



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 15, Issue 10

October, 2022

FROM PASTOR COLE...

*The words Jesus gave his disciples (and us) form the best known and most often prayed prayer in the world [The Lord's Prayer]. Yet, despite our familiarity with this prayer, and the frequency with which we may pray it, we often fail to grasp its meaning. **We know it, but we don't know it. We pray it, but we don't actually pray it.***

Adam Hamilton, The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught

I love church on Sunday mornings. I love the sound of the sanctuary filling as people greet each other with hugs and handshakes. I love the lights, the candles, the brightness of people who have made it to worship (however easy or hard it was for them that day). I love the symbols that fill the space. I love the first key of the organ and watching as the choir files in with smile-filled faces. I love walking out and looking at YOU and greeting you in the name of God. I love church on Sunday mornings!

While there is much to love about Sunday mornings, many times I, and maybe you too, take for granted what we are doing. You might have heard me say this before, but church on Sunday mornings is a little odd. A group of people gathering together to recite ancient creeds, listen to words from a really old book, standing up, sitting, down, standing up... If you think about it, so much that happens on Sunday is a little unusual when compared to the rest of the week. And I think that's the way it's supposed to be.

Church is odd because it is a place where we come to profess faith, to be filled, to be re-charged and sent back out. Church is odd because a gathered community believes God - the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer - we believe God is there, really there with us.

Church is also a little odd because we take the words, teaching and life of one man, Jesus of Nazareth, really seriously. We take what Jesus said so seriously that we pause from the business of our everyday lives and with one voice pray a prayer that we believe Jesus taught. You know the prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us, not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

We say this prayer so often that, and I'm a pastor so I'm a little embarrassed to admit this, that I'm not sure I take those words to heart each and every time I say them. It's just what we do. It's part of the oddity of Sunday worship that is so precious, needed and beautiful in my life. But if I am not careful, I fall into what Adam Hamilton describes in the opening quote above: praying the prayer without really ***praying*** it. Knowing it without really ***knowing*** it.

Fear not! If you are like me and maybe you've simply said the words without putting much thought or energy behind them, God is a God of so, so much grace. It is never too late to start new practices. It is never too late to start taking this prayer more seriously. It is never too late to have our hearts and lives changed by the power of Christ's words to us all.

Starting on September 25th and going through the month of October, I will be preaching about the Lord's Prayer. You may be thinking that is a long time to focus on this prayer, and you are right! But as Hamilton unpacks in his book about The Lord's Prayer, there are 5 distinct and important sections to this prayer that deserve us spending some time with. I believe we will all have a deeper gratitude and sense of awe from our time exploring this prayer.

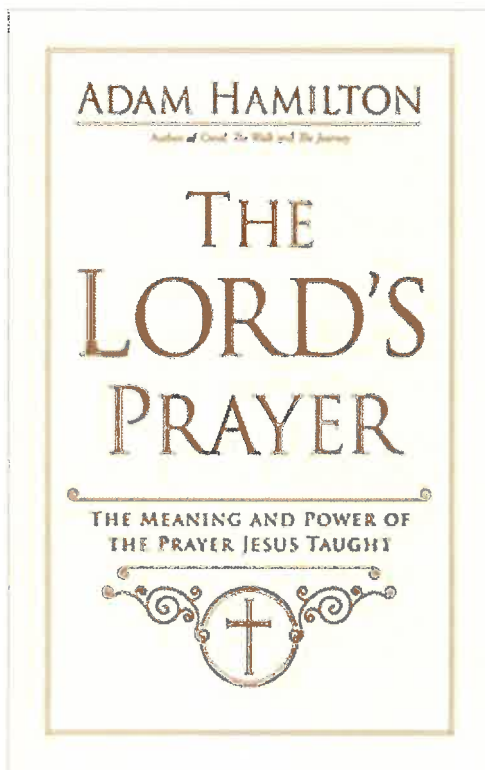
So, I hope you will try all or any of these things with me during this series:

- Pray the Lord's Prayer at least once a day. I am going to set an alarm on my phone for noon. When I hear that alarm, I am going to pause and pray it.
- Join Pastor Mike and Sue's Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings at 9:15 where they will be exploring Adam Hamilton's book and videos on The Lord's Prayer.
- Read Adam Hamilton's Book, *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*. Each week you would only need to read one chapter and they are about 20 pages each. It's not much and it's a WONDERFUL addition to your library.
- COME TO CHURCH each week in this series to learn more about this beloved prayer and to live more deeply into these words from God.

Whatever you choose to do, I am confident this prayer has the power to change your life. It can change the lives of those you interact with too. It can change the world if we take seriously the words Jesus encouraged us to pray.

As always, I am praying for you. I am rooting for you. I am holding hope with you and for you. And, I am praying right alongside you: Our Father...

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Cole



CREATION CARE CORNER...

The Rev. Pat Watkins is an expert in educating others about how theology relates to caring for creation as an important Christian mission. Watkins was a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned to the care of God's creation.

"Many of us are stuck at a grade school level of theological competence and Bible understanding," Watkins explained. "If we looked deeper into the Bible, we'd be surprised. [Relationship with God and relationship with the Earth](#) are very prevalent in the Bible, but we focus primarily on our relationship with God and not the Earth."

"It's more than recycling and Styrofoam" he continued. "It's about relationships with God, each other, and [God's creation](#). It's about how we live with each other. It is a covenant." Watkins said, "The United Methodist Church is an amazing and powerful group of Christians because of our Scriptures. We just don't use that power enough. We need to be the voice of [creation care](#)."

Watkins shared some Biblical references that call us to care for God's creation.

Genesis 2:7 – *The Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils.*"

Adam was created out of dust of the Earth. How could there be any more of a relationship with the Earth than to be created out of it? It's as if God scooped up a couple handfuls of earth and formed humanity. When God formed Adam he was not a living being until God breathed life into his nostrils and we became living human beings. The fact that we exist as living, breathing human beings suggests that we have a relationship with the Earth because we were created out of it and we have a relationship with God because we breathe the very breath of the one who created all that is.

Genesis 3:23 – *"The Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to farm the fertile land from which he was taken."*

Even the fact that God put Adam and Eve in a garden is an important point. Due to their disobedience, they were kicked out of the garden and the land was cursed making it more difficult for them to coax the earth to provide for them.

Genesis 4:12 – *"When you farm the fertile land, it will no longer grow anything for you, and you will become a roving nomad on the earth."*

The story of Cain and Able is also a story of disobedience. When Cain, a farmer, killed his brother, God punished him by removing him from the soil. He became a wanderer across the earth with no connection to any land. When he lost his relationship with the land, he could no longer see the face of God. Relationship with the land and relationship with God were inseparable. Disobedience of God and violence towards one another results in negative consequences for the earth.

John 1:3 – *"Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being."*

At the beginning of John's Gospel there is an understanding by the writer that Jesus was present at Creation and that everything that ever came into being came into being through Christ.

John 3:16 – *"God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life."*

Many think that the whole Christ event was just about personal salvation, but actually, it was about God's love for everything God has made. The word *world* is better translated as *cosmos*. (Story taken from umc.org, April 17, 2015 – written by Susan Passi-Klaus)



CHARGE CONFERENCE

This year's Charge Conference will take place on October 23rd at 11:45am. A charge conference is a yearly meeting where we vote to affirm the leadership for the upcoming year, receive reports from the pastor and others, confirm the compensation for the Senior Pastor and (importantly this year), discuss any pressing issues/matters that impact the whole church.

We are all aware that the United Methodist Church is in the midst of a transition. The UMC has been wrestling with the issue of human sexuality for decades (specifically: marrying LGBTQ folks in our churches and ordaining LGBTQ people). It is likely that in 2024, the UMC will formalize a pathway for churches that want disaffiliate. It is also likely that in 2024, the UMC will edit the "Book of Discipline" (the document that contains our theology, polity and more) to remove the language about marrying and ordaining LGBTQ people.

The result of removing the language is that traditional, progressive and the vast majority of churches in the middle will continue to be part of the same denomination (again, this is not certain, but what is most likely at this point). Churches that feel they do not want to marry LGBTQ folks or do not want a LGBTQ clergy person will not be forced into accepting a clergy person or marrying same-gendered partners. At the same time, churches that do wish to marry and ordain LGBTQ people will be free to do so.

The reason we bring up the issue of human sexuality and charge conference together is because at this year's conference, we are going to take a non-binding vote to see what the congregation (YOU) is feeling regarding this issue. The One Board of MVUMC has been discussing ways we can best understand how the church is feeling regarding the issue of human sexuality, and we have decided to hold this non-binding vote to "take the temperature" of the church.

The way charge conferences work are that any member of the church who comes to the charge conference is allowed and encouraged to vote on all matters that come up. Every year it is important for all members to make an effort to attend so they can hear the pastor's reflection on the previous 12 months, see what the future may hold and vote to affirm the incoming leadership for the following year. This year we especially hope you will plan to attend as we want to hear how you are feeling and what you are thinking as we forge a path forward together in these uncertain times.

The question you will be voting on will be something like this: do you want to a) continue on as we are in the United Methodist Church OR b) have more conversations, information sessions, etc. on the issue of human sexuality in the UMC.

Please hear this again: this vote is non-binding. Meaning, this will not force us down any path. It will, however, be critical information for the leadership of the church as they work to guide us on the path we believe God is calling us.

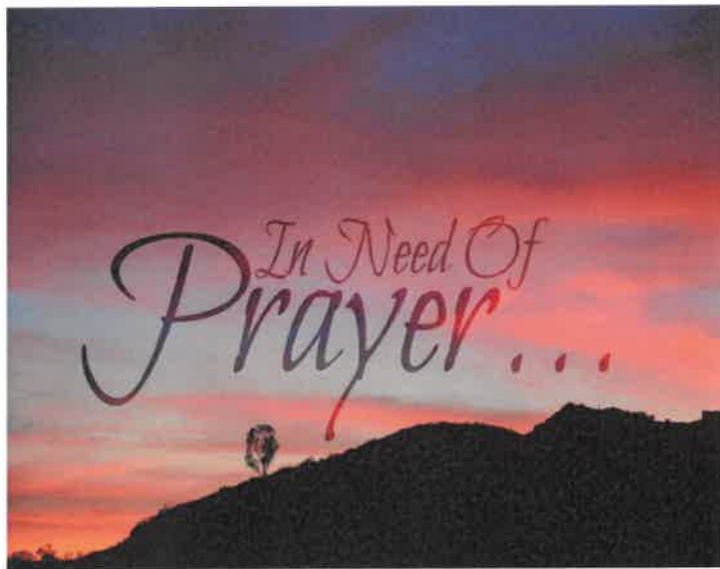
These are difficult times and blessed times. There is so much good going on at MVUMC and in the UMC. There are also challenges that lay ahead of us. We will get through this, together. Please, continue to engage, continue to pray and continue to look for ways that God is calling us to be The Church of Jesus Christ that reveals the Kingdom of God in our very midst.

**We hope to see you at Charge
Conference on October 23rd at 11:45am!**

PRAYER CONCERNS...

Donald Atkins	Bruce Arrow	Jim Bauden	Audrey Baxter	Gary Cormann	Lee Miller
Robert Scott Blackadder	Eileen Bogo	Larry Bogo	Erma Bond	Todd Blanton	
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	Kirk Duclos	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	Jeanette Miller		Kim Itvere	
Jimmy	Connie Jones	Gail Kevenk	Allen Kitchens	Seth Smith	
Cheryl & Destiny Little	Lewis Lowder	Lynn Martin	Paul Mehaffey	Robena Russell	
Brenda Messer	Ruby Moore	Sandra Morris	Jim Murtaugh	Jim Neely	
Michael O'Gorman	John Planchock	Norann Planchock	Pete Planchock	Mary Ann Vignola	Lisa
	Sheila Price	Susan Purvis	Courtney Quick	Scott Reed	Angela Reid
Charlie & Mildred Rich	Mike Rickman	Rhonda Riley	Gerry Robinson		
John Saxton	Ron Sellers	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Elizabeth Smallwood	Dustin Smith	
	Annie Smith	Jane Spell	Carolyn Strickland	Betty Sutton	Sammy Sutton
Hilda Taylor	Kent Taylor	Sam Tiger	Pietro Tondini	Brian Toole	
Martha Bradshaw Trull	Audrey Waters	Ron Miller	Aaron White	Tom Wynch	

Please continue to pray for the following as well: Administrative Board, Bishop Carter, Disaster Victims, All Travelers, Our Choir, Haywood Street Congregation, Homeless People, In God's Creation Hiking Group, Haywood Pathways Center, Manna Foodbank & Publix, Men's Group, Missionaries, People looking for Work, Shepherd's Table, United Methodist Church, World Events & Peace, Sunday School, Refugees, Food Pantry, Community Garden, Our Children & Youth, 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, Beverly Ketner, Gail Quick, Lynn & Mark Rains, and Mike & Sue Shirley.

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

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, and RAMEN NOODLES** 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 October 26th at 6:00pm in the library. If you can provide a meal, please call Belinda to sign up.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All "Love in Action" articles for November are due to Belinda by Thursday, October 20th.

The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, October 20th and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, October 22nd at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

Pastor Cole's Bible Study will not meet during the month of October. We encourage you to attend the Connections Sunday School class on Sunday mornings in the Grace Classroom at 9:15am each week as they study the Lord's Prayer.

"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 October 4th at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

UM Foundation Luncheon will be Thursday, October 6th at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, October 6th at 2:00 PM in the Grace Classroom. Please bring UMCOR Health Kits. All women are welcome!

Those interested in helping with the Wesley Foundation Meal for the Western Carolina University Students on Thursday, October 6th, please contact Wanda Messer at 828-734-7848.

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.

"In God's Creation Hike" will hike the Big Creek Trail on Tuesday, October 25th, leaving church at 9:00am. We will be taking the van. It is rated an easy trail and is 4.0 miles out and back. We will see Mouse Creek Falls and Midnight Hole on this hike. You'll want to bring plenty of water, snacks, and a lunch. We will picnic there before we head back. All are welcome to join the fun.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS...

The Blessing of the Animals is a tradition that stretches back some 800 years to St. Francis of Assisi. He is attributed with saying: "Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join [humanity] in praising God."¹ Praying for and blessing the animals that give so much joy and love to our lives is not just something "cute" to do — it is being faithful to the task God has given us as humans!

Join us on October 15th anytime between 10am-12pm out by the barn. All (non-venomous, please) pets are welcome!



TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN FUN...

This year we will be hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday, **October 30th from 3pm-5pm** in the church parking lot.



To make this a wonderful event for our community, we need YOU! We need the following things:

- Bags of **individually wrapped candy** (You can drop these off at the church office or on Sundays during worship.)
- Volunteers to help during the event on **October 30th**. We will begin organizing and decorating car trunks at 2:00. Feel free to dress in costume! Also, bring a few extra bags of candy for your car just in case we run short.

If you can help, please contact the church office, Pastor Cole or call or text Wanda Messer (734-7848). Thanks ahead of time for being a celebration of love to our community!

BILL CHAMBERLIN, TREASURER'S REPORT...

	MONTH	FOR THE YEAR
	AUGUST	JAN - AUG
PROJECTED BUDGET NEED	\$ 23,085.64	\$184,685.12
ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 20,913.13	\$198,890.71
OFFERINGS RECEIVED	\$ 20,774.70	\$193,256.55
OVER/UNDER	\$ 139.12	\$(5,634.16)



Treasurer Report

MUSIC AND LUNCH, OCTOBER 16TH...

All are invited to join us right after church on October 16th for a wonderful time of music, food and fellowship. The Christian singing group, "Kindred Spirit Music" will be joining us from Erwin, NC.

This group consists of 4 men who love to sing and share the good news of Jesus Christ to all. Check out their website for more information about their music, lives and what they hope to share with us on the 16th: kindredspiritmusic.com

Please plan to bring a covered dish to share with others. The church will provide the meat, we ask that you bring a dessert or side dish to share as we eat and enjoy the music and the time together.

If you have questions, please contact the church office Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm. We hope to see you there!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

1	Duane Hawkins	18	Kody Highsmith
2	Dick Cole	19	Dwight Hart
2	Katie Muirhead Hermida	19	Brian Smith
4	Sarah Buff	19	Caine Thomas
4	Bonnie Hanson	20	Betty Ferguson
4	Cheryl Little	21	Elizabeth Colborne
5	Stacey Boris	21	Barbara Hannah
8	Cliff Peebles	21	Aaliyah James
8	Sharon Ross	21	Noah Smith
9	Jason Beemer Jr.	24	Rhonda Smith
9	Mike Brosius	25	Stephanie Love
9	Penelope Standley	26	Destiny Little
10	Susan Plott	26	Tori Swinford
12	Robert Damico	27	Barbara Briggs
13	David Wagner	27	Ella Sutton
14	Emily Ferguson	27	Brenton Yadon
15	Hazel Bradshaw	28	LaDonna Rollins
15	Irene Rollar	29	Brooke Autrey
16	Carole Platt	30	Trudy Brosius
16	JP Smith	31	Katherine Cabe
16	Jon Snyder	31	Stuart Harrell
16	Donny Wall	31	Sherri Mauch
17	Eli Bennett		

HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY!

1	Steve & Helen Dickinson (1976)
1	Annette & Tom Sharpe
2	Joan & Glen Rose (1943)
7	Valerie & Scott Sutton (1989)
11	Tyla & Jason Moody (1997)
12	Barb & Art Olsen (1968)
17	Beth & Ken Brown (1998)
24	Alice & Sam Welch (1969)
26	Trudy & Jerry Hall (2013)
26	Mary & Doug Sisk (1968)



ALL SAINTS DAY...

This year we will celebrate All Saint's Day on Sunday, November 6th. All Saint's Day is a day where we pause to remember and celebrate the lives of those among us who have left their physical bodies and whose spirits now are in complete union with God.

The United Methodist Church says this about All Saint's Day:

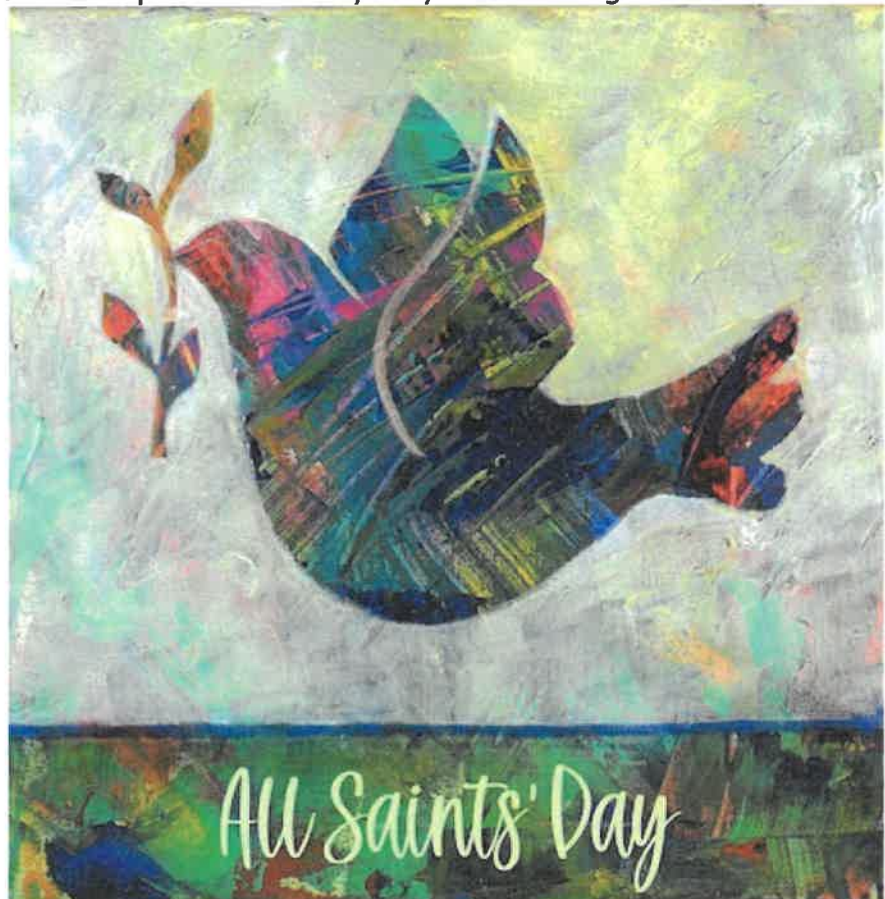
Historically, the Church has confessed a belief in the "communion of the saints," which includes not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers past, present and future. The author of Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints, a "great cloud of witnesses," surrounds us and cheers us on.

We will again celebrate the lives of those who we remember but are no longer with us. You will have an opportunity to light a candle in their memory, we will ring the church bells to celebrate their time on earth with us and we will celebrate Holy Communion as a way of joining with them in God's great union.

This year you will also have another way of remembering your loved ones in worship. During the second half of October, a white cloth will be placed in the foyer by the double-glass doors. You will find permanent markers there and you are invited to write the names of those you are remembering. This first year, you are welcome to write the names of those you have lost this year or many years ago.

Each year, we will wash the cloth only once. Then, everyone will again be invited to write the names of those lost in that year. The result will be a permanent and ever-new remembering of those we love.

We will use the cloth with the names as the communion table covering each year on All Saint's Day. This can be a powerful reminder that although they are not physically here with us, and although that is painful, we believe and boldly proclaim that this temporal life is not the end. In God, we are all one and will all be united again.



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

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

VACANT, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

“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

