



# Love in Action

*The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church*

Volume 16, Issue 1

January, 2023

## FROM PASTOR COLE...

*One can begin one's spiritual quest by attending to the desires of the heart, both personal and communal. The Spirit is revealed in our genuine hopes for ourselves and for the world. How brightly burns the flame of desire for a love affair with God, other people, the world? **Do we know that to desire and seek God is a choice that is always available to us?*** — Elizabeth Dreyer

Last January (2022) we engaged in a series called "The Walk" that was all about re-focusing our vision on Christ and walking alongside him. In 2021, we began the year in a series called "Quench" that was about Jesus and the "woman at the well" in John 4. That series was about our thirst for God and how daily, regular, intentional practices help us receive the living water of God that is always available to us.

This year, we are doing something similar, but equally as important.

Throughout the month of January, Pastor Mike and I will be leading worship as we think about "Sacred Rhythms."

*Sacred Rhythms* is the title of Ruth Haley Barton's classic work

on creating habits and intentional space to engage with God. Or maybe it's better said that we are engaged *by* God!

I know when you hear we are doing a "beginning of the year" series you may roll your eyes and think, "here we go again." I've sat where you are sitting and I rolled my eyes too. But if you are like me, every series like this always surprises me with how important and meaningful it is for my life. All I have to do is show up, just a little — the rest is up to God and God always comes through.

During this series, we will talk about taking time to intentionally rest, we will look at reading the Bible and why that matters, we will even think about how we connect with God and others through our physical bodies. My prayer for you is that you will show up and show up with an open heart and mind.

You have likely heard similar ideas that will be shared, but I believe in God's providence. I believe that this sermon series can mean something to you, can help shape you and in turn, can help shape our community as we welcome in (again) the Kingdom of God right in our midst.

One last note: as you are making new year's resolutions (if you do that sort of thing), I hope you take some time to make your desire for God and for the world clear. The Dreyer quote from above says, "How brightly burns the flame of desire for a love affair with God, other people, the world?"



I am so grateful that I get to walk alongside you and I feel the warmth of that flame of desire deep in you. I sense that God is working in you and through you. And I believe this series, this beginning again, this time right now is the time to re-commit our lives — our practices, our hope and our dreams — to God who is always more ready to give than we are to receive.

I hope you've heard me say this before but hear it again: I am rooting for you. I am praying for you. I am excited and grateful to be journeying along with you in this wild, wonderful life. And I love you.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Cole

## **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 TEA BAGS, JELLY, PEANUT BUTTER, COOKIES, and CRACKERS 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, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

**The youth group will meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup> 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, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

**All "Love in Action" articles for January are due to Belinda by Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 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.** We invite everyone to come! **We will NOT meet on December 29<sup>th</sup> due to Christmas Holidays.**

**Winter 2023 Wednesday Night Spiritual Growth Group will begin on January 11, 2023 at 6pm. Topic TBA.**

**Greetings from Preschool! We need substitute volunteers to be available in the event of a teacher absence.** A volunteer substitute will be accompanied by one teacher. Our preschool hours are Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-12:00. All volunteer substitutes will need a background check. If you are interested, please call Gail Quick at 336.212.0768.

### **CALL FOR USHERS/MONEY COUNTERS...**

**We have a need for ushers. If you are interested serving as an usher, please let Pastor Cole know.** There is a need for 3 or 4 ushers each week. Typically, an usher serves for one month.

**We also need for money counters. Each week, after the morning service, the counters will count the cash received in the collection plates and record it.** (Checks are collected but not counted on Sunday). If you are interested in counting, please let Pastor Cole or Bill Chamberlin know, 321-246-3667. Two counters are required. Family members cannot count on the same Sunday. **USHERS can be counters.**

**Do you enjoy writing cards, visiting friends, calling someone you miss or just checking in on others? If you do, we need you!** Starting in 2023, Pastor Mike will be forming "Visitation Teams." These teams will be made of groups of 2-4 people. Each team will be assigned a week of the month (ex: 1st week, 2nd week...). During that week, each team will check in with the pastors to see who they might write to, call, or visit and then they will do it!

The idea is to make sure we are taking care of each other. Knowing that someone is praying for you can make all the difference in the world — especially if you are in the hospital, nursing home or living by yourself. YOU can be part of making that difference!

To find out more (this isn't a commitment), please reach out to Pastor Mike. There will be a time of training in January/February, and we will hope to begin this ministry soon after.

Whether you are interested in joining or not, please be in prayer as we believe this ministry is critical to making sure everyone in the church is being cared for.



## THANK YOU!

I am very grateful for all of you, for all your hard work and time spent helping make the Holiday Boutique such a success.

This year's boutique raised over \$7,000! The money will be spent for food to feed HIS sheep.

Happy New Year.

Judi Ferris

### THANK YOU's...

*Dearest Maggie Valley UMC,*

*We want to thank you for the generous Christmas bonus for this year. We are very grateful! God's blessing to you all!*

*Shalom,  
Gene and Shirley*

*P.S. We love our ministry! So blessed!*

Dear Belinda and Church family,

Your "" Love in Action "" is Truly a Wonderful blessing to Me!!  
Once Again...

I want to Thank Everyone who has had a hand in the Absolutely Amazing Meals!!  
I'm always Amazed by all the work that's put into making the Wonderful Meals On Monday's!!  
You Make a Difference!!

More than You can possibly imagine 🍷  
And Everything else ,,,, all of you do for Others!!

A Special Thank You.... for " Gale " .....

For Listening to your heart....

Because Each thing that the Lord has supplied  
Has Met a Real Need....

A special thank You for whomever supplied the Space Heaters ....

I hope and Pray that this Letter will Encourage all of you in some way...

With all my heart  
Dave Pickens

Maggie Valley UMC,

Thank you to all that prepared the food for our family upon Mom's passing. It was great to come back to the house after the service and have food ready for our family. Thank you also for all the prayers and concern during her illness.

Fondly,  
Emily Ferguson and Family

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

|                              | MONTH          | FOR THE YEAR |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
|                              | November       | JAN - NOV    |
| <b>PROJECTED BUDGET NEED</b> | \$ 23,085.64   | \$253,942.04 |
| <b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>       | \$ 34,170.84   | \$267,878.47 |
| <b>OFFERINGS RECEIVED</b>    | \$ 20,968.09   | \$270,804.47 |
| <b>OVER/UNDER</b>            | \$ (13,202.75) | \$2,926.00   |



**Treasurer Report**

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...



### HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

|    |                 |    |                       |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Bruce Johnson   | 15 | Betty Joe Beasley     |
| 1  | MaryAnn Vignola | 16 | Helen Dickinson       |
| 2  | John Burton     | 19 | Joseph Conneen        |
| 4  | Cody Campbell   | 20 | Bubba Kelley          |
| 4  | Jason Kanupp    | 22 | Helen Duke            |
| 5  | Steve Mehaffey  | 23 | Jeremy Troxler        |
| 6  | Lovia Barefoot  | 24 | David Reeves          |
| 6  | Jason Rogers    | 25 | Melinda Coker Sutton  |
| 7  | Tyler Brosius   | 27 | Shafin Ross           |
| 7  | Tom Palmer      | 28 | Don Bennett           |
| 9  | Linda Howell    | 29 | Sten Lundgren         |
| 10 | Zara Moore      | 29 | Cullen McKenney       |
| 11 | Alexia Trull    | 30 | Laurie Bledsoe Morris |
| 13 | Larry Butler    | 30 | Charlotte Rogers      |
| 13 | Todd Carpenter  | 31 | Devan Messer          |
| 13 | Helen Davis     |    |                       |
| 14 | Cam Walsh       |    |                       |

### Happy January Anniversary!

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 12 | Georgia & Billy Butler (2002) |
| 19 | Susan & Dan Dry (2019)        |
| 24 | Ann & Ted Watts (1976)        |

## 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    | Stoney Caldwell     | Colton              |                         |
| Joe & Mari Conneen      |                  | 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      | Imogene Harper          |
| 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, 211<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, Prisoners of War, Veterans, Injured & MIA, Our Country, The President, and Our Leaders.

**Those in Nursing Homes** Becky Bender, Jane Cable, Lady Hughes, Betty Sutton → Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab; Gail Pace → Silver Bluff; Phyllis Jackson → Smoky Mtn Nursing Home; Haywood Lodge, Maggie Valley Nursing Home, McCracken's Nursing Home, Silver Bluff Nursing Home, and Smoky Mountain Health & Rehab.

**Those who are Homebound** including Kathryn Brannen, Joseph Cullen, Wanda Deutsch, Willard Dockery, Helen & Joe Duke, 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 Rondecal, 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.***

# January

2023

| December |    |    |    |    |    |    | February |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    |    |    |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 4        | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 5        | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 12       | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 19       | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 25       | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 26       | 27 | 28 |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY                                                                        | MONDAY                                                                                               | TUESDAY                                                            | WEDNESDAY                                          | THURSDAY                                                 | FRIDAY                                            | SATURDAY                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1<br>Connections Sunday<br>School (9am)<br>Worship & Holy Communion (10:30am) | 2<br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)                               | 3<br>"Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot                        | 4<br>Food Pantry (10-12)                           | 5<br>Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall        | 6<br>Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall | 7<br>AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall  |
| 8<br>Connections Sunday<br>School (9am) — Grace Room<br>Worship (10:30am)     | 9<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)                                                | 10<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Youth Group (6-7:30pm) — Library Hall | 11<br>Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall | 12<br>Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall | 13<br>AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall                  | 14                               |
| 15<br>Connections Sunday<br>School (9am) — Grace Room<br>Worship (10:30am)    | 16<br>Martin Luther King Jr. Day — OFFICE CLOSED<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Shepherd's Table (3:30pm) | 17<br>One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall                    | 18<br>Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall | 19<br>Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall | 20<br>AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall                  | 21                               |
| 22<br>Connections Sunday<br>School (9am) — Grace Room<br>Worship (10:30am)    | 23<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)                                               | 24<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Youth Group (6-7:30pm) — Library Hall | 25<br>Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall | 26<br>Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall | 27<br>Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall     | 28<br>AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall |
| 29<br>Connections Sunday<br>School (9am) — Grace Room<br>Worship (10:30am)    | 30<br>Food Pantry (10-12)<br>Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)                                               | 31<br>Food Pantry (10-12)                                          | 1<br>Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall  | 2<br>Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall  | 3<br>AA (7pm) — Fellowship Hall                   | 4                                |

**Maggie Valley UMC    Worship Services - 10:30 am**

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

**Rev. Mike Shirley, Associate Pastor Cell (804) 714-6319**

VACANT, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

Belinda Marr, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

**"Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others"**

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