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Volume 24 - Issue 5 - September / October, 2020

An Encouraging Word

A year and a half ago, Elise and I moved into a new rural neighborhood. We only knew two families. The rest were strangers to us and we to them. Who knows what they thought about us. Some just gave us the look, a stare. Others waved and smiled but kept driving. Only one of our neighbors that didn't know us stopped to speak. And because they did, we began to get to know them and they began to get to know us.

What's the best way to get to know someone?

Rely on first impressions? Nope because we can easily misjudge them. The first impression that some of our neighbors had of me was me in dirty work clothes or driving my 20 year old rusted out truck. First impressions are seldom accurate.

Ask somebody else who says they know them? Equally inaccurate because they may not know the person well or they may have the wrong impression of them. All some people heard about me at first was that I was a pastor. Therefore, any negative experience they may have had with other pastors was probably transferred onto me...Yikes!

Use a Google search? Also, likely to be inaccurate. Because what they find may be information about another person by the same name. I Google searched my name and found 156 Mike Starkeys not counting a greater or equal amount of Michael Starkeys.

The best way to get to know someone is for them to choose to open up and share about themselves...reveal themselves to us.

God created us to be in a right relationship with Him. God loves us and wants us to know Him well. Therefore, He has chosen to reveal Himself to humankind since the beginning. One way God has done this is through using different names that describe His character. And as we discover more about God's character, we have the opportunity to get to know Him better, trust Him more and love Him more deeply. [Psalm 9:10] *"And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."*

Are you ready? Let's learn some names and get closer to God!

—Pastor Mike



Dear Parents of 2020,

I know these past 6 months have presented your families with challenges you never expected to face or a time you may not have willingly chosen to navigate- given the choice. In times like these, we often find ourselves relying on the promises in God’s Word and words spoken by some of those early followers of the Christian faith that are recorded in scripture. One of those verses for me is [Philippians 4:13] *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.* –NIV. It affirms that I only need to look to Christ for my strength.

If you are thinking she does not understand what we have gone through, you are right. As a parent of four adult children, I know how crazy schedules can be, the significance of celebrating with a traditional end of school or graduation, and how important it was to keep our family’s focus on Christ. One thing for sure, I have never parented young children or school age children during a pandemic, so your challenges have been and continue to be unique. One thing I have done and continue to do is to pray for you in this season that you will see God at work in your lives and the lives of your children. I am sure each of us can think of blessings we have experienced over the past several months. I see evidence of this in your fishing trips, finding fun playing in the back yard, spending a lot of family time, and celebrating graduations in unconventional ways. I am sure you can list many things your family **did** enjoy this past spring and summer. It is also certain that your children will remember the differently unique experiences your family had this year that were special.

Two songs from different eras remind me that we have blessings to find, no matter what we are experiencing – the first one is a very traditional hymn that many of your parents may remember, “Count Your Many Blessings”.

**“Count your blessings,
Name them one by one,
Count your blessings see what God has done...”**

The other song is written by Laura Story, a contemporary Christian artist and worship leader. The chorus of this song, titled “Blessings” are...

**'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?
What if Your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?**

I challenge you to look for unique opportunities where you have seen blessings in 2020 and continue to see them. Let 2020 be remembered for the ways God’s Love was evident to you and those you love.

God's Hands and Feet in the Community

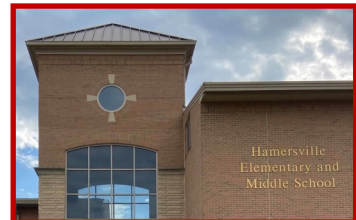
During the past month, Bible Chapel, Hamersville Baptist Church, Hamersville Church of Christ and Mt. Nebo UMC have shared the Love of Christ through the Drive-Thru Backpack Event and a Jericho Prayer Walk. Pastor Mike and the pastors of the other churches in this group meet regularly to pray for the needs of the community and seek together ways they might support the community in meaningful ways that others might sense God's Love and care.



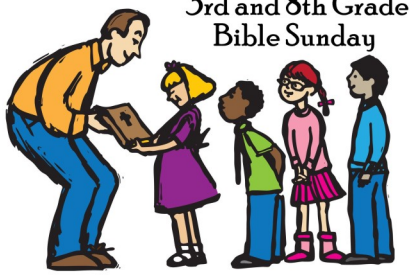
Drive-Thru Backpack Event—On August 4th, the backpack school supply transitioned to a drive-thru format, but students were still able to pick their favorite backpack (already filled with supplies for the school year) from their cars. Children, youth, and adults from the four churches worked together to make sure kids had the backpacks they wanted. In all, there were 151 filled backpacks given to families that evening and another 30 were donated to the Hamersville Elementary/Middle school to be distributed to those needing them throughout the year.



Jericho Prayer Walk—The four churches came together the day before students started school for the 2020-2021 school year. This time the purpose was to pray for the upcoming school year as they walked the grounds. Prayers for students, staff, community health, essential workers and those making decisions related to schools safely reopening were prayed as people walked around district buildings.



A special thanks to all those who sensed God nudging them to serve.



3rd and 8th Grade Bible Sunday

Please plan to join us **Sunday, September 13th**, for Bible Sunday. During both the 9 AM and 11 AM services, 3rd graders and 8th graders will be presented with Bibles that include age appropriate devotions and guides for Bible study.

2020 has certainly been a year marked with change, obstacles, and uncertainty in our world. Faith in God and seeking direction found in God's Word never changes. Mt. Nebo UMC's commitment to provide these Bibles to

our young people will help them face uncertainties and obstacles with confidence and peace that is only found in a relationship with Jesus.

Please pray for these young people as they read and discover the messages of God's Love contained in the Bible! Please contact Brenda Reed, discipleship coordinator, if your child is a third or eighth grader, so we can best plan for this special event.

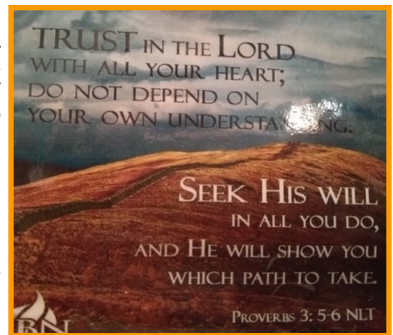


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

4 5 6 SMALL-GROUP

The 456 Youth celebrated the end of summer break with 'bring your own lunch', games, and looking at Proverbs 3:5-6. The group name may change, but this group of youth will meet after school on Mondays from 4:30 PM-5:30 PM at the Mt. Nebo UMC Murphy Pavilion beginning September 14th. A big thanks to Alyssa Eubanks for setting up our Zoom meetings for this summer and leading the devotion time.

Celebrate Summer



—Continued on next page



Time to Share—Faith and Fellowship

As we all can agree, 2020 has not been like any other year we have experienced. We can all look at disappointments over cancellations and changes that have been made over the past months, but this summer gave us opportunities we might have otherwise missed to let families come together to learn and grow in their faith. Family Chalk Painting Night and Bedtime Bible Stories were just two of the many blessings we have seen at Mt. Nebo UMC.

Family Chalk Painting Night

This summer, Mt. Nebo UMC hosted its first parking lot chalk painting night. Each family chose a scripture, Bible story, or things to represent their family as they decorated a parking space with sidewalk chalk. Families planned what their space would represent, then worked together to put their ideas on the pavement! Thanks to Virgie Luck for her willingness to help with this event! Look for a date and time for Parking Lot Chalk Night in 2021!



Continued on next page



Families with children were invited to participate in Bedtime Bible Stories at the Pavilion during the week of July 13th. During that week we heard 3 different storytellers as they shared to help families understand...

- S'more Joy through the encounter of Zacchaeus and Jesus
- S'more Love through the Parable of the Good Samaritan
- S'more Jesus when Saul's life was changed so he would share about Jesus with others.

The families heard a story, sang familiar Bible songs, completed a craft and enjoyed snacks together. Hope you plan to join us for more Bedtime Bible Story events for the families!

Hats off to all of the adults who were willing to help plan and lead during this event and a special thanks to parents who made time for these evenings to be a priority for their families!



Continued on next page

Sr. High Youth

Although they were not meeting face to face in a building, the Sr. High Youth Group met regularly throughout the summer via Zoom. In July they celebrated 'Christmas in July' with Christmas carol charades, then looked at the faithfulness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, despite many obstacles.

Eight of the senior high youth, along with other members of Mt. Nebo and other Hamersville area churches helped with the Hamersville Drive-Thru Backpack Event organized by our community churches. Watch for upcoming times and dates for Sr. High Youth events and devotions throughout the school year.



Men's Shoulder to Shoulder Small Group




Big things happen in small groups! Shoulder to Shoulder is a Men's Small Group that meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM at Mt. Nebo's Murphy Pavilion. **The group is currently studying the book of Acts.** In addition to studying together, this group of men lift one another up in prayer and pray for the concerns of others.

These men study, pray, and hold one another accountable in their walks as Christian men. Chris Erhardt is the group leader. Any man interested in joining this group feel free to come on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM; also feel free to talk to Chris for more information.

Bible Quiz

Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?


- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness



Bible Quiz

In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks



Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 11



We're Lowering Our Mortgage!

Mortgage as August 31, 2020:
\$496,355

The Sky Was Falling!

The sky was falling on the evening of April 8, 2020, when a severe thunderstorm produce high wind and large hail. When our Leadership Team had the church building roofs inspected a few months later, significant hail damage was discovered. We contacted our insurance company and they sent out an adjuster who determined that the damage warranted that all our shingle roofs

be replaced, four buildings in all. Myself and the Leadership Team Members cringed at the thought of what Mt. Nebo's part of the cost might be. Individually we were praying that God would provide somehow for this unexpected need and expense. However, we had no idea how well God would provide to help us continue to carry out our mission: To Know Christ and Make Him Known." God's provision came in three parts. First, our church insurance policy includes full replacement value coverage which meant that 100% of the cost is covered minus our deductible. God definitely provided for this need. Second, we later learned that our insurance company even cut the deductible in half. Third, Robert Morgan, the contractor we hired, made a donation to Mt. Nebo which will cover the deductible and then some. We are grateful to God for meeting our need and we are grateful for our insurance company and Robert Morgan who were willing parts of it. The roofing work will likely begin soon after Labor Day. Please join myself and our Leadership Team in offering sincere praise to God for providing for ministry at Mt. Nebo in ways that we could not have imagined.

—Pastor Mike



**Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!**



Giles and Lindsey Earhart are the proud parents of **Laylyn Claire Earhart**. Laylyn was born on July 2, 2020, and weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz, 19 inches in length. Laylyn was also welcomed home by her big sisters, Ellison and Adeline, along with great-grandparent, Charlotte Earhart.

Brandon and Amber Noel are the proud parents of **Karoline Estelle Noel**. Karoline was born on August 27, 2020, and weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz, 21 inches in length. Karoline was also welcomed home by her big sister, Kate, and big brother, Knox, grandparents, Tim and Lisa Singler, along with great-grandparent, Charlotte Earhart.



It's that time of year, where schools are starting back up. I have not heard how we are going to distribute the food for Backpack Blessings just yet. Please keep the children and staff in your prayers. Hopefully we will be able to soon start handing out our bags of food for these kids.

Items for the month of October: Individual cereal boxes

Items for the month of September: Chicken noodle soup

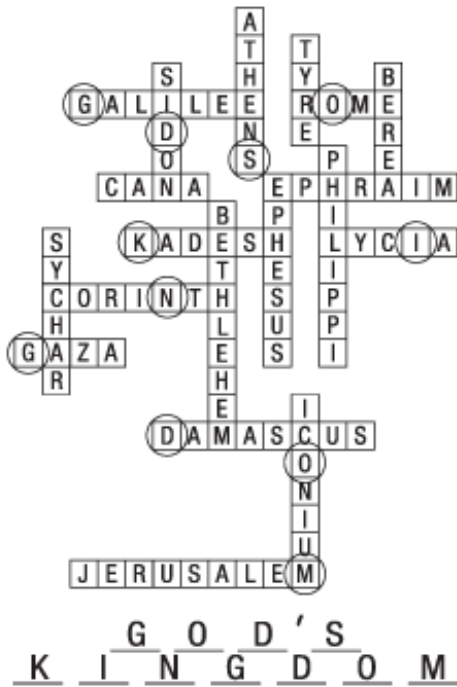
—Melissa Stephen, Coordinator



For those of you in our congregation that have not ventured inside the church building as yet, we invite you to step in for a second and check out the shelves in the Narthex. These have remained empty since the church was built, until now. We hope that you enjoy the new view!

—The Decorating Team along with help from many others.

ANSWER FROM PUZZLE ON PAGE 8



Answer to Bible Quizzes on Page 9
 Top—C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32)
 Bottom—A (See Matthew 7:24-27)

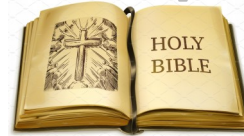
National Grandparents Day



September 13th

September and October

Sermon Topics



“Faithful” sermon series continued

Sept. 6 – Restart

Sept. 13 – Remain Faithful

New Series:

“Names of God (His Character Revealed)”

Sept. 20 – Mighty Creator (Elohim)

Sept. 27 – God Most High (El Elyon)

Oct. 4 – God Who Sees Me (El Roi)

Oct. 11 – All-Sufficient One (El Shaddai)

Oct. 18 – The Lord Provides (Yahweh Yireh)

Oct. 25 – The Lord Who Heals You (Yahweh Rapha)



Fall Event
Happening

It’s been a long time since the Prime Timers have fellowshiped together...but the time has come where it will be safe to see everyone and praise God together.

I’m talking about the Song Fest at the Prayer Chapel at the Dunn’s home (1548 Starling Road). This will be an outdoor event so social distancing will not be a problem (masks are suggested).

The Song Fest will be on September 19th from 6 to 9 PM. Please come and bring your lawn chair. We will listen and sing praises to the Lord.

As always, Walking Tocos will be served and should there be rain at the time of the event, it will be cancelled.

—Bonnie Oney, Reporter

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.mtneboumvo.com and on our YouTube channel (Mt. Nebo UMC).

Our Mission:

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

