

Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 15, Issue 5



May, 2022

FROM PASTOR COLE...

I am so grateful for you. Yes, YOU! If you are reading this, you are in some way connected to this amazing, messy, beautiful and wild community that is Maggie Valley United Methodist Church. And I am grateful for you.

Over the last couple of years, we have endured incredible hardships. From a global pandemic to seemingly constant-new-divisions to war, floods, fire and more. These have been a long couple of years. During the last 25 months I have been tempted to become callous, to shield myself from more potential hurt and harm. Maybe you've felt that way too. Maybe you too have been drawn towards the false safety of hiding away until all the bad around us magically disappears.

Except that is not what you've done. From the moment I joined this community in June of 2020, you all have shown that you are resilient, hard-working, loving, compassionate and fiercely caring for our neighbors. You have taught me what service looks like, how it is often self-sacrificing but not self-harming. You have "shown up," in every sense of that phrase! And I am so grateful.

During the last couple of weeks, dozens of you showed up to pause and remember the significance of Holy Week. Then we worshipped with more than 150 people on Easter Sunday! Thank you!

During the last few weeks, more than 30 of you showed up at all hours of the day to help feed the first responders who were fighting the wildfire only a couple of miles down the road. More sent letters, money and prayers of support. Thank you!

During the winter season, many of you shopped for people in need (families and shut-ins alike). You wrote cards to each other, baked cakes, packaged gifts and sent out money to help heat and house those in need. Thank you!

Only a few months ago, in September, countless people donated money (more than \$5,000), made sandwiches and lunches, then drove each Thursday to Cruso to serve those who had been impacted by the devastating flood. Thank you!

Each and every week, 20-30 people gather to give away food. You prepare and package meals, then deliver them to our neighbor's front door's. You serve in the food pantry to anyone who walks in. You give away time, money and so much love to so many. Thank you!

I could keep going on and on, but do you see what I'm getting at? This is a church and community that is on the move — *just like the Spirit of God*. The Holy Spirit is never stagnant, it always pushes us onward. It always calls us to rest and move into God's very presence, by making that presence real in others' lives while embracing it ourselves as well.

Recently I announced that I have been reappointed through June of 2023 to Maggie Valley UMC. And I am so grateful. It is my incredible honor to serve alongside each and every one of you. You all have and continue to show me what it means to be people of Christ. It can be hard work. It is always good work. And it can be no work at all when we are together and following God's loving guidance for our lives and our community.

So, thank you. Really and truly, thank you. Thank you for embracing me and my family the way you have. Thank you for allowing me to lead you. Thank you for teaching me and holding me in your prayers. Thank you for being exactly who you are, who you are becoming. I am grateful. I love you! I look forward to what God is going to get us into next!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Cole

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING...

"To the Moms Who Are"

To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.

To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.

To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.

To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.

To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.

To those remembering Moms no longer with us.

To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.

Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

May you be blessed with grace, peace, comfort, hope, joy and love in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



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	Lee Miller
Pete Dykhuizen	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	The Ensley Family
Jimmy	Connie Jones	Bubba & Shirley Kelly	Gail Kevenk	Allen Kitchens	Seth Smith
Cheryl & Destiny Little	Lewis Lowder	Lynn Martin	Devoice Medford	Paul Mehaffey	Karen
Brenda Messer	Tom Miller	Ruby Moore	Sandra Morris	Jim Murtaugh	Jim Neely
Michael O'Gorman	John Planchock	Norann Planchock	Pete Planchock	Mary Ann Vignola	Lisa
Pola	Sheila Price	Susan Purvis	Courtney Quick	Scott Reed	Angela Reid
Ginger Revis	Charlie & Mildred Rich	Mike Rickman	Rhonda Riley	Gerry Robinson	Patricia Rowell's Family
John Saxton	Ron Sellers	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Elizabeth Smallwood	Sarah Smart	Dustin Smith
Nan Smith	Annie Smith	Jane Spell	Carolyn Strickland	Betty Sutton	Sammy Sutton
Hilda Taylor	Kent Taylor	Kim Tilley	Sam Tiger	Pietro Tondini	Brian Toole
Martha Bradshaw Trull	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, 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, 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; Gall 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 Rondecial, Maureen Shaw, Irene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, Terri Waddell, David Wagner and Aaron White.

May

2022

April

June

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Connections Sunday School (9am) Holy Communion & Worship (10:30am)	2 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	3 "Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) -- Parking Lot GriefShare (1-2:30pm) -- Grace Room	4 Open Door (9:30am) Food Pantry (10-12)	5 Bible Study (9am) -- Fellowship Hall UMW Grace Circle (2pm) -- Fellowship Hall	6 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) -- Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) -- Fellowship Hall	7
8 Happy Mother's Day! Connections Sunday School (9am) -- Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	9 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	10 GriefShare (1-2:30pm) -- Grace Room One Board Meeting (6pm) -- Fellowship Hall	11 Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group (6pm) -- Library Last Disciple (6pm)	12 Bible Study (9am) -- Fellowship Hall In God's Creation Hike (10:30am) -- Church Parking Lot	13 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) -- Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) -- Fellowship Hall	14
15 Connections Sunday School (9am) -- Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	16 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	17 GriefShare (1-2:30pm) -- Grace Room	18 Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group (6pm) -- Library	19 Bible Study (9am) -- Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30pm) -- Daisy Room	20 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) -- Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) -- Fellowship Hall	21
22 Connections Sunday School (9am) -- Grace Room Worship (10:30am) Birthday Lunch (11:30) -- Fellowship Hall	23 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	24 GriefShare (1-2:30pm) -- Grace Room	25 Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group (6pm) -- Library	26 Bible Study (9am) -- Fellowship Hall	27 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) -- Fellowship Hall Men's Breakfast (8am) -- Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) -- Fellowship Hall	28
29 Connections Sunday School (9am) -- Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	30 OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	31 GriefShare (1-2:30pm) -- Grace Room	1 Food Pantry (10-12)	2 Bible Study (9am) -- Fellowship Hall	3 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) -- Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) -- Fellowship Hall	4

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

The Open Door will be on Wednesday, May 4th. Please contact Shirley Saxton or Pastor Cole if you can help. Thank you for your help feeding the hungry amongst us!

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

Pastor Cole's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, May 5th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program is stories of hymns by Jane Kirby. All women are welcome!

Don't forget, Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, May 17th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All "Love in Action" articles for June are due to Belinda by Thursday, May 19th.

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, May 19th. The Men's breakfast will be on Saturday, May 28th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

We are having a Barn Sale on Saturday, June 11th from 7:00am until 2:00pm. Proceeds will benefit the Community Gardens and Missions. We will need lots of volunteers to help make this successful. Please consider helping for any amount of time.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day.

This year's date for the **Holiday Boutique is Saturday, December 3rd. October 1st,** 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.

On May 22nd after church service, the United Methodist Women will have a "Happy Birthday" to all the congregation. Tables will be set up by months and cake and ice cream will be served. Come and meet your fellow church goers that were born in your month.

We need Fairlife milk jugs to mix our laundry detergent in. If you have any, please bring them by the church office. Thank you for your help with this.

The youth group will meet Wednesday, May 11th and Wednesday, May 25th at 6:00pm in the library. Dinner will be served. Anyone 18 and under are invited to attend.

"In God's Creation" Hiking Group will meet at the church at 10:30am on Thursday, May 12th. The hike will be a portion of the "Mountain to Sea" Trail. It's a moderate hike with several wildflowers. Bring water, snack, and rain gear. **Contact Judi Ferris at (828) 734-0156 if you want to sign up.**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS!

1 Tom Sharpe
 1 Marilyn Medford
 5 Doug Sisk
 6 Devin Brafford
 8 Debbie Sanders
 9 Caroline Owen
 11 Dale Howell
 15 Sue Shirley
 17 Linda Carver
 18 Kim Tomlin
 19 Lyndon Lowe
 21 Sandra Morris
 21 Lorri Smith
 21 Kaycee Shaeffer
 23 Mary Caruso
 23 Kendall Williamson



27 Judy Kossman
 30 Edith Dockery
 30 Shirley Saxton
 30 Greg Snyder
 31 Ann Boyd
 31 Scott Muirhead

HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARY!

2 Rachel & Kenny Dotson (1986)
 8 Pat & John Miller (1999)
 9 Belinda & Steve Marr (2019)
 10 Selena & Jeff Williamson
 12 Edith & Willard Dockery
 21 Sarah & Eric Davis (2011)
 21 Jessica & Jason Kanupp (2016)
 24 Brittany & Austin Mackey (2014)
 26 Kristin & Richard Buff (2007)
 29 Betty Joe & Michael Beasley

BILL CHAMBERLIN, TREASURER'S REPORT...

	MONTH	FOR THE YEAR
	MAR	JAN - MAR
PROJECTED BUDGET NEED	\$ 23,085.64	\$ 69,256.92
ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 30,475.88	\$ 77,736.31
OFFERINGS RECEIVED	\$ 28,742.75	\$ 76,258.83
OVER/UNDER	\$ (1,733.13)	\$ (1,477.48)



THANK YOU'S...

Maggie Valley UMC,

Thank you all so much for the AMAZING dinner! We are so blessed to have friends like you all!

*With Love,
The Wesley Foundation*

Dear MVUMC,

Thank you so much for helping us feed the many departments involved in putting out the Sheepback Mountain Fire. It is truly amazing what a great community we have that comes together in times of need. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Maggie Valley Fire & Rescue

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift from UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be- Thank You!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly frequent and destructive storms- sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national background and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fenandes, General Secretary of UMCOR

Maggie Valley UMC,

I just wanted to let y'all know that the Meals have been Great and Very Good

I thank all of you for Blessing me every Monday!!

I always look forward to Mondays!!

I appreciate y'all So Very Very Very Much ♥

May the Lord continue to bless all of you Richly

With ALL MY heart

Thankfully,

Dave Pickens

Maggie Valley UMC,

Thank you for the three wonderful services during holy week and egg hunt.

Happy Easter to all, Christ is risen indeed!

Charles and Jane Kirby

BECOMING ROOTED: 100 DAYS OF RECONNECTING WITH SACRED EARTH...

Pastor Cole invites you to join him in 100 days of rooting ourselves to God's Sacred Creation. It is so easy to connect with the beauty of the mountains that surround us. However, we are often too busy to really pause and consider our place, our role, in creation.

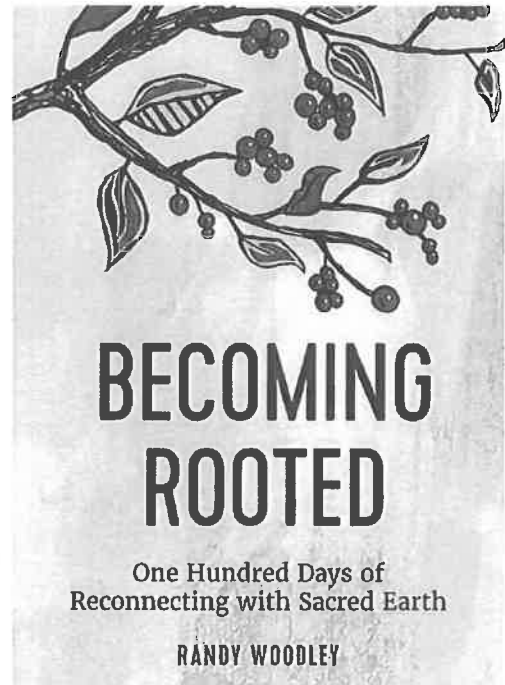
Join Pastor Cole in reading Randy Woodley's book, *Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth*. You will read the short reflection each day and then we will join together every third Tuesday morning at 10am. During the group gathering, you will be invited to share your reflections, questions, pictures and anything else that may be relevant.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, call or email the church office by May 16th. The books will cost \$18.

Here is a short description of the book:

What does it mean to become rooted in the land? How can we become better relatives to our greatest teacher, the Earth? Becoming Rooted invites us to live out a deeply spiritual relationship with the whole community of creation and with Creator.

Through meditations and ideas for reflection and action, Randy Woodley, an activist, author, scholar, and Cherokee descendant, recognized by the Keetoowah Band, guides us on a one-hundred-day journey to reconnect with the Earth. Woodley invites us to come away from the American dream--otherwise known as an Indigenous nightmare--and get in touch with the water, land, plants, and creatures around us, with the people who lived on that land for thousands of years prior to Europeans' arrival, and with ourselves. In walking toward the harmony way, we honor balance, wholeness, and connection. Creation is always teaching us. Our task is to look, and to listen, and to live well. She is teaching us now.



CREATION CARE MINISTRY...

Doing Our Part in Saving the Environment

As Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, we have been asked to be good stewards of His creation. Responsibly. We are all blessed to be living here in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, enjoying His creation of plants, trees, animals and birds.

God has asked us to care for His earth. Here are several ways we can start to be a solution:

- Recycle — at home, work and the church
- Commit to using less plastic:
 - Use reusable water bottles (pick up a free Maggie Valley UMC cup!)
 - Use reusable shopping bags or at least choose paper
 - Buy in bulk
 - Garden or buy local at a farmers' market

As a church we have committed to recycling and using biodegradable containers (and are trying to do away with all styrofoam) at the Shepherd's Table. We will be doing a "Creation Care" series in the summer and will promote more ways as individuals and a community that we can be good keepers of God's creation.

At Maggie Valley UMC we have "In God's Creation Hiking Group" that enjoys hiking and appreciating His beautiful creation.

We want to add new ministries of Creation Care to take care of His beautiful creation. We hope you will take part in this vital effort that is essential to a life of faith.

Judi Ferris

We do this because of God and also because we are thinking of the next generations, our kids and grandkids. What kind of world do we want them to inherit?

SUMMER INTERN...

Last summer (2021) we welcomed Anna Coleman to the church staff as a summer intern. If you got the chance to meet her I'm sure you will agree that she was AMAZING! She was a gift to many of us individually and to the whole Maggie Valley UMC community. Here is the great news: She is coming back! Anna will be joining us again this summer, working 20 hours a week in areas related to our youth and children, aiding in worship, helping with existing and emerging ministries and more. The dates are still being finalized but be in prayer as we anticipate warmly welcoming Anna back into the life and ministry here.

Anna shared a little about herself in a letter last year. Here is part of that:

I am a missionary kid from Haiti, and a full-time student at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida. My family moved to Haiti when I was 12 years old, and I jumped right into as many activities as I could. ... Last year, I moved to Florida for college, and am pursuing a degree in Mathematics to eventually teach Calculus in college and do a little research as well! I have loved every second of college both academically and socially. My lovely grandparents are Mike and Sue Shirley, who are letting me stay with them while I work alongside you all this summer. I have always had such a strong passion for discipleship and missions, so serving under and beside you all gives me nothing but pure joy.

I have a beautiful family that includes my mom, Rachael; my dad, Kris; my 17-year-old brother, Levi; and my 11-year-old sister, Lydia. I adore them with every fiber of my being! ... I grew up extremely close to Jesus, however it wasn't until I completely surrendered my heart to God with a heart posture of humility, that things in my life began to change. Watching God completely turn my life around and answer prayers left and right has been life changing. Furthermore, getting to know the creator of the Universe is truly the greatest honor, and I adore every moment that I get to see God move. As I get to know more of you, please feel free to ask any and all the questions you may have. I am so excited to be a part of this church!

***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!

The first Tuesday of May (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 May 3rd! Grace & Peace, Pastor Cole



Maggie Valley UMC Worship Services –10:30 am

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Rev. Mike Shirley, Assistant Pastor

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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On the web at www.maggieumc.org

