



# Love in Action

*The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church*



**Volume 15, Issue 3**

**March, 2022**

## **FROM PASTOR COLE...**

*Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love... (Joel 2:12-13)*

On March 2nd we begin the season of Lent. Lent (a 40-day period starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter) was modeled on experiences from the Bible. Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Elijah spent 40 days apart with God. Moses was on the mountain 40 days. Even Jesus himself spent 40 days in the wilderness.

Lent is 40 days to clean the system and open our eyes once more. It's a chance to intentionally live by God's grace alone, to put aside the things that get in the way of deep relationship with God. It's a season to stop cutting corners when it comes to our faith. It's a journey where we don't settle for shallow faith; instead, we devote ourselves again to what life in full connection to God might be like.

Lent is a season where we take seriously the words of Jesus from Mark 1, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe..." Ultimately, Lent is about that verse — believing, repenting, and preparing ourselves for the already-at-hand kingdom of God.

If you haven't noticed, I have high hopes for Lent. I believe it can and should be an important season for us to remember each year. So, if you haven't already picked something to give up or take on (these are typical practices during this season), it's not too late! I encourage you to spend time in prayer and think about what might help you draw closer to God in this season. What can you get rid of that would open more space in your life for God's presence to dwell? What can you take on that will orient your heart and life around God's desire for you?

It is less important what we choose to give up or take on than our INTENTION. You've heard me share this prayer from Thomas Merton before, but it's worth hearing again. Receive it as a blessing as you prepare yourself for the miracle of the resurrected Christ, again, in your life today. You can find the prayer on the following page.

I am praying for you, rooting for you, journeying with you as we all make space for God to be our Lord and Savior once again.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Cole



### Prayer of Fr. Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
 I do not see the road ahead of me. Nor do I really know myself.  
 And the fact that I think I am following your will  
 Does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
 But I believe that the desire to please you  
 Does in fact please you.  
 And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
 And I know that if I do this,  
 You will lead me by the right road  
 Though I may know nothing about it.  
 Therefore I will trust you always  
 Though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death  
 I will not fear for you are ever with me.  
 And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.

## YOUTH GROUP...

We are starting a youth group! Starting on Wednesday, the 23rd of February. All youth can come! Meetings will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall with dinner provided.

I want there to be a place for youth to meet outside of church and have fun. Having everyone supporting me when I was growing up in church was what made me so close to my faith, which makes me want to share God's love with everyone who is willing.

This will be a way to bring new youth into the church. I'm very passionate about this subject because the future of the church is in the youth! Sometimes you must meet God halfway!

At a meeting we will go into more depth about what we talked about on the previous Sunday, singing hymns and enjoying each other's company. In the future we will go on hikes and have some fundraisers.

If this is something you would be into and or you know someone, please come join us on the 23rd of February and every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday after that!

We are also looking for volunteers to cook dinner, chaperon or play music. If you have any questions, contact me at 828-476-7665 or Pastor Cole at 828-577-9906.

Thank you, Alexia Coke

## GRIEF SHARE MINISTRY...

GriefShare is a national grief support ministry that will be offered by Maggie Valley UMC after Easter. The weekly meetings will include videos, discussions, and a personal workbook. Thousands of people have found healing and lasting friendships through this incredible ministry. We are the only church this side of Asheville that will be offering GriefShare for our community.

Pastor Erma and Sue Shirley are seeking others to join their leadership team.

Have you experienced the deep grief of losing a loved one to death?  
 Have you learned valuable lessons and experienced healing from the hurt?  
 Would you like to help others do the same?

Then please call/text or email Sue Shirley to learn more about the different volunteer opportunities with our GriefShare ministry.

Sue Shirley's contact information: [sue.shirley@ymail.com](mailto:sue.shirley@ymail.com) or 804-714-6320

## CHURCH CLEANING...

We are **getting ready for Easter and Spring and are planning cleaning and sprucing up days at the church.** We will have jobs inside and outside the church to sign up for. If you are unable to help but would like to donate materials or money for the projects that is also welcomed.

The main cleaning day will be Saturday, March 19 beginning at 9:00 am. We will have a hot dog/hamburger cookout for lunch and fellowship together.

A signup sheet will be out each Sunday for you to sign up for something you would enjoy doing.

We will also have a Saturday closer to Easter that we will finish up the outside and put fresh mulch out.

So we don't forget — the reason we are doing all of this is to prepare our space to fully re-open for in-person ministries. In short, this is about changing lives for the kingdom of God. This isn't just cleaning out; this is preparing to make a real impact in real lives who have real needs in our community. Your work is kingdom work and the lives that are changed make every minute of work worth it. THANK YOU!

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

Monthly Financial Report for January 2022

January		
Needed for Budget	\$	23,085.64
Expenses	\$	25,091.59
Offerings	\$	16,284.68
Over/Under	\$	(8,806.91)



# Treasurer Report

## 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 RAMEN NOODLES, GRITS, and OATMEAL PACKETS this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping!

**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> is the last day to get agenda items on the list for the One Board.** Please send agenda items to Ken Brown.

**The Open Door will be on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> this month.** Please contact Shirley Saxton or Pastor Cole if you can help. Thank you for your help feeding the hungry amongst us!

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our first Grace Circle UMW meeting this year! We will be working on our programs for the coming year!** All women are invited! We will meet in the Grace Classroom.

**The One Board will meet on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**First day of Spring is Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.**



**The Men's Group will meet in the Daisy Classroom at 5:30 pm on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.** **The Men's Group will have a breakfast on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.** Please call or email Belinda if you will be attending the breakfast. All men are invited.

**All "Love in Action" newsletter articles are due to Belinda by Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**We will be taking a meal to the Wesley Foundation at WCU on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.** If you would like to help with this, please contact Wanda Messer at 828.734.7848

**We will be celebrating Holy Communion in worship on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.** If you are planning to attend in person, you do not need to do anything to prepare. If you are still worshipping with us online, please have a piece of bread and some juice to join us for communion. If you would like prepackaged items for this, come by the church office and pick them up.

## THANK YOU'S...

*Dear Maggie Valley United Methodist,*

*On behalf of Sue Shepherd's Family, we'd like to thank you for the beautiful plants and flowers that you sent for her memorial. We know she would have loved them.*

*Thank you,  
Ms. Scanlon & Shepherd Family*

## 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	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	Jay Langford
Cheryl & Destiny Little	Connie Jones	Bubba & Shirley Kelly	Gail Kevenk	Allen Kitchens	
Brenda Messer	Lewis Lowder	Lynn Martin	Devoice Medford	Paul Mehaffey	Jim Neely
Michael O'Gorman	Tom Miller	Ruby Moore	Sandra Morris	Jim Murtaugh	
Pola	John Planchock	Norann Planchock	Pete Planchock	Scott Reed	Angela Reid
Ginger Revls	Shella Price	Susan Purvls	Courtney Quick	Gerry Robinson	Patricia Rowell's Family
John Saxton	Charlie & Mildred Rich	Miike Rickman	Rhonda Riley	Sarah Smart	Dustin Smith
Nan Smith	Ron Sellers	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Elizabeth Smallwood	Betty Sutton	Sammy Sutton
Hilda Taylor	Annie Smith	Jane Spell	Carolyn Strickland	Pietro Tondini	Brian Toole
Martha Bradshaw Trull	Kent Taylor	Kim Tilley	Sam Tiger	Tom Wynch	Janene Young
	Audrey Waters	Ted Watts	Aaron White		

**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



**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 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 Rondecap, Maureen Shaw, Irene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, Terri Waddell, David Wagner and Aaron White.

# March

2022

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	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						

## April

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)		Open Door (9:30am) Food Pantry (10-12) ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (5pm) Disciple Bible Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW Grace Circle (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Holy Communion & Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)		Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) Youth Group (6pm) — Library	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	Party @ The Parsonage (4-6pm) — 205 Setzer Cove Rd., Maggie Valley, NC AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30pm) — Daisy Room Deliver Meal to WCU	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	Church Clean-Up & Cookout Day (9am- until) AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)		Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) 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 AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)		Open Door (9:30am) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm)	Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

### HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

1	Georgia Painter	17	Rusti Race
2	Anzleigh Mackey	17	Judy B. Sutton
4	Bonnie White	19	Carroll Avera
5	Larry Hepler	21	Lou Baker
5	Mary Sisk	23	Wanda Campbell
7	Wanda Messer	24	Grace Roth
7	Hunter Owen	25	David Clement
7	Bill Standley	26	Rita Munn
9	Steve Bond	26	Luke Williamson
10	Bonne Sapough	28	Kay Ranew
11	Gail Quick	29	Bonnie Germaine
11	Cindy Fogle	29	Sam Rodgers
12	Michael Beasley	29	Rena Upright
14	Bart Campbell	30	Willard Dockery
14	Joe Duke	30	Roan Duncan
14	Larry Germaine	30	Julia Plott New
17	Jim Baity	30	Mitch Truesdale

### HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARY!

9	Shirley & Bubba Kelley (1979)
12	Mary & Joseph Caruso (2008)
25	Renee & Jeff Mackey (2005)
27	Kathy & Larry Bogo
27	Pat & Larry Butler (1997)
29	Therese & Bobby Sutt

