



# Love in Action

*The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church*

Volume 15, Issue 4

April, 2022

## FROM PASTOR COLE...

*Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. (John 10:3, The Message)*

The above verse is part of what we will read on Easter morning. John describes the "typical" Easter scene, but it takes a while to get there. Before we read about Jesus' resurrection in John's Gospel, we have this strange description of a foot race between Peter and "the other disciple."

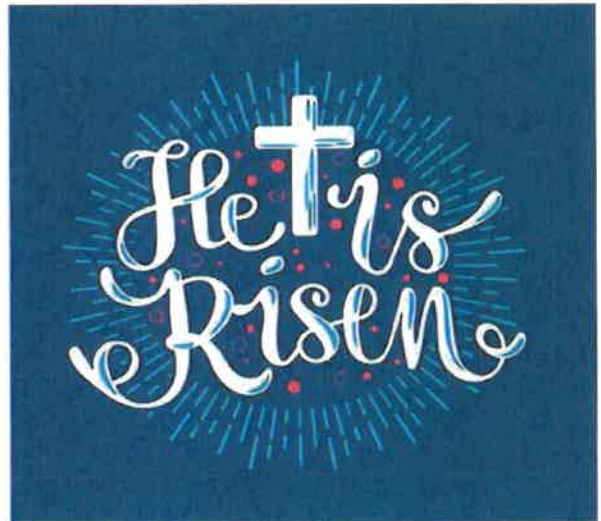
I like quirky or bizarre parts of the Bible. There are many examples to choose from: a talking donkey, giants, celestial beings, healings, prophecies and more! The Bible is an odd and beautiful book. Maybe that's why I'm so drawn to the detail of Peter losing out in the race towards the tomb.

Beyond simply being strange and interesting, I think this detail has something to offer us. Have you ever felt like everyone else is "getting it," doing better, moving on after tragedy, keeping their head above water, just coping or "doing life" better than you are? Of course, we all have at times. And I think this is part of the problem with Easter.

For some, Lent has been a rich, cultivating, transforming season. For others of us, we left our fasts behind after week one. We don't all arrive to the empty tomb, to Easter, in the same way. You may come to church on Easter and feel the full weight of Christ's resurrection. You will belt out the loud "Alleluias" and leave forever changed. You may also come to church on Easter and be quietly underwhelmed by it all. Both ways of experiencing Easter are OK. We don't all make it to the empty tomb at the same time or in the same way. But keep going. Whether this year's Easter is triumphant or quiet for you, keep going.

Did you know we will celebrate "Eastertide" for 50 days! Easter and this season of newness, of new life, of "Spring," is longer than Lent. The season of resurrection is longer than the season of desert wandering. Take hope in that. Keep going and trust that whether you are fast or slow or somewhere in between, God knows. God knows and calls us each by name. Indeed, it wasn't until Jesus called Mary by her name that she recognized him by the empty tomb (see John 20:16).

Trust and believe that it is alright to feel a little less "Easter-y" this year than in years past. Look around, we are living in difficult times with pain and heartache abounding. That's on top of 2



of the most difficult years anyone alive has ever experienced. But keep going. Keep moving towards the empty tomb and trust that our savior, Jesus Christ, is there waiting for us. Waiting to call you by name. Waiting to meet you when you are ready to be met. Waiting to embrace you and fill you up with new life once again.

I hope that this Easter Sunday is triumphant, jubilant, uplifting and life-changing for us all! I pray we boldly proclaim the great news that Christ died but didn't stay that way. I believe that Easter can and will be amazing. But if that isn't how you feel this year, keep going. Know that you are not alone — you are never alone. Know that not all of us get to the empty tomb at the same time and that is alright.

I'm praying for you. I'm walking with you. I'm hoping and trusting in the new life and love that is on the way. May you be blessed with Easter blessings, now and always.

*Grace & Peace,*  
Pastor Cole

## Holy Week & All Those Services...

Can you believe that "Holy Week" is already upon us? Starting with Palm Sunday on April 10th, we will have 5 services of worship in 7 days!! So, what is with all the services? Why should you consider going to each one? Here is a quick reminder about what each service represents:

Palm Sunday (10:30am) — On Palm Sunday we wave branches remembering and celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Kings in times past had ridden an unused donkey to symbolize peace for the nation. We remember that Jesus' entry then — and as we remember it now — as a sign of eternal peace for us all. This Sunday we will wave branches and shout "Hallelujah" just as the people in Jerusalem did some 2000 years ago.

Maundy Thursday (5pm)— This day of worship remembers Jesus' "Last Supper" with his disciples, where we get much of the theology and liturgy for Holy Communion today. This evening is set aside for us to make space in our lives to appreciate Christ's redeeming love for us. We will celebrate Holy Communion as a way of preparing ourselves for the rest of this week.

Good Friday (7pm) — It would be easy to skip from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday but spending an evening of quiet remembrance prepares our whole lives to embrace the redeeming, transforming love of God in Jesus. On Good Friday we remember Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, suffering, death, and burial. On this evening we will participate in a *Tenebrae* service (which is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness"). This powerful service starts with full light, but by the end of the service the altar is bare, and the lights have been put out. It is a poignant reminder of Christ's offering of love for all humanity — then and still today.

Sunrise Easter (7am) — The tradition of celebrating Easter outside and as the sun rises pairs well with the Good Friday service. The Good Friday service will end in darkness, so this one begins. But just as the death of Jesus is not the last thing for us, the darkness does not stay that way. By the end of the sunrise service, we are left standing in full sunlight and feeling the warmth it brings. Similarly, Easter represents a step out of darkness in sin and into light in God's grace. We will sing songs, hear Scripture and celebrate the miraculous and never-ending love of God as we celebrate Christ's resurrection! There will be a separate sermon and order of worship for this service and the 10:30am Easter service.

Easter (10:30am) — "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" Those classic lines sum up what we celebrate on Easter: Christ is risen, indeed! This is the center of our faith and deserves all the extravagant celebration we often give this Sunday. Worship will be jubilant and encourage us all to shake off the dust of the Lenten experience and lean into the full resurrection power and love of God for all people.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Don't forget that **Holy Week** is coming up. **Our Maundy Thursday Service will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, Good Friday Service on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, Easter Sunrise Service in the Garden by the Cross at 7:00am and finally, Easter Sunday Service at 10:30am in the sanctuary.**

**We will NOT have Pastor Cole's Bible Study on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.** We will return on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

Plans have begun for our **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 16, at 12:00 noon. We **do not need plastic eggs**, but we are requesting bags of **individually wrapped candy** which can be dropped off at the office. We will fill eggs on Thursday, April 14, at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Help is also needed hiding eggs at 10:00 on Saturday morning and serving refreshments after the hunt.

Please check the sign-up sheet in the lower entrance, or feel free to call Wanda Messer (734-7848) if you can help with this fun event!

**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**Greetings in Christ! We are looking forward to an amazing Easter season at MVUMC.** One of the highlights is **Easter Sunday Choir.** You are invited and encouraged to joyfully sing along with the Easter Choir! If you are interested in joining the choir, please call Lillianne Chamberlin at 407.506.8801.

**The Open Door will be on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.** Please contact Shirley Saxton or Pastor Cole if you can help. Thank you for your help feeding the hungry amongst us!

**Please note - The Grace Circle of the UMW will meet on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited.

**The One Board will meet on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please note the change in date.

**There are two opportunities each month for men to gather.** The Men's Group will meet in the Daisy Classroom at 5:30pm on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The men's breakfast will meet on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. We hope many of the men gathered on the 30<sup>th</sup> can stay afterwards to help clean out the barn.

All "**Love In Action**" articles are due to Belinda by **Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Maggie Valley Community Gardens** is getting the plant beds (including the beds behind Cole's office) ready for the 2022 growing season. If you have any **old newspapers** you can donate, please place them in the box (located in the lobby near the bathrooms). We use the newspapers for weed control and for composting.



## BILL CHAMBERLIN, TREASURER'S REPORT...

	MONTH	FOR THE YEAR
	FEB	JAN - FEB
<b>PROJECTED BUDGET NEED</b>	\$ 23,085.64	\$ 46,171.28
<b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 22,166.34	\$ 47,260.43
<b>OFFERINGS RECEIVED</b>	\$ 31,231.40	\$ 47,516.08
<b>OVER/UNDER</b>	\$ 9,065.06	\$ 255.65



## Treasurer Report

### BARN SALE...

There will be a barn clean-up day on Saturday, April 30th, starting at 9:00 a.m. Our barn sales generate much needed revenue for our important mission work. We'll be cleaning out the barn to make room for newer items and doing a general clean to have it in tip-top shape for this year's barn sales. If you can help, please call Barb Planchock at 828-400-3144. Any amount of time you can give would be greatly appreciated. Coffee and donuts will be provided!



### HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE...

This year's date for the Holiday Boutique is Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. **October 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will begin accepting donations of slightly used men and women's clothing, handbags, shoes, jewelry, scarfs, Christmas, and nice gift items.

This is an important mission here at Maggie Valley UMC with proceeds going to our food ministries. Last year the boutique raised over \$5,000. The money was given to the Shepherd's Table and the Food Pantry.

Please contact Judi Ferris at 828.734.0156 or Pastor Cole for any questions.

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

**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, Schofield's Ministries-MOM program, "Subject 2 Change" Christian Trio, District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jae Lee, UMC Grace Circle, Van Ministry



**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 Lall, 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 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, 211<sup>th</sup> 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; Phyllis Jackson → 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, Zelda Hanson, Bea Hawkins, Mary Beth Johnson, Paul Mehaffey, Hilda Palmer, The Pickens Family, Doug Ramsey, Ken Roach, Linda Rondecalf, Maureen Shaw, Irene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, Terri Waddell, David Wagner and Aaron White.

# April

## 2022

### March

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

### May

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

### SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	"Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot GriefShare (1-2:30pm) — Grace Room	Open Door (9:30am) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) Fellowship Hall Painting Crosses (10:30am)	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Holy Communion & Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	"Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot GriefShare (1-2:30pm) — Grace Room	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) Fellowship Hall UMW Grace Circle (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	Church Cleanup (9am-12pm) AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	GriefShare (1-2:30pm) — Grace Room	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) Youth Group (6pm) — Library	Bible Study (9am) Fellowship Hall Fill Easter Eggs (10:30am) — Fellowship Hall Maundy Thursday Service (5pm)	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall Good Friday Service (7pm)	Easter Egg Hunt (12pm) — Indoor/outdoor AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
EASTER Sunrise Service (7am) Connections Class (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	OFFICES CLOSED Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	GriefShare (1-2:30pm) — Grace Room	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6pm)	Men's Group (5:30pm) — Daisy Classroom	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	GriefShare (1-2:30pm) — Grace Room One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) Youth Group (6pm) — Library	Bible Study (9am) Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall Barn Cleanup (9am) AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall

## GRIEF SHARE GROUP...



11:43  
Mail LTE

GRIEF SHARE

Overview Host a Loss of a Spouse seminar

# LOSS OF A SPOUSE™

**Widowed? Help is here and hope is possible**

Do you dread the lonely days and nights?  
Wonder what to do with your spouse's belongings? Feel like your brain is in a fog?  
Unsure of how you'll go on?

At a Loss of a Spouse seminar you'll discover:

- Other people understand and have found ways to make it through
- Why it won't always hurt so much
- Reasons for hope
- Practical tips for coping with the death of a spouse

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

GriefShare is a unique ministry developed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one; spouse, friend or family member. There will be weekly meetings that include videos, a workbook and group discussions. The meetings are designed to assist you in positive ways. They are gentle and confidential. You will meet others who are journeying through various stages of grief and understand what you are going through. There is no timetable for healing. Everyone is different. To find out more about this healing ministry, we invite you to an information meeting.

**Please join us in the Grace Classroom on Tuesday, April 5, 12, or 19 from 1:00-2:30 for a session on the loss of a spouse.**

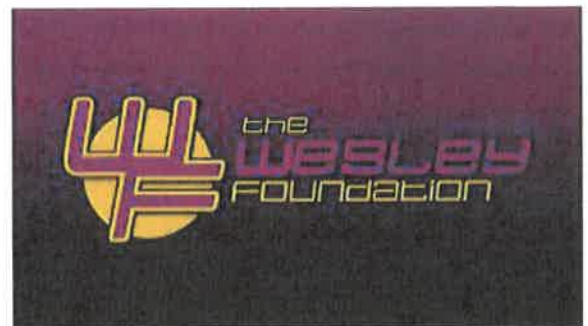
You may bring a support person with you. There is no obligation to commit to the group! The group is being led by Pastor Erma and Sue Shirley.

Contact: Church Office or Sue Shirley 804-714-6320 (text or call)

## WCU PARTNERSHIP...

Did you know that we partner with Western Carolina University's Wesley Foundation each year? Twice a year we take a meal and deliver it to the Methodist College Group that meets each week on campus. Through this partnership we are investing in the lives of young people.

Jay Hinton, a Campus Minister and leader of WCU's Wesley Foundation, and Pastor Cole are exploring more ways we can strengthen this partnership. If you or someone you know would like to get involved in the existing food ministry or in ministries that may unfold in the coming months, please contact Pastor Cole. Let us all be involved through our prayers and love for these students who are navigating an ever-changing world and are in need of our support.



## ***VISIO DIVINA* or "SACRED SEEING"...**

"Sacred Seeing" is a way of seeing the world with the eyes of the heart. If I'm being honest, that sounds like something that may be hard to do or only for "really spiritual" people (whatever that means), but it's a practice I hope we can all try!

Starting the first Tuesday of April (and every first Tuesday while the weather is good), we will meet in the parking lot of the church and practice seeing with our hearts. We will gather at 7:30am — which I know is early but that hour of the day is beautiful, teeming with new light and life. Plus, it's only one day a month to get up that early: I think it will be worth the sacrifice!

We will begin with a short time of prayer and then you will be invited to walk around the area (inside or outside — your choice). We will gather back together after 30 minutes and share what we noticed, what God shared with us and how it may encourage us all to see with the eyes of our heart and not just the eyes in our head.

I know this is new and may seem a little strange but give it a try! I hope to see you there on April 5th! Grace & Peace, Pastor Cole





## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

### HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

2	Jerri Collins	16	Miki Braley McPherson
3	Jim Chilakos	17	Suewayne Adkins
3	Wanda Shoemaker	17	Taylor Ross
3	Cynthia Williams	18	Selena Williamson
5	Trudy Hall	19	Lillianne Chamberlin
5	Gloria Teeter	19	Autumn Griffin
6	Richard Buff	20	Sam Rogers
6	Lewis Lowder	22	Wendy Bowen
7	Jennifer McCall	24	Rachel Dotson
8	Joe Harwell	24	Celeste Ferguson Messer
9	Joyce Ayers	24	Gregory Lowe
10	Pat Butler	24	Luci Lowe
10	Betty Sutton	24	Susan Warner
11	Ann Duncan	25	Konner Highsmith
12	Lois Oehme	27	Zachary Moore
12	Sammy Sutton	30	John Hinton
13	Gene Saxton	30	Pete Planchock
15	Nathan Duncan	30	Mike Szittai
15	Tyla Oellerich		

### HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARY!

1	Pat & John Burton (1999)
14	Gail & Mike England (1979)
26	Tina & Herman Oellerich (1981)
30	Bonnie & Larry Germaine (1960)



## THANK YOU'S...

My dear church family,

Thank you so much for the loving care and especially for your prayers at this sad time of my Dad's passing. I am thankful for each card, text, email, and call, plus appreciated the plant you sent and food that was given for my family. I have needed your support and am truly grateful.

With Love,  
Shelly Coker

Dear Belinda and Church Family,

This letter is meant for One Purpose....

To Thank you all for your.... "Love In Action"!

One of the Volunteers that deliver Meals on Monday....

Noticed That I have an extra Person in My Home Now and Started bringing a 3rd. Meal ....

Without being Asked for....

And I Can't Thank them Enough for Caring So much for My Need!!

Please be Sure to Thank Them and Everyone else, Who have Shown....

Real....

" Love in Action "

Thank You from the bottom of my heart...

For Loving, and Caring Hearts that are literally biblical Love in Action....

The Apostle Paul Wrote about this in .....

1 Corinthians Chapter 13:1-13

May The Lord Continue To Bless all of you, and Supply all your needs!!

You're literally in my prayers daily!

Also, please thank Everyone Who takes the time and effort to supply the Monday Meals and Monthly food boxes!!

Know that your efforts are greatly appreciated, Not Only by myself but I'm Sure, For Many Others Who Depend on you ALL!!

I hope and Pray that this small Thank You letter, Will Inspire "All " of you!.....

Knowing that Someone is So Thankful for all the work, Gas, Money and physical efforts, volunteers,

Cooking, Boxing, Delivering,. you all put into loving Others Such as Myself ❤️

I Thank God, Every Day for all of You!!

You Always Provide things that We Need in the Food and toiletries, Basic Need, And Even Laundry detergent, Every time you Send Banana Boxes!!

All of you Go Out of your Way to Bless My life!!

You Truly Are.... " Love in Action"!!

My Hope and Prayer is This....

That all of You will be blessed in Some Way.... by My Small but Most Thankful letter 📧

Sincerely with love and Prayers,

Dave Pickens and Son,

Proverbs 3:4-6

Trust in the Lord... With ALL Thine Heart!

## **PRAYER, HEALING, CELEBRATION, and COMMUNITY...**

One of the most sacred parts of my job as your pastor is being with you in "threshold" moments of life. *Threshold* is an important word and an even more important idea. Throughout our lives we are constantly crossing, approaching, leaving behind, thresholds. We experience this as we retire, take a new job, the birth of kids and grandkids, during illness, death, retirement and so much more. All are crossings from one place to another.

We should not face these thresholds alone. All throughout Scripture there are invitations for us to cross these sacred, hard, beautiful moments together. I am lifting up thresholds because I want to invite you to cross whatever place you are at within a community.

Are you sick? Call me. Let me come to you and anoint you with oil. Are you about to retire? Let us celebrate and pray a blessing over you. Did you move to a new house/apartment? Let us come and bless your new home so that you may feel love, joy, peace and security where you sleep.

The point is, whatever you are going through, do not go through it alone. Let us walk through these thresholds together. Let us pray, ask for healing, ask for blessings, celebrate and live more fully into the love of God that is made more visible when we walk together. Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Cole



**Maggie Valley UMC    Worship Services 10:30 am**

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**[belinda@maggieumc.org](mailto:belinda@maggieumc.org)**

**Rev. Cole Altizer, Pastor - Cell (828) 577-9906**

Rev. Mike Shirley

Vacant, 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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Maggie Valley, NC 28751  
On the web at [www.maggieumc.org](http://www.maggieumc.org)

