



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

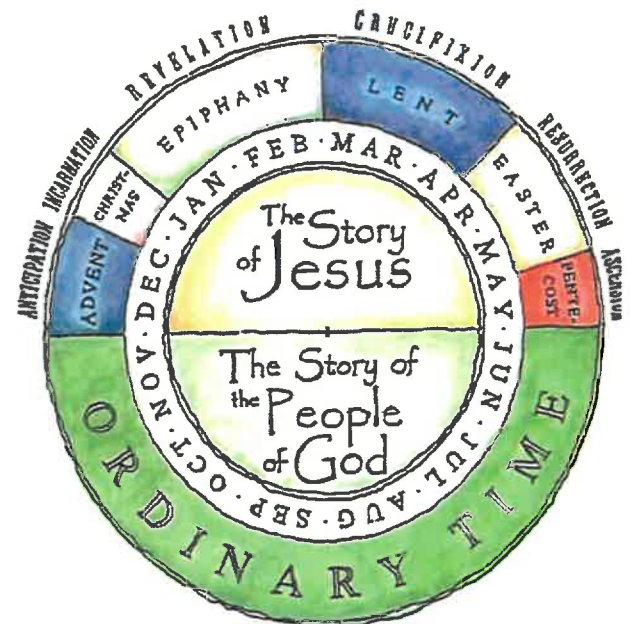
Volume 16, Issue 6

June, 2023

FROM PASTOR COLE...

Jesus gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day..." (Matthew 28:18-20, The Message)

For 3 years in a row, I have shared this picture (to the right) with you at the beginning of the summer. In the church world, the beginning of the summer lines up with the beginning of "Ordinary Time." This is the time of the church calendar where we find ourselves in between Jesus ascending into heaven, leaving behind the Holy Spirit, and Jesus' birth which begins the church year in December.



I think it is important for us to take a moment each year and consider what this means. According to the picture, there are two focuses: 1. "The Story of Jesus," and 2. "The Story of Us."

Of course, these stories are more wrapped up together than what the picture shows. Jesus' story is our story. Our story is part of Jesus' story. We can't separate them so neatly. But I like this idea, that in Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost we focus on what Jesus did in this world. We turn our attention back to those precious stories of birth, life, teaching, healing then we reflect on death and resurrection. Finally, we open ourselves to the power of God's Spirit in our world — wild and on the loose. Then, it's our turn. It's our turn to be re-born, to live, to teach, to heal, to die to ourselves and find we arise new beings in Jesus Christ.

None of this is possible without God. John Wesley once described our relationship with God like breathing: God is the inhalation in the world and we are God's breath being exhaled. God begins the action, but we are part of it. We are one of the ways God's spirit moves and touches those around us. For some reason, God continues to choose to use you and me and all creation to bring us back to God's love. You are needed and wanted for this time — to be part of God's Kingdom work that is happening all around us, right now and always.

So how will you breathe God's breath on the world this summer? How will your waking and sleeping, your getting up and going down, your travels, your rest, your daily life, how will you be part of breathing God's Spirit into all you meet? What does it mean for us to think about this season as our turn in the story. Always and every time we are filled by God's presence. And then it is time again for us to serve, to love, to humble ourselves, to empty ourselves, to bring all of our selves to God as an offering and find that God sends that gift (the gift of YOU) back into the world with hope and love.

There are so many wonderful ways to serve God. This seems to happen most frequently simply by serving those around us. By loving when hating seems easier. By choosing peace when chaos is more popular. By choosing to empty ourselves each and every day so that God might be praised. So that God might heal. So that God might work in us and through us to make disciples of all people.

When the work gets hard — and there will be hard days — remember Jesus' final promise to us, "I will be with you always." You are not alone. You are needed and a beloved part of this family. God is with you and calling you to be love in the world. Let us love, together.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Cole

SHARING & LISTENING TIME...

On June 8th at 10am & June 13th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall we will have a time of "sharing and listening." This is a time where everyone is invited to come and share your thoughts around the following 3 questions:

1. Where have you seen God at MVUMC in the last 12 months?
2. What are some things you are concerned about right now and for the future?
3. What are you excited about or eagerly anticipating for the next year together?

The idea is simple and you may remember that we've done this before. I've done a lot of talking (no surprise there), now I want to give YOU a chance to share.

Here is how the 90 minutes together will go:

- 5-10 minutes — welcome and devotion
- 10-15 minutes — without Cole in the room, write down your thoughts on large pieces of paper
- 20 minutes X 3 — no more than 20 minutes on each question, letting you all as a group explain/think through what was written on the paper
- 5 minutes — closing prayer and departing

Please spend some time in prayer before this meeting with those 3 questions. Then come with an open mind and heart to hear each other and to share honestly. I hope you will join me!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Cole

PRAYER CONCERNS...

Our Congregational Care Group meets once a month to update the list. The list will change monthly. If you know someone who needs to be added to the list or needs to remain on the list more than a month, please contact Belinda. Please pray for those below and send them a card if you would like to.

General Prayers:

John & Pat Burton, Larry Butler, Kathy Cascioli, Belinda Ferguson, Patrick Flynn Jr., Grace Heger, Destiny Little, Peggy Martin, Tom McKnight, Caroline Miller, Jim Murtaugh, Neil Napolitano, Jim Neely, Carolyn Newberry, Brenda O'Keefe, Georgia Painter, Dave Pickens, Lisa Rhoden, Tom Wilson



Congregational Care Team

Those in hospital and/or surgeries:

Homebound/Nursing Home:

Becky Bender, Lady Hughes, Paul White- Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab, Gail Pace- Silver Bluff, Phyllis Jackson- Smoky Mtn Nursing Home, Clarissa Fisher-Florida
Kathryn Brannen, Willard Dockery, Joe & Helen Duke, Brenda Griswold, Jeanette Miller, Dave Pickens, Charlie & Rena Upright, David Wagner

This month please be in prayer for our families. We pray for reconciliation where there's brokenness. We pray for hope where there is despair. We pray for joy where there is sadness.



June

2023

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	29 OFFICE CLOSED Happy Memorial Day!	30 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	31 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	1 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	2 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	3 Church Cleanup Day (10am)
4 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	5 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	6 "Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot	7 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	8 Listening Session (10am) — Fellowship Hall	9 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	10 Church Cleanup Day (10am)
11 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	12 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	13 In God's Creation Hike (9am) — Parking Lot Listening Session (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	14 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	15 Men's Group (5:30pm) — Grace Classroom Annual Conference	16 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	17
18 Happy Father's Day! Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	19 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	20 One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	21 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	22 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	23 Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall	24
25 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	26 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	27 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	28 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	29 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	30 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	1 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — 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, INSTANT OATMEAL, BAR SOAP (No Ivory), CANNED CHICKEN, CANNED FRUITS, and SHAMPOO 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, June 6th at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, June 1st at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!

The youth group will NOT meet in the month of June.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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, June 15th. The Men's breakfast will be on Saturday, June 24th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

Pastor Cole's Bible Study WILL NOT MEET the month of June.

This year's date for the **Holiday Boutique is Saturday, December 2nd. 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 \$8,000. 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.

"In God's Creation" Hiking Group will meet at the church at 9:00am on Tuesday, June 13th to travel to the Pisgah Inn. There we will do a hike and then eat lunch at the Pisgah Inn before returning to the church. Please call Judi Ferris if you would like to attend or sign up on the sign up sheet at the church.

The Annual Conference of the Western NC Conference of the UMC will take place from June 15-18 at Lake Junaluska. All are welcome to attend! During this important meeting, the conference Maggie Valley UMC is part of organizes itself for the upcoming year. Reports are given from various conference agencies, partners and more. There are a couple of highlights you are especially encouraged to consider: Friday at 10:30am in Stuart Auditorium for Opening Worship

and Saturday at 7:30pm for a worship service celebrating the "Ordering of Ministry." If you have any questions, please visit wnccumc.net/ac2022 or contact Pastor Cole.

Don't forget, Father's Day is Sunday, June 18th.



We will be having a blood drive on Wednesday, July 19th. The blood drive will be from 1:30pm-6pm in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up on the American Red Cross website or contact Belinda at 926.8036. Please consider donating to the worthy cause.

**Blood Drive
Maggie Valley United Methodist Church**

Fellowship Hall
4192 Soco Rd
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023
1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**



BELINDA MARR, TREASURER'S REPORT...

Monthly Financial Report for March 2023



Treasurer Report

APRIL		
Needed for Budget	\$	\$23,882.98
Expenses	\$	\$23,126.37
Offerings	\$	\$21,818.23
Over/Under	\$	(\$1,308.14)

THANK YOU'S...

Thank you for surrounding us with your love after Pete's passing. Your prayers and kindness have sustained us. We are grateful for all the cards, calls, visits, and meals. A big thank you for all who helped make Pete's service so special.

With much love and appreciation,

Barb, Danny, and Megan Planchock

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

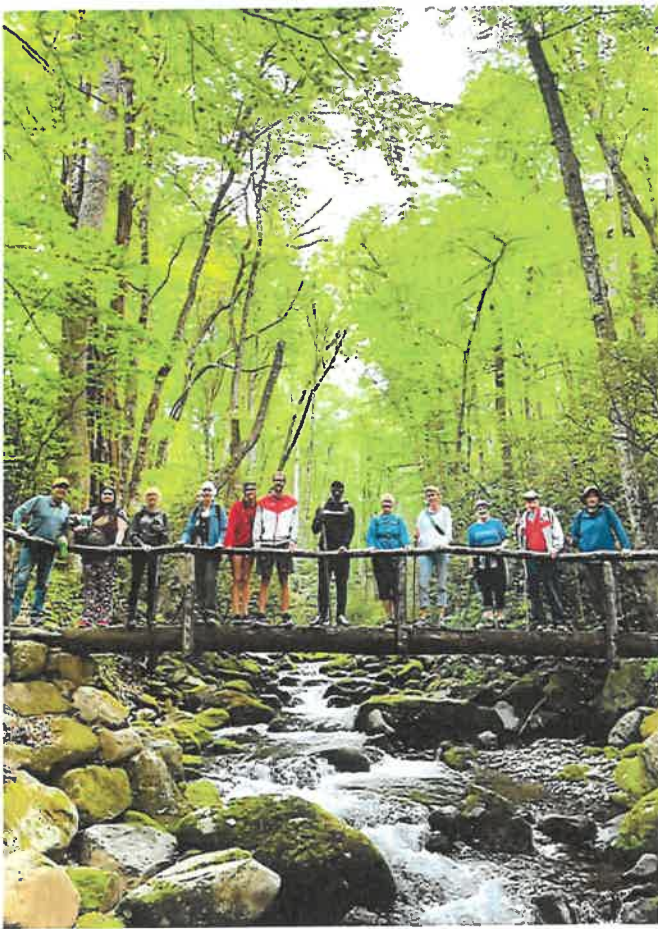
HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

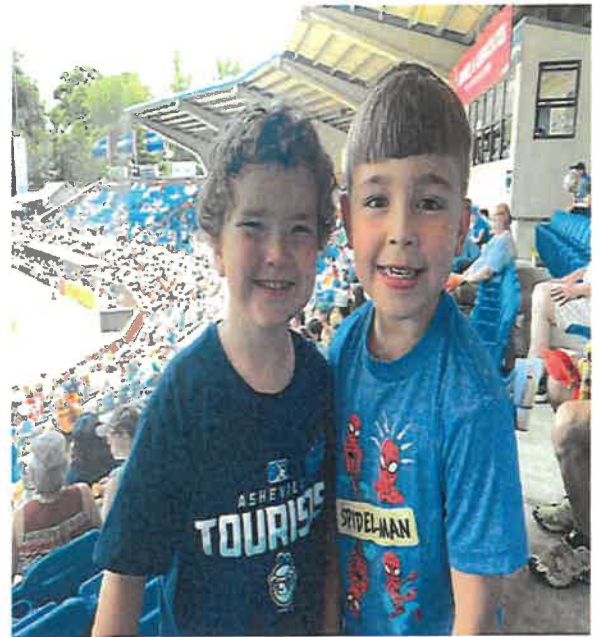
- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Sherry Laster | 21 | Jim Burch |
| 5 | Jenna McCullough | 21 | Carol Clement |
| 5 | Robena Russell | 21 | Gail England |
| 6 | Edith Chapman | 21 | Bill Vignola |
| 8 | Joy Bennett | 23 | Betty Alcorn |
| 8 | Mark Liverett | 23 | Annette Sharpe |
| 10 | Dick Cabe | 24 | Bettie Avera |
| 10 | Amy Forga | 26 | James Altizer |
| 10 | Grace Forga | 27 | Cole Altizer |
| 11 | Elise Allen | 28 | Linda Evans |
| 11 | Nathan Messer | 28 | Clarissa Fisher |
| 12 | Rebecca Walsh | 28 | Carolyn Garrand |
| 17 | Caroline Miller | | |

HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARY!

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Elise & Jimmy Allen (2002) | 15 | Wanda & Don Shoemaker (1946) |
| 1 | Donna & Roger McElroy (1960) | 16 | Beth & Roy Childs (1973) |
| 3 | Wendy & Dan Bowen | 17 | Bonne & Roy Sapough (1978) |
| 7 | Charles & Jane Kirby (1974) | 21 | Jane & Charles Meadows |
| 14 | Judy & Donny Wall (1969) | | |







SMALL GROUPS...

Did you know that the origins of the United Methodist Church date back to the 1720s? In 1729 John and Charles Wesley with 2 other young men began meeting in the basement of Oxford College's Library. They would ask each other questions about life, their faith and their souls. They held each other accountable in love. They walked through life together in the good and bad moments. They grew and shaped each other. They were better because they chose to be together.

Small groups have a long history in the Christian faith. Jesus chose 12 to be part of his inner circle. Paul always had a couple of close traveling companions. The early church in Acts would meet in each other's houses. The idea of a small group is ancient, yet incredibly important for us today.

In the coming months you are going to be invited to join a small group. We hope to create multiple groups that will gather around a simple meal, once or twice a month. These gatherings will be informal, but meaningful. You will be invited to share about what is happening in your life, where you need prayer and where you are seeing God at work. You will also, maybe more importantly, be invited to listen to each other too. We want to deepen our relationships with each other, and by doing so, connect deeper with God.

Please be in prayer to see if this fall might be a time for you to join a small group. Be in prayer to discern if God may be calling you to *lead* or host a small group. Be in prayer that whatever happens, we can grow closer together and closer to God.



CLIMATE JUSTICE

FAITH & FACTS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

God saw everything that God had made and indeed, it was very good. **(Genesis 1:10)**

Praise God, you highest heavens. **(Psalm 148:4)**

There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land... The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. **(Hosea 4:1,3)**

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the ever-lasting covenant. **(Isaiah 24:4-5)**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **(2 Chronicles 7:14)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. **(Social Principles ¶160)**

The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions. **(Social Principles ¶160.D)**

As we continue to call for bold leadership and advocate for policies rooted in justice and sustainability, we understand that God is calling each of us to respond and that as a denomination we cannot hope to transform the world until we change our way of being in it. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1035, "Climate Change and the Church's Response")**

Because of industrial extraction, production, and waste, some people's lives are destroyed while others profit. This is harmful and is neither sustainable nor just. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1032, "Principles for Just and Sustainable Extraction of Production")**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Maggie Valley UMC 10:30 am Worship Service

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Office Phone (828) 926-8036

Fax (828) 926-3932

belinda@maggieumc.org

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

Rev. Mike Shirley, Assistant Pastor

Vacant, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

Belinda Marr, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

"Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others"

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

"LOVE IN ACTION" Newsletter

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

On the web at www.maggieumc.org

