



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 15, Issue 12

December, 2022

FROM PASTOR COLE...

Be still & know that I am God... Psalm 46:10

This famous verse that is familiar to so many of us is almost always applicable in our lives, but I think it's an especially important reminder right now. Recently I took a few minutes to sit in the quiet but fully Advent-decorated sanctuary. In the stillness of those moments, I took some deep breaths and felt as full as I have in a while. The emptiness of the sanctuary somehow filled me up. Being quiet somehow sparked a noise, a flame inside me. Being still helped me know God.

The holiday season is always a busy one. You may be making plans to travel or receive friends and family. You may be shopping, decorating, preparing for the season. You may even be helping more at church as the December calendar stays full. But in this season, I hope you will also intentionally slow down — be still — and find God in the waiting and longing of Advent.

For my first two Advent seasons with you, so much has been unsure. In fact, last year in the December newsletter I wrote "I don't know what worship will look like," because of COVID. COVID has not completely gone away, much to our disappointment, but I feel as sure as I can be that we are going to have full-voiced, big, wonderful worship services. My prayer for you is that in the largeness and business of this season, that you take intentional time to wait for the Lord, to be still.

Yes, we will sing. We will pray. We will read the beloved stories of Jesus' birth. We will have children singing, candles lighting and mangers and hearts full. But don't let the beautiful and busy season stop you from wondering out into the pastures of your spirit to **be still**.

Advent is a season of light in the darkness. The first step to seeing the light is being still enough to let it light our paths, to know it's there. In this in-between season, the already and not yet that is Advent, I hope you will allow the darkness to draw near but know that the dark is only a preview for Christ's light. The dark that is arriving is just a reminder that Emmanuel, God WITH US, is on the way. The darkness is a time to slow down, hold the ones you love close, lean into the family of this church, lean into each other, and trust that our lights — together — are greater than any darkness that comes. "Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel... God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Praise be to God!

— Grace & Peace, Pastor Cole



**JOIN US AT
MAGGIE VALLEY UMC
THIS CHRISTMAS
SEASON**

EACH WEEK:

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:15AM

WORSHIP @ 10:30

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 @ 10:30AM
FAMILY FRIENDLY LESSONS & CAROLS
HOT CHOCOLATE & DESSERT AFTER**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 @ 5PM
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
A SERVICE FOR THOSE IN GRIEF**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 5PM
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
HYMNS, HOLY COMMUNION &
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 @ 10:30AM
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE**

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE — December 21, 5pm...

The holidays can be such a time of joy and celebration, and at the same time, the holidays can bring up feelings of grief, loss and pain. Some describe this loss as “the empty chair,” meaning there are those who gather at Christmas and will see an empty chair around the table and remember a loved one. The Church, at its best, is a place that welcomes all people in whatever moment of life they find themselves in. We welcome people who are full of hope and joy. We also want to be a place where people in pain and grief feel home.

One of the ways we want to offer a “home” for those in loss is by having a “Blue Christmas,” or sometimes it’s called “The Service of the Longest Night.” This service will take place on December 21st @ 5pm (the winter solstice), which is literally the longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere. We worship on this night, especially for those in grief, to make space in the tidings of Christmas for hurt and need. We worship on this night to remember that although we walk through darkness, God is our light and God is with us, Emmanuel is on the way.

If you or someone you know is feeling loss this year, invite them to join us for a special Blue Christmas worship. We will light candles and write names on stars to be placed on a Christmas tree. We will take time to remember and celebrate the lives of the saints who have gone on before us. This service is an opportunity to feel whatever you need to feel this season. And in those feelings, in this worship, we trust that God’s healing, abiding presence will be with us always.

*Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength...*

.....

A SERVICE OF REFLECTION, PEACE & HOPE

**Blue
Christmas**

ALL ARE WELCOME

.....

December 21, 2022
5pm @ Maggie Valley UMC
4192 Soco Road,
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

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 GRANOLA BARS, JELLY, PEANUT BUTTER, GRITS/Pkgs, BAR SOAP, TOOTHBRUSHES, and CANNED FRUIT this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping!

"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 Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, December 1st at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will have our Christmas luncheon and party. Please bring your favorite dish. We will have a gift exchange of no more than \$10.00. We will have fun and sing Christmas carols. All women are welcome!

The youth group will meet on December 14th 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, December 13th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All "Love in Action" articles for January are due to Belinda by Thursday, December 15th.

The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, December 15th at 5:30 and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, December 17th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

We will have a wrapping day and fellowship on Saturday, December 17th at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. We will be wrapping gifts for McCracken Nursing Home, Angel Tree, and Pathways. Please join us if you are able.

We will have a Blood Drive on December 13th from 12:30-5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up online or call Belinda to schedule an appointment.

The Church Office will be closed December 26th- January 2nd for the Christmas Holidays. The office will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 3rd. Merry Christmas!

The food pantry and Shepherd's table will be closed December 26-30th. They will reopen on Monday, January 2nd.

Pastor Cole's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We invite everyone to come! **We will NOT meet on December 29th due to Christmas Holidays.**



BILL CHAMBERLIN, TREASURER'S REPORT...

	MONTH	FOR THE YEAR
	OCTOBER	JAN - OCT
PROJECTED BUDGET NEED	\$ 23,085.64	\$230,856.40
ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,173.74	\$233,707.63
OFFERINGS RECEIVED	\$ 37,897.06	\$249,836.38
OVER/UNDER	\$ 21,723.32	\$16,128.75

**Treasurer Report****THANK YOU's...**

*Dear Cole and Maggie Valley UMC,
Mom so wanted to write this card herself but that became impossible. She loves this church and all the wonderful people who attend. We both thank you for caring about us. We'll meet again soon.*

Allison & Yvonne McVann

*Dear Belinda and Church family,
I just wanted to tell everyone....
Thank You ALL for Everything y'all do for Others!!
The Food and Bathroom supplies boxes were Absolutely Amazing to receive
You make My Mondays a Real Blessing to look forward to the Fantastic Delicious Meal!!
You truly are "" Love in Action ".
Whenever any of you have a bad Day....
I hope and Pray that you will remember that Your Actions,... Speak Volumes 🗣️ for
Those of us who Truly appreciate All of the hard work and Efforts,
That Everyone involved Gives for the Lord Jesus Christ 🙏
There's times that I feel alone....
All of you... Make People like me,... Feel Cared about and Loved!!
Your Reward is Not in This World 🌍
It's At the feet of Our Lord and Savior!!
I hope and Pray that This Letter....
Will Encourage all of you in Some Special Way!*

*With ALL My heart,
Sincerely,
Dave Pickens*



WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOU!

Your generosity to Maggie Valley UMC is the reason we are able to care for so many in the community. We are so grateful to everyone who has given in so many ways to help keep the mission of the church going strong!

THANK YOU!

INFORMATION...

Dear friends at Maggie Methodist church,

Just a short note to let you know of the passing of former/long time members, Stephanie Love and Ann Love. Steffie and her mother Ann Love, attended from late 50's thru about 2010 when they both relocated to live with us here in San Diego, CA. Ann died in 2016 and Steffie died this week. There may be members who remember them. Kindest Regards & best wishes for continued success at the church....

Ann's son, Jefferson Welch @ San Diego, CA

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	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	Ellen Enrique	Bethany Hixson
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	Joe Hardwell	Kim Itvere	Heather Lucia
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	
Mary Gentry Seymour	Annie Smith	Jane Spell	Carolyn Strickland	Betty Sutton	Sammy Sutton
Hilda Taylor	Sam Tiger	Pietro Tondini	Brian Toole		
Martha Bradshaw Trull	Audrey Waters	Ron Miller	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, 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, Nancy Lott Gerald, Tom & Vivian Gerard, Zeldia 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, and David Wagner.



Beginning in 2023, we are going to update our Prayer List and we need your help. Please carefully look through the prayer list above and contact the office if there are additions, deletions, or edits that need to be made. We believe deeply in the power of prayer and want to make sure that we are keeping our list as current as possible. Please let us know as changes occur and needs arise so that we can surround you with our faith in prayer.

December

2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Connections Sunday School (9am)	28 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	29 Put up Nativity Scene (1pm)	30 Food Pantry (10-12) Grief Share (6-8pm) — Grace Classroom	31 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	1 Set Up for Holiday Boutique (9am-2pm) AA (7pm)	2 Holiday Boutique (9am-2pm) AA (7pm)
4 Grace Room Worship & Holy Communion (10:30am)	5 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	6 "Sacred Sealing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot	7 Food Pantry (10-12)	8 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	9 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	10 Christmas Party @ the Parsonage (10am-12pm) PARK @ CHURCH AA (7pm)
11 Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am) Grief Share (2pm-4pm) — Grace Classroom	12 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	13 Red Cross Blood Drive (12:30-5:30pm) — Fellowship Hall One Board Meeting (6pm) — Grace Classroom	14 Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group (6-7:30pm) — Library	15 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	16 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	17 Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall Gift Wrapping Gathering! (10am) — Fellowship Hall AA (7pm)
18 Connections Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Lessons & Carols Worship (10:30am) Refreshments after	19 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	20 Grief Share (1pm-3pm) — Grace Classroom	21 Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group Blue Christmas Service (5pm) — Sanctuary	22 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	23 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	24 Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service (5pm) — Sanctuary AA (7pm)
25 Christmas Celebration Worship (10:30am)	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	31 AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall



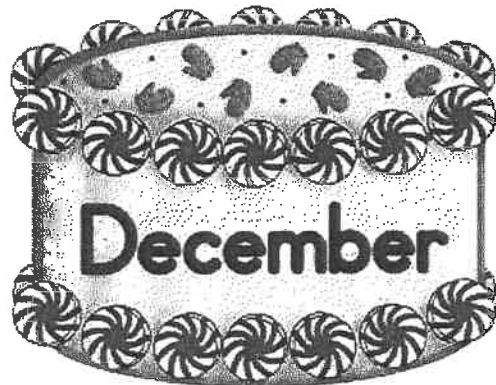
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

1	Amberly McNally	20	Bea Hawkins
2	Natalie Roth	21	Mari Conneen
5	Seth Rogers	21	Christopher Nelson
5	Ben Yocom	21	Charles Rabjohns
8	Carol Schneider	22	Bob Wendel
9	Diana Duclos	25	Ann Best
9	Susan Snyder	26	Kayla Campbell
12	Sandy Giles	26	Ann Watts
12	Steve Dickinson	27	Beverly Ketner
13	Penny Clouse	30	Pam Cherry
13	Herman Oellerich	30	Joanne Lowder
16	Beverly Truesdale	31	William Messer
18	Gene Johnson	31	Jeff Williamson
19	Carolyn Strickland		

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY!

7	SueWayne & Donald Adkins
12	Sharon & Darryl Ross
13	Stacey & Richard Boris (1980)
16	Joy & Don Bennett (1993)
19	Betty & Charles Rabjohns (2015)
21	Beverly & Mitch Truesdale (1974)
28	Janette & Ron Miller (1968)
28	Della & David Reeves





Caretakers of God's Creation

CREATION CARE CORNER...

Article by: Cara Fleischer,

<https://carafleischer.com/2020/12/07/creation-care-shares-tips-for-a-sustainable-and-safe-christmas/> (*Article has been truncated to fit in the newsletter*)

Did you know that Americans throw away more trash between Thanksgiving and Christmas than any other time? In fact, it is DOUBLE the usual amount, according to the Mother Earth Living Magazine, who says "Americans throw away a million tons of trash weekly, but during the holidays there's an extra million per week, including 38,000 miles of ribbon and 4 million tons of shopping bags and gift wrapping."

We have the chance to reevaluate what is important to us this holiday season, and here are some ideas to help you make safe and earth-friendly choices this year:

Real vs. Fake Christmas tree? The age-old question of which is better for the environment is easy to answer, according to The Nature Conservancy. They state that real trees are best because of these reasons: Christmas tree farms keep land open instead of being developed, real trees suck carbon out of the air while they grow, they are a renewable resource, and are completely recyclable. Most areas even pick up real trees after the holidays and turn them into mulch. If you really want an artificial tree, find a used one on Craig's List or a thrift store to minimize their impact on the earth.

Make your holiday meals more sustainable by using real dishes instead of disposable, recycling cans and bottles, and if you are able, composting vegetable scraps. If washing dishes isn't feasible, use paper goods over plastic or foam.

Look for recycled content holiday cards, or better yet, send a waste-free e-card this year.

0 to make, warmly received, and top the list for sustainability. A live plant is a nice gift that can be enjoyed far beyond Christmas. A basket of fresh fruit is healthy and delicious, and even more special if it comes from your own tree.

Thrift shopping is another way to get a deal on quality used items (including baskets and baking pans that homemade gifts can be delivered in) and nonprofit shops have a wide array of treasures.

Consider gifts from an Alternate Christmas Market where you make a donation to a charity in the receiver's name. Memberships to state parks are always a hit with families, and children love "Adopt an Animal" gifts from zoos, Heifer International, or World Wildlife Fund and many times will receive an adoption certificate, photo, and stuffed animal with your gift.

Use recycled content wrapping paper, butcher paper, or reusable cloth or paper gift bags, and reuse tissue, bows and ribbons that are still in good condition. Have a paper bag or box ready Christmas morning to collect all the paper wrappings and cardboard for the recycling bin.

Cut out pretty pictures and sayings on old holiday cards to make gift tags, and attach them by hole punching and threading on a ribbon, or using glue dots.

Challenge yourself to decorate for the holidays with only what you already own or can find in nature.

Beautiful table arrangements can be made with holly cuttings, citrus, and candles.

These simple ideas can go a long way in making your holidays more environmentally friendly, safer, and may even save you money.

Have a happy and sustainable holiday!



ADVENT 2022

Take Advent home this year!

Advent @ Home

This year we want to encourage you and your family to dive deeper into the story of Advent & Christmas. We hope you will take time at least once each week to read through the story from worship on Sunday at home. Ask each other questions! Look for details you've missed before. Get into the life of the passage and make room for Christ's coming again!

She will bear a son,
and you are to name
him **Jesus**...

Emmanuel, which
means "God is with us."

Think About It!

One of the best ways to go deeper is by asking questions then giving all the time needed for answers. Try these questions about the Scripture this year:

- What do you love about that passage? Was anything confusing?
- Did anything surprise you this year?
- Which character do you relate to?
- What do you think _____ felt like in the story?
- How does that passage make you feel? Happy? Hopeful? Other?

Weekly Scripture

Week 1 Luke 1:5-25

John the Baptist's Birth Story

Week 2 Luke 1:26-38

Jesus' Birth foretold

Week 3 Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph & Mary Prepare

Week 4 John 1:1-14

"Word became Flesh"

Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus

Maggie Valley UMC Worship Services – 10:30 am

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Maggie Valley, NC 28751

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VACANT, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

Belinda Marr, Administrative Assistant

“Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others”

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