



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 15, Issue 9

September, 2022

FROM PASTOR COLE...

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up ... He named it Ebenezer, explaining, "The Lord helped us to this very point." (1 Samuel 7:12, CEB)

Have you ever been out by a river or on a hike and stumbled across a pile of rocks (like the one in the picture)? When the rocks are officially stacked on a trail, they are called "cairns." Sometimes they can be used to mark a path. Other times these stones are stacked up for recreation or art. No matter the reason these stones are stacked, they are meant to mark something, to stand out, to catch your attention and draw you in.

Piling up rocks isn't new. In fact, we see in 1 Samuel that the Israelites would do this from time to time. In 1 Samuel 7 Israel is facing the much stronger, much more powerful Philistine army. What's worse, the Philistines chose to attack while the Israelites were in worship. Things did not go according to the Philistine's plan.

Instead of the Philistines wiping out the Israelites, God intervened and pushed the Philistines back. God showed up and delivered, provided, took care of the Israelite people. Samuel and the people knew that they had been spared a massive defeat, and likely the loss of many lives. They knew that God had saved them, been their refuge, delivered them in their time of need.

Friends, God is still in the business of showing up for us when we need God. Collectively, we are facing our own "Philistine armies." We see hurt and pain, systemic and individual, all over the place. There are too many who are hungry. There are too many without a safe place to sleep tonight. There are too many who live in broken and abusive homes. There are too many who are addicted, depressed, suffering... so much suffering. And that's just the collective. I have the incredible honor and privilege of being invited into many of your personal lives. The stories you share are often amazing and wonderful, but there is real pain in your lives too. The "Philistine" armies we all face in our daily lives are many and intimidating.

So, what are we to do? I've shared this with you before, but it's so good I am going to share it again. To the question above, Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes writes this prayer and poem titled "What You Can Do:"



*When injustice strides so easily,
when evil reigns
and you feel there's little you can do,
remember we are all one.
You are part of the Great Oneness
—some call it the Body of Christ—
and what you do affects the whole.
You can choose goodness.
When you change your life you change the world.*

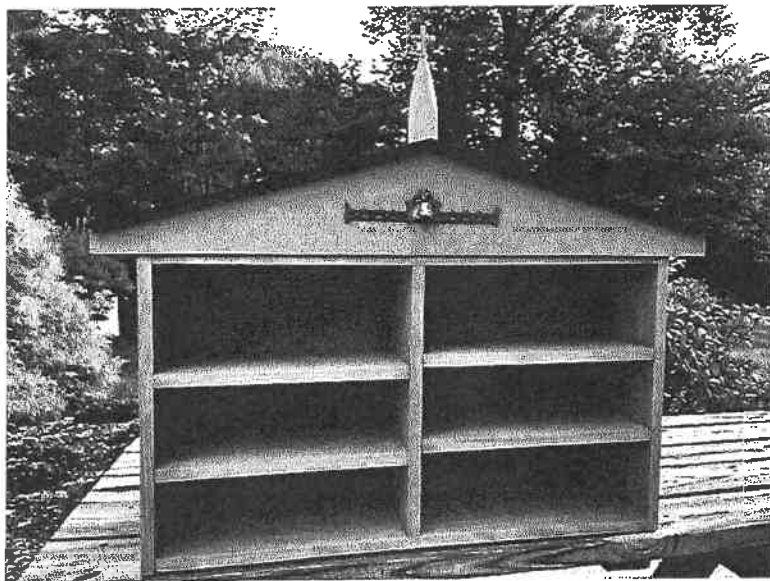
*An immense grace hums beneath
the noise of this world.
When you live in harmony with it,
you intensify the great music of life
that renews the earth.*

*You are a voice in the chorus,
a string on the Beloved's guitar;
when you change your note
you change the whole chord.*

Our acts of love, dedication, devotion, grace and joy — they matter! What you do in your daily life, how you show up for others, how you get through another day, what YOU do matters!

What WE do as a faith community matters too!

By now I hope you've heard that we are starting a preschool (September 6th!). We need and want everyone from this church family to be in prayer with us. One of the ways we want you to be in prayer is by helping us "raise an ebenezer." Remember that stack of rocks I was talking about earlier? Remember how the Israelites stacked them up as a sign of God's help? We are going to do the same thing. Steve Dickinson made the wonderful container pictured here. On September 4th during worship, all are being asked to bring a stone with them to stack up and raise an



ebenezer. That word, "ebenezer," literally means "stone of help." God is the immovable stone that always wants to help, deliver, comfort and guide us. As we begin this preschool ministry, we are trusting ahead of time that God is our refuge, our stone of help.

But creating an ebenezer doesn't just have to be for a preschool, and you don't have to do this at church. Are you facing your own version of a "Philistine army?" Is there something,

someone, some place in your life where you need God's help? Raise an ebenezer. Seriously, find some stones and stack them up. Say a prayer of help, it can be as simple as: "God, I need you." Then watch out, because God is the God who was, is and will always be. God is the Alpha and Omega. God is the kind of God who cares for what is happening in your life and who's heart breaks for the suffering and hurt in the world too.

I am praying for you. I pray you find peace and hope and love and joy. But I know that life can be so hard and heartache is, unfortunately, a reality for many of us. So raise an ebenezer. Trust that God is with you. Every time you see that stack of stones, believe that God is on the way. For you. Through you. In you.

I am rooting for you and never more than a phone call away. Let us stack these stones together and praise God for how God is already on the way.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Cole

PARTY AT THE PARSONAGE...

(10.10.22, 2-4pm)

All are invited to join us for a "party @ the parsonage." Pastor Cole, Lindsay and "Sweet Baby James" want to invite you to come over to the parsonage for a laid-back time of fellowship and fun. Snacks and drinks will be provided. You don't need to bring anything or RSVP, just come on!

Parking is limited at the parsonage so we are asking that you park at the church and the church van will continuously shuttle people to and from the parsonage. If you have mobility issues and cannot ride the van, please call the church office to reserve a parking spot at the parsonage. We hope to see you there!!



POTLUCK AND SECURITY...

Have you ever wondered what to do if an emergency were to take place at church? We don't like to think about these things, but in the day and age we find ourselves, it is our responsibility to plan and take care of those who enter our facility. With that in mind, we will be having a **church-wide potluck on September 25th immediately following church.** We are asking that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share, the church will provide the meat.

During this time, a group of folks who have been working with the board on church security plans will share what to do in the case of an emergency at church. This will cover events like fire, medical emergencies, church security and active threats. The information is very important and we hope everyone will be able to attend.

NEW SERIES- THE LORD'S PRAYER...

Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray. (Taken from the description of Adam Hamilton's, *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught.*)

Starting on September 25th in worship we will begin a 6-week series exploring the meaning of The Lord's Prayer for us and our lives. You are also invited to join the Connections Sunday school class in studying Adam Hamilton's book on the subject. This class meets each Sunday in the Grace room at 9:00am. OR, you can read the book on your own as it will guide the sermon series.

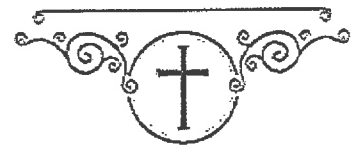
If you would like to order a copy of the book, please contact the church office by September 15th. The books will cost \$15. If you are not able to purchase a copy because of the price, but would like to participate, please contact Pastor Cole as there is funding available to help.

ADAM HAMILTON

Author of The Lord's Prayer and The Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

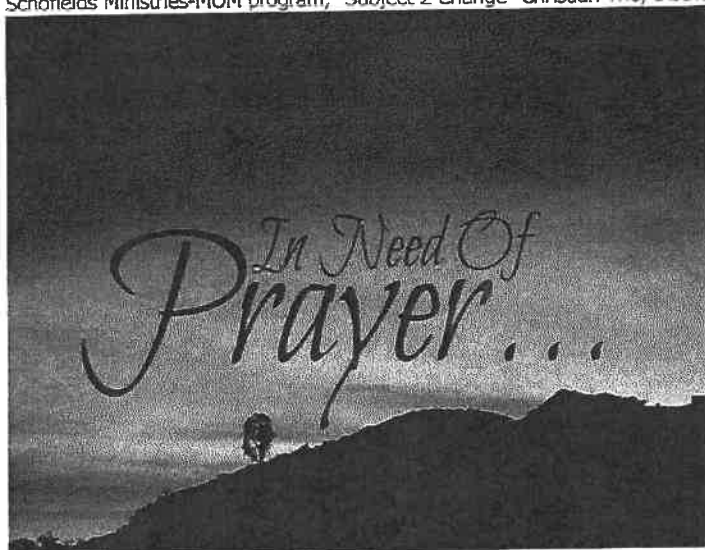
THE MEANING AND POWER OF
THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT



PRAYER CONCERNS...

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

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, 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; 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 Rondecial, Maureen Shaw, Irene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, David Wagner and Aaron White.

September

2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	29 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	30 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class (2pm) — Fellowship Hall Girl Scouts (6-7:30)	31 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class (2pm) — Fellowship Hall Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class	1 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW Grace Circle (2pm) — Fellowship Hall Girl Scouts (6-7:30)	2 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	3 AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
4 Connections Sunday School (9am) Holy Communion & Worship (10:30am)	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 "Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot	7 Food Pantry (10-12) In God's Creation Hike (2pm) — Parking Lot Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class	8 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	9 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	10 Party @ The Parsonage (2-4pm) — Park at Church AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
11 Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	12 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	13 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class Youth Group (6-8pm) — Library	14 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class Youth Group (6-8pm) — Library	15 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30pm) — Daisy Room Girl Scouts (6-7:30)	16 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	17 AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
18 Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	19 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	20 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class	21 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class	22 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30pm) — Daisy Room Girl Scouts (6-7:30)	23 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	24 Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall
25 Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am) Potluck Security Lunch (11:30am) — Fellowship Hall	26 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	28 One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	28 Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6pm) — Grace Class Youth Group (6-8pm) — Library	29 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Girl Scouts (6-7:30)	30 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	1 AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall

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 GRITS PACKETS, INSTANT OATMEAL PACKETS, GRANOLA BARS, TOOTHBRUSHES, and SHAMPOO this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. **We are also in need of PLASTIC GROCERY bags.** Thank you for helping!

The youth group will meet on September 14th and September 28th at 6:00pm in the library. If you can provide a meal, please call Belinda to sign up.

The church office, Shepherd's Table, and Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, September 5th for Labor Day Holiday.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, September 27th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please note this special date this month, the 4th Tuesday instead of the 3rd.

All "Love in Action" articles for September are due to Belinda by Thursday, September 22nd.

The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, September 22nd and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, September 24th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

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

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, September 1st at 2:00 PM in the Grace Classroom. Please bring UMCOR Health Kits. All women are welcome!

Grace Circle UMW will be selling car wash tickets for \$20 beginning in September. Christmas is coming and these would make great gifts for the mailman, pest control people, or those who have everything and are hard to buy for. They will be selling them after church on Sundays or you may stop by the church office and purchase one.

"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! **We will meet on September 6th at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

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.

Pastor Mike & Sue Shirley invite you to join them for Connections Sunday School Class. We will meet every Sunday at 9:00 am in the Grace Classroom. Bring a Bible and join us! All are welcome!

The Grace Sunday School Class will meet on Fridays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

If you do not have a permanent nametag, please call, or email Belinda and she will get you one made.

YOUTH GROUP...

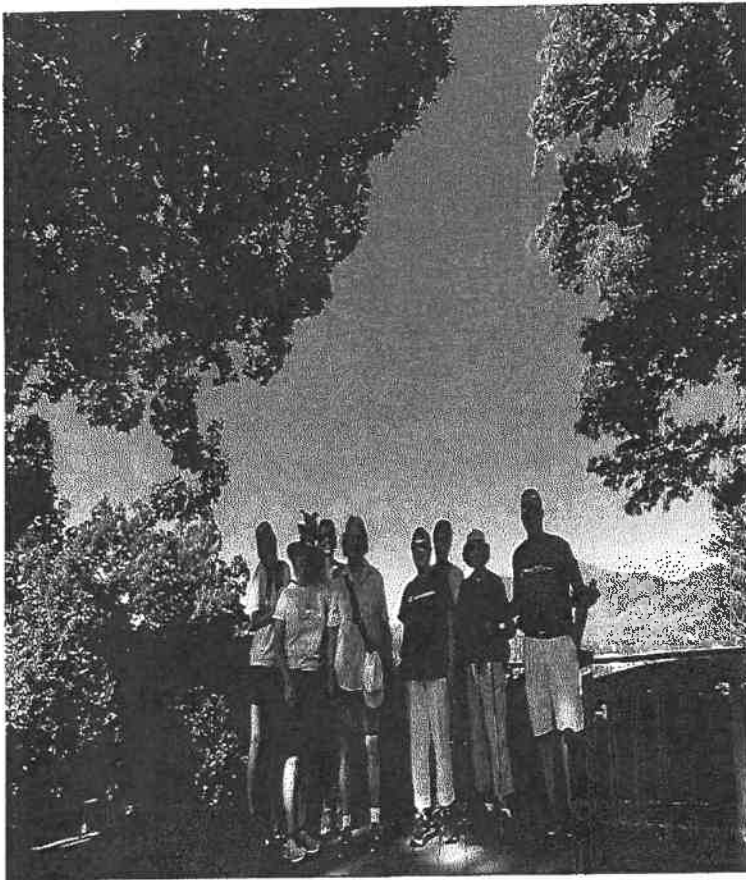
Calling everyone 12th grade and below: we are starting the youth group again! Starting on September 14th, the youth group will begin meeting again from 6-8pm in the library. Each week we share a meal, usually have some music, play and learn about God. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and growth that is open to all!

If you know of any youth (whether they go to church at MVUMC or not!), please invite them to join us!



We also need people to help provide meals for the youth meeting. If you can purchase or make a meal, please contact the church office to sign up for a date and THANK YOU!

IN GOD'S CREATION HIKE...



Wednesday, September 7th we are planning to go to Cataloochee Valley to hike, picnic, and see the elk. We will meet at the church at 2:00. Please bring a blanket or folding chair, water, and rain gear. The church will furnish fried chicken and coolers to keep food in. Please bring a side dish to share for the picnic.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of taking in God's beautiful creation. Enjoy the trees, flowers, butterflies, and flowing creek.

You can hike at your leisure from 3:00-5:00. At 5:00, we will have a picnic and a time to relax, visit, and hopefully see some elk. Cole will also have communion for us. We plan to head home around 6:30.

Please contact Judi Ferris, 828.734.0156 or Pastor Cole, if you plan to join us. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the side entry. We need to have a head count for the chicken. Hope to see all you fellow hikers.

Judi Ferris

CREATION CARE CORNER...

Thank you, for all of you who took and are using the reusable bags. If you are in need of more, please contact Pastor Cole or Judi Ferris.

Concerning single-use plastic, here in the United States, about 300 million single use plastic bags and over 300 million plastic drinking bottles are used. Haywood County alone generates around 5 million plastic bags a year. Unfortunately, ninety percent of these items are not recycled in any way. Several states have banned plastic bags. We need to contact our governor and ask that he ban plastic bags and bottles for our state.

Thank you to all of you that are recycling and using reusable bags and water bottles. This is the right direction to help the environment, reduce pollution and leave a better planet for generations to come.

We need to all work together to promote a cleaner climate for ourselves, our families, and especially our grandchildren.

Judi Ferris



Reference: singleuseplastics.plasticpollutioncoalitionresources.org

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church ♦ 4192 Soco Rd. ♦ Maggie Valley, NC ♦ (828) 926-8036 ♦ belinda@maggieumc.org

BILL CHAMBERLIN, TREASURER'S REPORT...

	MONTH	FOR THE YEAR
	JULY	JAN - JULY
PROJECTED BUDGET NEED	\$ 23,085.64	\$ 161,599.48
ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 20,714.25	\$ 176,727.59
OFFERINGS RECEIVED	\$ 24,848.49	\$ 172,481.85
OVER/UNDER	\$ 4,134.24	\$ (4,245.74)



Treasurer Report

THANK YOU'S...

Dear Church Family,

You will never know how much I appreciate the cards, prayers, and visits from my church family and immediate family.

Maggie United Methodist Church has been a comfort and support to me and my family throughout my illness and recovery.

I look at my flowers and reread every card that you have sent. This out pouring of love has helped me regain my strength and restore my health. I have been so blessed by your gifts of love through Jesus Christ.

*Thank you so much
Your sister in Christ,
Robena Russell*

Dear Maggie Valley UMC,

Thank you for caring for young children and their families. Showing them the joy of learning by providing a loving environment will be key to their continued growth. My own (grown) children attended First UMC Fort Pierce preschool. While it has closed the effects continue to make a difference. Best wishes for all the work you are doing to help families in Maggie Valley. May God bless and may your work be magnified.

Martha Cross

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Grace McGaha
- 1 Judy Wall
- 2 Maston Buff
- 3 Hannah Cabe
- 3 Mike Shirley
- 3 Tina Oellerich
- 6 Donnie Hannah
- 7 Carol Eiffer
- 7 Regina Locker
- 7 Joe Plott
- 8 Lauren Dubuke
- 9 Roy Childs
- 9 Mike England
- 9 Megan Planchock
- 11 Peggy Collins
- 11 Becky Revis
- 13 Mary Coker
- 13 Jim Hughes
- 14 Dan Planchock
- 15 Iris Silvers
- 16 Kathy Bogo
- 16 Zeata Ruff
- 18 Jackie Garvin
- 18 Jesse Caldwell
- 18 Harvey Hintzman
- 18 Daryl Ross
- 19 Charles Pellicier
- 21 Ellis Forga
- 23 Alaska Presley
- 24 Judi Ferris
- 26 Kristin Buff
- 27 Tom Barefoot
- 27 Taylor Beasley
- 27 Richard Boris
- 28 Jim Grenfell
- 29 Lurie Albritton
- 29 Sarah Braley Davis



Happy September Anniversary!

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 5 | Joan & Dennis Kocsis (2015) | 25 | Wanda & Bart Campbell |
| 21 | Judy B & Sammy Sutton | 25 | Lorri & Keith Smith (1993) |
| 23 | Belinda & Eddie Ferguson (1972) | 27 | Lillianne & Bill Chamberlin (1980) |

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church - Worship Service 10:30 am

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

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belinda@maggieumc.org

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

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

VACANT, Music 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

