



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 15, Issue 1

January, 2022

From Pastor Cole

Happy New Year! Can you believe it is already time to turn the calendar to a new year? For many of us, a new start is exactly what we are looking for. The last 20 or so months have been challenging in ways we could not have anticipated in January of 2020.

I wonder how we might use this new year to hit the "refresh" button? There are many ways to do this. One way for you to consider is joining us for a 5 week series called "The Walk." This series is based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*.

Now, I know what you are thinking... *another* series about 5 practices for this or that!? I imagine that most of us have been through dozens of these types of series. So why would I offer another? What is special or different about this series?

This series may not be dramatically different than other sermons you've heard about living a life in love with God. But we do these types of series often because life can

be messy, we are imperfect, and we all need reminders to re-engage in our *Walk* with Christ.

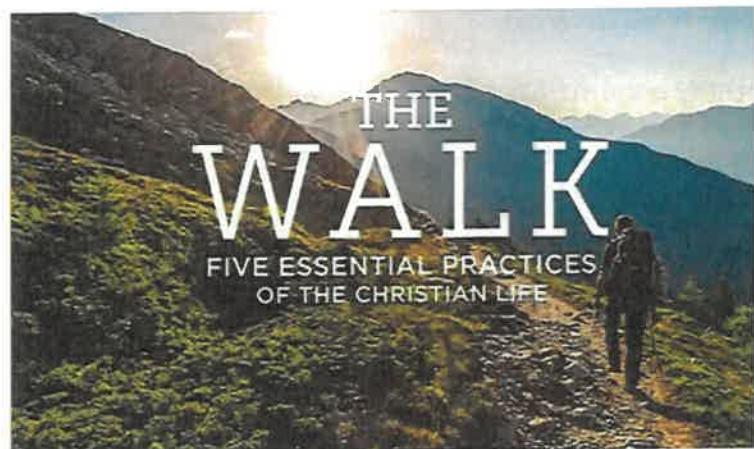
Like any series or practice, you get out of it what you put into it. I wonder what you might be willing to invest in this season of new beginnings? How might you open yourself up — again — to what God wants to do in you and through?

Over the course of 5 weeks, we will look at "Worship," "Study," "Serve," "Give" and "Share" as 5 fundamental ways of engaging with the incarnate God among us. Then the challenge and invitation is to share about those encounters with God to all we meet.

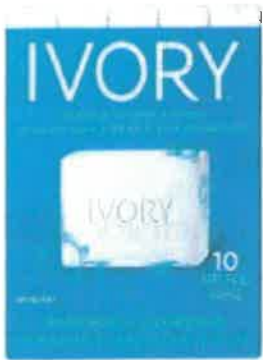
Truly, you will get out of this what you put into it. I pray and hope that you will join me in opening ourselves up again to the God who wants to be with us. To the God who is unstoppable and will always draw near. To the God who loves you exactly as you are, and is calling you deeper into love with all creation.

I look forward to this new season together. Many blessings to you and a very Happy New Year!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Cole



Service and Announcements



Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation **bring INSTANT OATMEAL, JELLY, BAR SOAP this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping!

Please join us on January 8th at 10am to clean up and store the Advent/Christmas decorations. We will have coffee/tea and donuts (by way of trying to bribe you!). We are grateful for any amount of time you can help us that morning.

Men — there are a couple of opportunities for fellowship and study this month. Join us on January 22nd for a time of breakfast and fellowship @8 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by calling the church office or emailing Belinda at belinda@maggieumc.org.

The Men's group will also meet on January 20th at 5:30 in the Daisy Classroom. All are welcome to both of these events!

Would you like to get to know your fellow church-goers better? Join us for a time of fun-filled-fellowship on January 29th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. The event we are calling "Methodist Mingle," will give you a chance to learn more about who sits next to you on Sunday mornings. Plus — there will be a couple of fun prizes! Join us! Light refreshments will be served.

The monthly board meeting will take place on January 18th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend. If you would like to submit an agenda item for the meeting, please email our board chair (Ken Brown) no later than January 11th. Ken's email is: ken.brown@marxbrown.com

From Bill Chamberlin, Treasurer's Report

Monthly Financial Report for December 2021

December		
Needed for Budget	\$	24,041.39
Expenses	\$	25,781.11
Offerings	\$	23,371.48
Over/Under	\$	(2409.63)



Treasurer Report

January

2022

December

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4	5				1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31				27	28			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Holy Communion & Worship (10:30)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	4	Open Door (9-11) Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	HAPPY NEW YEAR! AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Study (6pm)	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30) — Daisy Room	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Study (6pm)	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	"Methodist Mingle" (10am) — Fellowship Hall

Prayer Concerns

Our Kindred Spirits Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at noon at MVUMC. Come to the Daisy classroom to join this group with your mask and please keep these in your prayers:

Donald Atkins	Bruce Arrow	Lovia & Tom Barefoot	Jim Bauden	Audrey Baxter	
Jane Berrevoets	Robert Scott Blackadder	Eileen Bogo	Larry Bogo	Erma Bond	Greg Boyd
Hazel Bradshaw	Savannah Brigman	Wendell Burchfield	Jonathan Burr	Stockey Caldwell	Colton
Joe & Mari Conneen	Lance Conway	Jessica Cothorn	Teresa Crocker	Rev. Paul Davenport	Connie Dennis
Anita Desmond	Willard Dockery	Diana Duclos	Kirk Duclos	Earwood Family	Brian Bradley
Cory England	Clarissa Fisher	Vicky Flynn's Family	Carol Gardner	Dorothy Gardner	Bonnie & Larry Germaine
Brenda Griswold	Peyton Gully	Bud Hanselman	Grace Heger	Edith Highsmith	Michael Hill
Michael Hinebaugh	Carolyn Hobson	Jim Hunt	Holt Isom	Kim Itvere	Phyllis Jackson
Jimmy	Connie Jones	Bubba & Shirley Kelly	Gail Kevenk	Allen Kitchens	Jay Langford
Cheryl & Destiny Little	Lewis Lowder	Lynn Martin	Devoice Medford	Paul Mehaffey	
Brenda Messer	Tom Miller	Ruby Moore	Sandra Morris	Jim Murtaugh	Jim Neely
Michael O'Gorman	John Planchock	Norann Planchock	Pete Planchock	Scott Reed	Angela Reid
Pola	Sheila Price	Susan Purvis	Courtney Quick	Patricia Rowell's Family	
Ginger Revis	Charlie & Mildred Rich	Mike Rickman	Rhonda Riley	Sarah Smart	Dustin Smith
John Saxton	Ron Sellers	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Elizabeth Smallwood	Betty Sutton	Sammy Sutton
Nan Smith	Annie Smith	Jane Spell	Carolyn Strickland	Pietro Tondini	Brian Toole
Hilda Taylor	Kent Taylor	Kim Tilley	Sam Tiger	Tom Wynch	Janene Young
Martha Bradshaw Trull	Audrey Waters	Ted Watts	Aaron White		
Gerry Robinson					

Please continue to pray for the following as well: Administrative Board, Bishop Carter, COVID 19 Pandemic, Disaster Victims, All Travelers, Our Choir, Haywood Street Congregation, Homeless People, Open Door, In God's Creation Hiking Group, Haywood Pathways Center, Manna Foodbank & Publix, Men's Group, Missionaries, People looking for Work, Shepherd's Table, Sisters in Christ, Sonshine Recovery Ministries, United Methodist Church, World Events & Peace, Sunday School, Refugees, Food Pantry, Community Garden, Blue Ridge Health, Our Children & Youth, Schofields Ministries-MOM program, "Subject 2 Change" Christian Trio, District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jae Lee, UMC Grace Circle, Van Ministry



families including Jesse Brestle, Amanda Bryson, Joshua Cruse, Andrew Davis, Clayton Hardy, Samuel Hunter, Ian Hutton, Makenzie Moore, Zachary & Gabriella Moore, Michael Morris, Kane Pinkston, Joe Stroupe, Luke Turner, Camille Tyler, Michael Woodard, 211th Military Police Company, Prisoners of War, Veterans, Injured & MIA, Our Country, The President, and Our Leaders.

Those in Nursing Homes Becky Bender, Jane Cable, Lady Hughes, Betty Sutton → Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab; Gail Pace → Silver Bluff; Sue Shepherd → Smoky Mtn Nursing Home; Haywood Lodge, Maggie Valley Nursing Home, McCracken's Nursing Home, Silver Bluff Nursing Home, and Smoky Mountain Health & Rehab.

Those who are Homebound including Tom Bennett, Kathryn Brannen, Joseph Cullen, Wanda Deutsch, Willard Dockery, Helen & Joe Duke, Betty Ferguson, Nancy Lott Gerald, Tom & Vivian Gerard, Zeldia Hanson, Bea Hawkins, Mary Beth Johnson, Paul Mehaffey, Hilda Palmer, The Pickens Family, Doug Ramsey, Ken Roach, Linda Rondecial, Maureen Shaw, Irene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, Terri Waddell, David & Donna Wagner and Aaron White.

Haywood County School Teachers and Students, College Students, Sunday School Teachers & Subs, Children's Church Workers and also including Bill Chamberlin, Shelly Coker, Anna Coleman, Eddie Ferguson, Clarissa Fisher, Beverly Ketner, Cameron Lail, Kristin Litchford, Jenny McPhaul, Renee Mackey, Wanda Messer, Annie Palmer, Barb, Danny & Megan Planchock, Gail Quick, Lynn & Mark Rains, Shafin & Taylor Ross, Mike & Sue Shirley, and Luke Williamson.

Emergency & Medical Workers, Missionaries & their families including Elizabeth Carmichael, Joe Conneen, Jeff Mackey & the MV Police Dept., Massey Family, Linda Palmer, Lynn & Mark Rains, Susan Snyder and Summer Conneen.

Our Country, Government, Service men, women & their

Thank you's

Dear Maggie valley UMC,

Blessings and love to all of our church family. Doesn't look like we will be able to travel to Maggie valley anymore. Miss all of you.

Hugs,
Bill and Ann Best

To all our Church Family at Maggie valley UMC,
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and safe coming New Year. It has been over two years since we were able to share in person worship and fellowship with you. You have remained in our weekly thoughts and prayers.

With Love,
Bill and Ann Best

Dear MVUMC,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Rosalyn "Roddy" Ray and James "Jay" Lansford

Dear Maggie valley UMC,

I am thinking about you and your church community and praying for your health. Enclosed is a check to use where needed. Thank you for all you do!

Blessings for the New Year,
Linda Weaver

Dear Maggie valley UMC,

Merry Christmas! Thank you for making me feel appreciated and part of the Church Family.

Beth Tice,
Custodian

Maggie valley Friends,

As frequent visitors to Maggie valley, we have followed the news of the severe flooding in the area. We can definitely empathize, as our home was flooded this year also. Please use this gift to give whatever Christmas gifts are needed to a family who may be in need this year. We think of your beautiful area often and hope to visit again soon. Merry Christmas and prayers for a Happy and safe New Year

Emaline and Allen Wilson

Dear Church,

Lois Oehme passed away this summer after fighting brain cancer for two years. She had not experienced any pain and died peacefully! Thank you for all your prayers during her illness.

Dick Oehme

Birthdays & Anniversaries

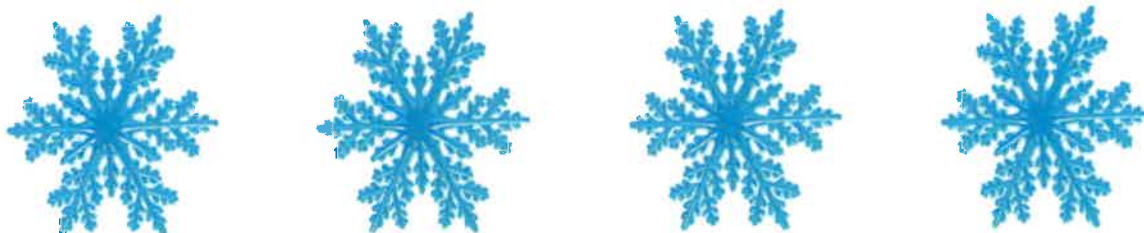


HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | MaryAnn Vignola | 15 | Betty Joe Beasley |
| 2 | John Burton | 16 | Helen Dickinson |
| 4 | Cody Campbell | 19 | Joseph Conneen |
| 4 | Jason Kanupp | 20 | Bubba Kelley |
| 5 | Steve Mehaffey | 22 | Helen Duke |
| 6 | Lovia Barefoot | 23 | Jeremy Troxler |
| 6 | Jason Rogers | 24 | David Reeves |
| 7 | Tyler Brosius | 25 | Melinda Coker Sutton |
| 7 | Tom Palmer | 27 | Shafin Ross |
| 9 | Linda Howell | 28 | Don Bennett |
| 10 | Zara Moore | 29 | Sten Lundgren |
| 11 | Alexia Trull | 29 | Cullen McKenney |
| 13 | Larry Butler | 30 | Laurie Bledsoe Morris |
| 13 | Todd Carpenter | 30 | Charlotte Rogers |
| 13 | Helen Davis | 31 | Devan Messer |
| 14 | Cam Walsh | | |

Happy January Anniversary!

- 12 Georgia & Billy Butler (2002)
- 19 Susan & Dan Dry (2019)
- 24 Ann & Ted Watts (1976)



From Beth Brown, Lay Leader

Why Christians Fail to Change - What to do when you are Spiritually Stuck

Beth Brown, Lay Leader

Happy New Year! As we put the craziness of the holidays behind us and begin the journey through 2022, I pray that this year may be a blessing of spiritual growth, hope for the future, and peace through the storms and changes this year may bring.

We are continuing our series from Chip Ingram's book, "Yes! You Really CAN Change. What to Do When You're Spiritually Stuck." Chip Ingram is a teaching pastor and CEO of Living on the Edge, an international teaching and discipleship ministry. Chip believes there are at least three primary reasons Christians fail to change as thoroughly as Scripture promises: spiritual ignorance, spiritual isolation, and spiritual myopia. This month we are going to explore spiritual myopia.

Spiritual Myopia

Myopia is nearsightedness, the inability to see clearly at a distance. One of the reasons many Christians do not experience the life change they envision is their overdeveloped focus on immediate, up-close motivations. Sometimes they want to be more Christ like because it would lead to great joy and fulfillment, because they want God to use them for His purposes, or because they want to avoid feeling guilty for not growing. Those desires can motivate us for a time, but they rarely last. Why? Because they aren't big enough.

Spiritual myopia subtly and insidiously makes spiritual progress a personal matter that's no one else's business. It misses the big picture – a vision of the majesty of God, the testimony of the body of Christ in the world, His desire to manifest His wisdom, power, and love in every believer. The world watches and wonders. Is Christianity legitimate? Is the Holy Spirit real? Is the church different from any other religious organization? Is there a God who loves and watches over me? Can I hope for heaven?

We can develop all the theological arguments we want, learn the art and logic of apologetics, and make our case for Christianity, but none of that creates a testimony as powerful as our lifestyle. The greatest evidence for Christianity is Christians. And if we are living ingrown, self-centered, typical lives that blend in with the rest of our culture, we are misrepresenting the nature of God, the salvation of Jesus, and the calling of the church. Or as Jesus would put it, the salt has lost its saltiness, and the light is hidden from the world. (Matthew 5:13-16).

In many sectors of society and the church, Christianity has been reduced to a system of how-lists or a moral and ethical code that isn't much different from society's best standards. It has become a collection of advice and hacks for how to have a happy life, a wonderful marriage, good kids, financial security, and the approval of a somewhat distant God. There's nothing wrong with having good relationships and a comfortable lifestyle, but those are best seen as byproducts of the faith, not its substance. They are not the essence or purpose of God's call.

There's another aspect to our myopia that can also inhibit change. Much of Christian teaching in certain periods of history, including ours, has narrowed the gospel down to spiritual salvation and nothing else, as if God is only concerned about our souls but not the practical details of our lives. Many believers have therefore subconsciously divided their lives into spiritual and everything else. But most people find, after being saved, that they really need help with the everything else, not just the spiritual. They have problems with relationships, health, finances, decision making and every other area of their lives. We forget that Jesus never talked about the gospel of salvation in isolation. He talked about the kingdom of God. That covers a lot. It is relevant to every aspect of our lives here and now as well as in eternity. It's comprehensive. (Underscore added for emphasis)

We are made for eternity but placed in this space-and-time world. We are called both to know and love God forever and to demonstrate His character, nature, and salvation in our here-and-now lives. Biblical Christianity gives us answers to life's deepest questions about why we are here, the meaning of life, and our ultimate destiny, and God calls us to live as the answers to those questions in the midst of our society. When we get a high view of God, grapple with and grow in understanding of His sovereign purposes in creation and redemption, and recapture the wonder and awe of His majesty, we grow. Change happens. We realize where we fit in His larger purposes and live them out in front of a watching world. And our myopia is healed.

Daily scripture reading is the best place to start to grow spiritually, find hope and peace and experience the love that God has for you as shown through the ages and through His son, Jesus.

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Maggie Valley UMC Worship Services - 10:30 am

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Rev. Mike Shirley, Associate Pastor Cell (804) 714-6319

Jason Jones, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

Belinda Marr, Administrative Assistant

"Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others"

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

"LOVE IN ACTION" Newsletter

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On the web at www.maggieumc.org

