirk and granddaughter of Richard and Marilyn Kirk. Madison graduates with a 4.0 GPA and ranked 4th in her class. She played tennis all four years and is a member of National Honor Society and DECA. Her plans are to attend the University of Cincinnati—Clermont and major in Business Administration.



Bryar Cornett is a graduate of Western Brown High School and the son of Jared and Shelly Cornett and grandson of Pat Cornett. Bryar plans on joining the work force.

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Cade Chisman is a graduate of Western Brown High School and the son of Jared and Shelly Cornett and grandson of Pat Cornett. Cade plans on attending the University of Cincinnati and majoring in Education.



Gary Powell III is a graduate of Western Brown High School and the son of Gary, Jr. and Amanda Powell. He is the 2019-20 SBAAC Co-Wrestler of the Year, 2020-21 Wrestling State Qualifier, 1st Team SBAAC and 2nd Team All-District in football and team captain for both sports. Gary is attending Mt. St. Joseph University to play football and wrestle and plans to study exercise science and become a chiropractor.

Jadyn Flores is a graduate of Western Brown High School and the daughter of Jacob and Jenny Flores and Tiffany Reid and the granddaughter of Sherry Reid. Jadyn was a member of the National Honor Society and on the Cross Country and soccer teams for 3 years and track and basketball for 1 year. Jadyn will be attending Ohio State—Newark studying Psychology.



Logan Teegarden is a graduate of Western Brown High School and Southern Hills Career Center. Logan is the son of Shane and Nichole Teegarden and plans on joining the IBEW Union.

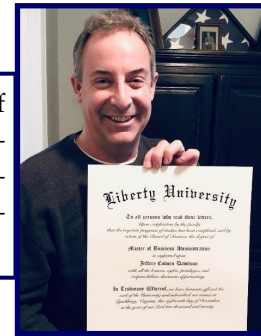
Maggie Mahaffey is a graduate of Felicity High School and the daughter of Shawnda Mahaffey. Maggie is attending Cincinnati State studying Nursing and EMT.





Ginny Maness is a graduate of Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the wife of Denver Maness and daughter of Todd and Kathy Pollard. Ginny graduates with her BSN and BSHCA and plans to work for the state doing psychiatric nursing and attending Xavier University for her MSN to become a nurse practitioner.

Jeff Davidson is a graduate of Liberty University with his Master of Business Administration degree. Jeff is the husband of Melissa Davidson, father of Emily Davidson and son of Coburn and Susan Davidson. He will be assuming a new position within his current company and relocating to Fort Worth, TX.



Emily Davidson is a graduate of Liberty University. She is the daughter of Jeff and Melissa Davidson and granddaughter of Coburn and Susan Davidson. Emily graduated with honors with a degree in Business Administration and will attend Arizona State University to continue her schooling to become a Registered Dietician.

Isaac Solbach is a graduate of Liberty University with triple degrees in Finance, Financial Planning and Economics. He also graduated Magna Cum Laude and is beginning position at the Vanguard group in Scottsdale Arizona. Isaac and Emily Davidson are planning for their wedding on May 28th.





Please plan to join us during Sunday Worship on May 16th as we recognize our High School and College graduates. We will recognize graduates at both the 9 AM and 11 AM service. It will be a great opportunity for the Mt. Nebo UMC family to celebrate their academic achievements with them. Please take the time to read about each of the graduates we have honored in this issue of the newsletter. Over the coming weeks please uplift these graduates in your prayers as they focus on what lies ahead of them.

Our Work is Responding to God’s Call to Pray

During this past year, Pastor Susan Davidson, retired clergy, began meeting weekly with a small group of women to pray—pray for our country and world, pray for the Church and our local congregation at Mt. Nebo UMC, and to pray for specific needs of those associated with the Mt. Nebo congregation. We are called to be warriors for Christ! We know, without a doubt, that the Greatest Weapon we have in the battle is Prayer. The group shares in a time of devotion and singing before beginning to pray each week.



This group meets in the chapel at the Davidson's home each Tuesday morning at 10 AM. If you feel God calling you to be part of this prayer ministry at Mt. Nebo UMC please talk with Susan Davidson (937-379-0279) or contact Brenda Reed for more information.



Closer to Normal, Hopefully

We are so thankful that the COVID pandemic may soon be behind us and we can look forward to planning another one of our Prime Timers Events. It will be such a blessing to be able to fellowship together again!

Be sure to watch for the good news in the church bulletin for any future announcements. We will keep it simple and safe and as always, lot of FUN!

—Bonnie Oney, Reporter



Thanks to each of you for making the 2021 Easter Car Hop a great time for children in our congregation as well as those in our community! As children went from car to car, not only were their baskets filled with eggs, they received a book about the first Easter as well as a 'to go' activity that told the Gospel story. Your generosity to share the love of Jesus with others makes a difference in the lives of our young people.

Please save the date for Saturday, April 16, 2022, Car Hop! Looking forward to being God's hands and feet as we plan to welcome the community with the love of Christ.



Is it enough to think today
 Of all our brave, then put away
 The thought until a year has sped?
 Is this full honor for our dead?
 Is it enough to sing a song
 And deck a grave; and all year long
 Forget the brave who died that we
 Might keep our great land proud and free?
 Full service needs a greater toll,
 That we who live give heart and soul
 To keep the land they died to save,
 And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!

Looking Ahead to Fall 2021

It is not too early to start thinking about being part of a small study group next fall! Some of the Mt. Nebo UMC small groups study together year-round, yet others take a break in the summer. I would encourage each of us to find a current small group to join, look ahead to those that will be offered in the fall or step up to lead a small group study. We were made for a relationship with God and others—what better way than to partner with other Christians seeking to live out their faith along life's journey. If you are interested in learning about small group discipleship opportunities, please talk to me at 513-509-8498.

Brenda Reed—Discipleship Coordinator



Gardening For God

Last spring when most of our normal daily routine had been interrupted, a friend offered Dan and I garden seeds. We had not planted a garden for a number of years, mainly because we ended up with weeds everywhere, our plants often died...we had a list of excuses why our gardens never produced! BUT, since we were offered the seeds and encouragement from a friend, we decided to give gardening a try! We have not perfected the art of gardening yet but our 2020 gardening experience, with the encouragement of others, was all we needed to give it another try this spring!

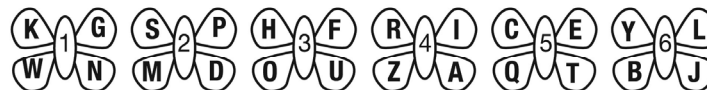
As I think about our gardening experience, aren't we called to be gardeners for God? Jesus is talking to his disciples, *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.* [Matthew 9:37-38].

We can plant seeds of faith, nurture people as they grow in their faith, and possibly help others as they become deeply rooted in a relationship with Jesus. How is He calling you to work in God's garden here at Mt. Nebo? Think about those seed planters in your life... maybe a Sunday School or Children's Church teacher when you were a child...a youth group leader...a small group leader...someone in your small group. Are you a disciple of Jesus? As disciples, we are called to plant seeds for Jesus.

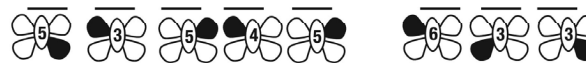
—Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator

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Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



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ANSWER ON PAGE 15



Confirmation Sunday May 9th

Please plan to attend as several youth in the Mt. Nebo UMC church family confirm their faith during worship on Sunday, May 9th. For the past 2 months these youth have studied the Basics of the Christian Faith together. In addition to being part of this study group they have had the opportunity to hear personal God stories from people in our congregation as well as understand the personal commitment believers in Christ are called to make.

Confirmation Sunday is not a destination for these youth; it marks the time of public profession of faith along their Christian Walk. Some of these youth were baptized as infants or young children and will be accepting for themselves the commitment made on their behalf at their baptism and others will be baptized during this Sunday Worship. This is really something special to celebrate!!!

I want to extend a special thanks to the parents of these youth for their effort in making sure calendars were cleared so the youth could attend these sessions. Thanks also to the people who shared with these youth during the Basics of the Christian Faith classes; sharing personal testimony, ways God has called them to serve, or taking the time to spend with these youth did much to encourage them along the way.

—Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator



Births IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Virginia Katherine Maness, was born on March 15, 2021, and weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and 22 inches long. Virginia was welcomed into this world by her parents, Denver and Ginny Maness and grandparents, Todd and Kathy Pollard.

Everleigh Quinn Lundsford, was born on March 22, 2021, and weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and 19 1/2 inches long. Everleigh was welcomed into this world by her parents, Morgan and Taylor Lundsford, sister and brother, Kensley and Rhett plus grandparents, Bill and Anna Henry and great grandmother, Linda Henry.

Norma Hicks-Fraleay, passed away on March 12, 2021, at the age of 90. Norma was the mother and mother-in-law of Doyle and Iris Hicks.

David Durban, passed away on April 14, 2021. David was the son of Darline Wash.

Deaths IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



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



The next family night will be Monday, May 10th. The theme for the evening will be "Packing for Summer Vacation"- Taking God with you Wherever you Go!

The evening will begin at 6 PM with a Bedtime Bible story at the Murphy Pavilion, weather permitting. Families, bring a blanket or sleeping bag to use during the Bedtime Bible story. The craft will help us prepare for the summer ahead!! We will play summer fun games, and enjoy time together!

Packing For Summer Vacation



Parking Lot Chalk Night

'Celebrate Freedom!'

Wednesday, June 30th

Mount Nebo's second Parking Lot Chalk Night will be Wednesday, June 30th at 6 PM. This year's theme will be 'Celebrate Freedom!'. Not only can we celebrate the independence of our country plus also, as Christians, we have freedom in Christ. Each family (or individual) will use this theme as you plan to decorate a parking space using sidewalk chalk. Please come with an idea or plan for decorating a designated parking space. We will have sidewalk chalk available, but feel free to bring your own- you may have colors or special chalk! Please come join the fun!!!



(NOTE- When the parking lot was paved a few years ago as a space to park cars, little did we realize how valuable this space would be— Parking Lot worship, Drive Thru Nativity, Easter Car Hop, and Parking Lot Chalk Nights)

Come join the fun!!! Last year's event was a great time of fellowship and fun for all ages!

Youth Ministry NEWS

The 456 has begun meeting face to face at the Mt. Nebo UMC Murphy Pavilion. For the past several months the youth group for 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th graders had been studying the Parables that Jesus told. It was also great to begin to meet face to face since Spring break every Monday 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the Murphy Pavilion. The group also shared songs of praise and a devotion with the residents of Villa Nursing Home in Georgetown during their last meeting in April. 456 will continue to meet through the end of school and on Monday, May 24th we will celebrate the end of the school year and recognize those 7th graders in this group!



devos & donuts

The Middle School Devotions and Donuts group will meet through the end of the school year this May from 7:45AM—8:30AM at the church building. This group has met either face to face or via Zoom during the 2020-2021 school year. On the last day of school we will recognize and celebrate our eighth graders that will be moving onto high school.



Devos & Donuts will honor the Hamersville teaching staff by delivering gifts during Teacher Appreciation Week that they have made.



—Continued on next page



Senior Youth Serve

The Mt. Nebo UMC mission statement is 'To Know Christ and Make Him Known.' This Spring the Senior Youth have put into action the 2nd part of this mission. In March they blessed residents of Ohio Valley Manor by taking "Worship on the Road" to them. A special thanks to Will Stratton, Mt. Nebo UMC worship leader, for helping prepare music and play for this event.



In April many of this group helped with the Easter Car Hop and helped packed bags for the Backpack Blessings Ministry. Also, a big thank you to Virgie Luck for organizing the work to be done for the Backpack Blessings!

Please encourage these youth as they serve. A huge thank you to these youth and their parents who encourage and support them in serving.

It only takes a little to make a Big Difference for Jesus! (Many Ohio Valley Manor residents had not had the opportunities to visit with young people or hear songs of praise sung in person for over a year. In less than 40 minutes, 10 Sr. Youth and a few adults packed over 160 Backpack Blessing packs.)

God will use a willing heart and equip you as you help work with this group of youth. The best way young people will grow to serve is to see adults serving from the heart. Anyone interested in working with Sr. Youth as they serve, please see Brenda Reed for details.

—Brenda Reed, Discipleship Coordinator

Vacation Bible School 2021 Tuesday, July 27 through Friday, July 30


Who doesn't want an all-expense paid trip this summer!?! Make plans to be part of the crew planning and hosting this year's VBS adventure—"Discovery on Adventure Island"!!! This will be a 'trip of a lifetime' whether a young person—ages 4 through grade 6—a youth helper 7th grade through senior high—or adult crew member!!! Mark your calendar and save these dates for the 2021 VBS!!!! Please let Brenda Reed know if you would like to be part of the crew, either as an adult or youth crew member. More details about pre-registration will be available in the July issue of Mt. Nebo News, in the weekly bulletin, and as a link through the church website, beginning mid June!



Bible Quiz

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?


A. Matthew
B. Mark
C. Luke
D. John



Bible Quiz

Complete this proverb: "Like snow in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

A. springtime
B. summer
C. seedtime
D. autumn



Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 15



- May 2 – Imagine God
- May 9 – Imagine Jesus
- May 16 – Imagine The Love of Christ
- May 23 – Imagine the Holy Spirit
- May 30 – Imagine the Peace of God
- June 6 – Imagine God's Grace
- June 13 – Imagine Battle Readiness
- June 20 – Imagine Angels of God
- June 27 – Imagine Heaven



As this school year comes to an end I ask for your continued prayers for our Backpack Blessing children and their families during these summers months. And as always, I thank you all for your support through donations, prayers and help with making up the food packs!

—Virgie Luck, Coordinator

Heavenly Humor



Breakfast In Bed?

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. But after a good long wait she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. "As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "We decided to cook our own breakfast."

Long Hair

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father, if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man waited for a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair!" to which his father replied, "Yes, you're right, and they also WALKED every where they went!"

The Census Taker

Five year old Becky answered the door when the Census taker came by. She told the Census taker that her daddy was a doctor and wasn't home, because he was performing an appendectomy.

"My," said the census taker, "that sure is a big word for such a little girl. Do you know what it means?"

"Sure! Fifteen hundred bucks and that don't even include the anesthesiologist!"

**ANSWERS TO BIBLE
QUIZZES ON PAGE 13**

Top—C (See Luke 1:1-4)
Bottom— B (See Proverbs 26:1 ESV)

ANSWER FROM PUZZLE ON PAGE 8

Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

—John Lubbock

—*An Encouraging Word* — Continued from page 2

We have made ministry decisions about worship services, discipleship, and outreach applying recommended protocols the best that we could throughout this past year. Now seems to be the time God would have us to increase opportunities we offer people to connect more in-person for worship, for spiritual growth, for fellowship, and for outreach ministries. The isolation experienced from COVID is now a greater concern than the virus. However, we will continue to offer some alternatives to in-person during this transition. Sunday Drive-in worship offered through an FM transmitter will continue to be offered. We will continue to offer worship on-line through our website and YouTube available Sunday afternoons. And some Bible Study classes will continue to be offered virtually via ZOOM.

You may have wondered how Mt. Nebo has done financially through 2020 and the early part of 2021. As you may expect, our ministry programming expenses were lower during that period of time. Utilities expenses were slightly lower. We have also worked to cut other expenses which in part has involved renegotiating some service contracts. We did take the opportunity when we were not inside the building to have significant drywall repair and painting work completed. All our buildings were reroofed because of hail damage. That expense was covered by insurance which was clearly another way that God provided. Salary expenses remained the same because we chose to refocus staff responsibilities rather than lay them off. We wanted to care for them but we also needed additional help making personal contact with our congregation that became isolated from each other.

Overall, God has helped us maintain financially through the faithful giving of many of you. What a blessing to ministry at Mt. Nebo, but also what a great encouragement it was to me and all of us. We all witnessed our congregation worship the Lord by giving to Him even during financially uncertain times and during times when the normal way to give during Sunday worship had to change. God must certainly be pleased as more than ever we gave to Him from our hearts. I’m truly honored to be part of a congregation that works together to honor God and that works together to live out His mission for us, “To Know Christ and Make Him Known.”

—Pastor Mike

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 Piano and Hymns
Service inside and parking lot on 91.1 FM

11:00 AM Worship with Band
Service inside and parking lot on 91.1 FM

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

Our Mission:
To Know Christ and Make Him Known