



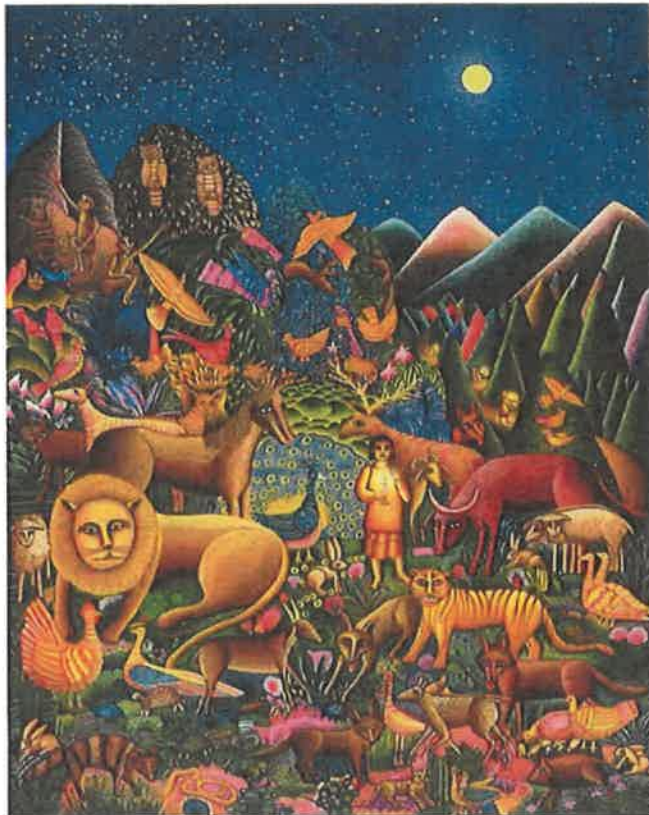
Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 16, Issue 8

August, 2023

FROM PASTOR COLE...



The wolf will live
with the lamb,
and the leopard
will lie down
with the young
goat; the calf and
the young lion
will feed
together, and a
little child will
lead them.

ISAIAH 11:6

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9, NRSV)

I can't shake that verse above. I just can't stop thinking about it, wondering with it, holding it in my pocket as I go throughout the world. What does it mean to be a "peacemaker?" What does it mean to be blessed because we make peace? I want so badly to be called a child of God, and if peace is the requirement, sign me up!

Now hang with me for a second, because I want to do some word study. The word for "peacemaker" that we find in Matthew 5 was originally written in Biblical Greek (like all the New Testament). When you go back to the Greek, the word for peacemaker is *eirēnopoios*. It's a combination of two words, *eirēnē* and *poieō*. What surprised me as I studied this word and where it came from was that the word "peacemaker" is found only once in all of the New Testament. This thing that Jesus tells us is blessed, that Jesus says will affirm our identity as God's children, being a peacemaker is only spoken about in this way once!

If you pull apart that word and look at how it was made, I think there is great wisdom there for us. First we have "peace." You already know what this word means. You've felt it before — maybe it was fleeting, but we have known peace in our lives. We have also known the opposite of peace: turmoil, distress, chaos, anger, war, violence...

The second word that makes up "peacemaker" is fascinating. *Poieō*, as it is in the Greek, means: to do, make, bring forth, cause, bear, keep, fulfill, to construct or to fashion.

Put these two words together and to be a peacemaker means something like making, causing, bringing forth or constructing peace. If you've been in worship lately, you've heard me tell the story of Ruth and Billy Graham driving through the mountains of NC years ago. They ran into construction which meant traffic, detours, delays and frustration. Finally, when the construction came to an end, they came across a sign that read: *End of Construction. Thank you for your patience.*

Ruth Graham told her husband that she wanted that sign on her tombstone. Because only when we have completed this life is the construction of our life finished. And we hope that people can be patient with us and that we might be patient with others in the meantime.

Friends, peacemaking is under construction in our lives. It is a project that takes our entire lives and then will continue after we are gone. Making peace, constructing peace in our communities, this is hard work — but it is work that is worth doing.

President Roosevelt once said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is a chance to work hard at work worth doing." This life is about finding meaning, finding ways to love and hold hope, to encourage joy and grace in our communities. This life is about finding work that is worth doing, and I can think of nothing more meaningful and fulfilling than working at building peace.

Peacemaking is hard work. It is complicated. It is the kind of work that feels like two steps forward and one back (or sometimes, one step forward and two steps back!). But Jesus tells us that to be a peacemaker is to be blessed. To be a peacemaker is part of the character of children of God. To be someone who puts on their hard hat each day and works for peace is the kind of work that is worth doing, hard though it may be.

That quote from Roosevelt is often cut short, the way I did above. But he went on to add this: "and I would add that what makes work worth doing is getting to do it with people that you love."

We are not in the construction zone of peacemaking alone. We get to do it together. God's children, each one of us, have been beautifully and uniquely created to bring peace into the world, into our homes, our families, our communities. We have each been called to this task and called to it together. That's the "secret sauce." This together thing is what makes this possible, what keeps us going, what moves us closer to God as we move closer together.

So, will you be a peacemaker with me? Will you roll up your sleeves and commit to working each day — side-by-side — towards God's-Kingdom-Reality which is full of peace? Will you lean into the blessing of being someone who is constructing peace with every breath you take? Will you embrace your identity as a daughter and son of God? Because every time you speak one word of hope, take one action with compassion, bless one person with peace, you are telling the world: I am a child of God.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Cole

Picture: Swanson, John August. Peaceable Kingdom, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56556> [retrieved June 27, 2023]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.



Hello My Church Family!

I cannot begin to tell you how excited we are for the coming preschool year! It will be our 2nd year and we are happy to say our number of students has grown. We are so grateful for our church family and our community for helping us be the best little preschool we could be.

Throughout the past school year, we were blessed with an abundance of church and community volunteers. These wonderful people embraced our school and our children in so many ways. Our church family shared their talents and volunteered their time by reading to us, crafting, planting vegetables, learning about the food pantry, and making our end of the year program special. Pastor Cole and Pastor Mike had a weekly scheduled Chapel where we learned more about

God.

We had many visitors from our community. These visitors included: M.V. Fire Department, M.V. Police Department, Miss Maggie, The Great Smokey Mountains National Park, and Ms. Christina and her pet pig, Carol.

We are so grateful for the financial support we received from donators in our first year. This helped us set up the classrooms and playground, purchase learning and craft supplies and snacks.

Our Preschool was successful because of these people.

Our school days are full of creative and fun learning experiences. We teach subjects in reading, phonics, math, Bible, art, music, and lots of science experiments. We have so much fun that our students do not even know they are learning. It is a very special place full of love and happiness.

We are planning an exciting new school year starting this fall. There will be opportunities for you to be a part of this ministry. Please consider joining alongside us in any of the following ways:

1. Please keep our Preschool in your daily prayers. Pray for our students and their families. Pray for the teachers and volunteers.
2. This is an outreach ministry. We are reaching out to families who may be struggling financially. We want to keep our tuition low to allow all children to come to a wonderful preschool. Our tuition is \$125.00 per month. To continue this ministry, we need additional financial support from our members. If you are interested in committing to 12 months of giving to the Preschool, please reach out to Pastor Cole.
3. Our Preschool is a big part of our church. We are asking for volunteers to enrich our program even more. If you would like to come read, instruct an art project, or share a talent, please let me know. We love our special volunteers!

I invite you to visit our classrooms and our playground. They are lovely spaces not just for our preschool students but for all our children to enjoy. We will soon fill those classrooms with laughter and music this fall. It's going to be a wonderful school year!

Thank You!

Your Preschool Director, Gail Quick

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

Homecoming: It has been several years since we have been able to welcome back friends and loved ones for our annual Homecoming Worship Service. We are excited to announce that we plan to have Homecoming on **September 3rd**. It will be followed by a covered lunch and time of fellowship. Circle the date on your calendar and look for more information in the coming weeks.

Barn Sale: After the great success of our barn sale in July (we raised around \$4500 for the food ministries of the church), we are eagerly anticipating our next sale and hope to have just as much success. The dates are still being determined, but we hope to have the next sale on either **September 16th or 23rd**. Please keep those dates open as we cannot make this happen with YOU. Also, please be on the lookout for dates where you can donate items to help make the sale a success.

Be Sermon Series: Be Just. Be Kind. Be Humble. Micah 6:8 provides for us not only a picture of what God requires of us but also provides for us a roadmap toward building the kingdom of Heaven here on this earth. For four weeks we're engaging in a sermon series (**starting on September 10th**) that centers on this one passage of scripture that should inform our faith. This one passage of Scripture can also be seen clearly through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. One cannot learn about or follow Jesus and not see the importance of justice, humility, mercy, and love. It was evident throughout his entire life. It should be for us as well. In an increasingly polarized world, we will be using the Micah 6:8 lens in order that we might discover our commonality. We will challenge one another to find ways to demonstrate love to all those whom we encounter, our families, our friends, our neighbors, and particularly to those with whom we differ. This series will help model what it means to love one another while valuing our differences.

Wesley Foundation Meal: Did you know that twice a year we take a meal to the Wesley Foundation of Western Carolina University? This is the United Methodist Student group for the campus, and we are grateful to be in ministry with them. Please talk to Wanda Messer if you want to help with the meal on **October 5th**.

Holiday Boutique: It is already almost time for the Holiday Boutique again! This sale that has raised thousands of dollars for the ministries of the church will be on **December 2nd** this year. We will begin accepting donations on **October 1st**. If you were considering donating items, please hold onto them until this date and THANK YOU!

Trunk or Treat: We are already beginning to think, pray and prepare for our annual "Trunk of Treat" event this year. Circle **October 28th** on your calendar and be on the lookout for more information in the coming months.

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:

Donna Brailsford, Hugh Carver, Kathy Cascioli, Stetson Cooper, Belinda Ferguson, Travis Ferguson Family, Kevin Garner, Barbara Hartman, Grace Heger, Bob Humphrey, Destiny Little, Peggy Martin, Tom McKnight, Caroline Miller, Steve Mehaffey, Jim & Debbie Murtaugh, Neil Napolitano, Jim Neely, Georgia Painter, Lisa Rhoden Family, Houston Sutton Family, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, Matthew & Carrie Wannamaker, Tom Wilson



Congregational Care Team

Those in hospital and/or surgeries:

Donna Best, Jan Wagner

Homebound/Nursing Home:

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

This month please be in prayer for the civil servants who lead our city, state, nation, and world. Join us as we pray for the leadership of Maggie Valley, Haywood County, NC, and beyond.



August

2023

July

September

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	"Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot	Food Pantry (10-12)	Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW (2pm) — Fellowship Hall		Fun In The Sun! (12-2pm) — Barn
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)		Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group (6-7:30pm) — Library Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	In God's Creation Hike (9am) — Parking Lot	Food Pantry (10-12) Youth Group (6-7:30pm) — Library Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Connections Sunday School (9:15am) Worship (10:30am)	Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)		Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	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 PACKETS, CANNED FRUIT, FRUIT GRANOLA BARS, CANNED CHICKEN, 1lb RICE, RAMEN NOODLES and SHAMPOO this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also.

Beginning immediately, desserts for carryout must be prepared in an approved kitchen like our church kitchen. This is a requirement for our Manna program. Shepherd's Table workers will bake desserts in the afternoon for the following Monday. **We graciously accept cake mixes, cans of frosting, instant pudding mixes, canned pie filling, eggs, sour cream, powdered sugar, etc.**

"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 August 1st, at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, August 3rd at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be by Marilyn Medford. All women are welcome!

We will have a "FUN IN THE SUN" event on Saturday, August 5th from 12-2 back at the barn. Join us for a party! Inflatables, snacks, games, and more! Ms. Maggie, the Police and Fire Departments will be stopping by.

The youth group will meet Wednesday, August 9th and Wednesday, August 23rd. If you can provide a meal, please contact Belinda.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

"In God's Creation Hike" will hike Dahlia Ridge Trail on Tuesday, August 22nd leaving the church at 9:00am. We will be taking the van. It is a nice woodland trail about 3.5 miles of paved, gravel, and natural footpaths, including the original one-mile campus loop trail and an additional wooded area of the HCC Campus. All are welcome to join the fun. You'll want to bring water, a snack, and I recommend a poncho just in case.

All "Love in Action" articles for September are due to Belinda by Thursday, August 24th.

The Men's Group WILL NOT meet in August but will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, August 26th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

Beth Brown will be hosting an 8-week bible study on prayer using the book, "The Doorway of Prayer, a Practical Guide to Knowing God and His Will" and other reference materials. The bible study will begin on Tuesday, Sept 5 from 6-7pm and every Tuesday thereafter for 8 weeks. The study will be limited to 10 women. If you are interested, please reach out to Beth at (828) 550-1272 by August 29th. Meeting location to be announced.

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 \$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.

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

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 Daisy 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.

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

THANK YOU'S...

Dear Maggie Valley UMC Family,

Thank you so much for all your kindness and caring during Belinda's illness. All the cards, texts, meals, love, and prayers have been greatly appreciated. We truly felt each and every prayer during this long journey. Thank you to each of you, Maggie Valley Congregational Care Team, and Shepherd's Table bunch!

*Many thanks,
Eddie & Belinda Ferguson*

BELINDA MARR, TREASURER'S REPORT...

JUNE		
Needed for Budget	\$	\$23,882.98
Expenses	\$	\$32,383.96
Offerings	\$	\$16,415.95
Over/Under	\$	(\$15,968.01)



Treasurer Report

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

2	Linda Palmer	19	Julie Messer
4	Nancy Yocom	20	Danielle Moore
4	Caryl Damico	20	Shelda Muirhead
5	Roger McElroy	22	Zeb Forga
8	Mary Dixon	22	Zach Smith
8	Codi Mauch	22	Myrtle Thomas
9	David Ferguson	24	Patricia Rowell
10	Jimmy Allen	25	Cyndi Messer
11	Don Shoemaker	26	Ken Brown
13	Charlie Upright	26	Mike Hudgens
14	Lana Lowe	27	Michael (Stoney) Caldwell
15	Ernest Laster	29	Bonnie Blackketter
16	Tammy Brown	30	Barb Planchock
16	Janice Rogers	30	Charles Gentry Kirby
18	Erna Lundgren	31	Larry Bogo
19	Stephen Litchford		



Happy August Anniversary!

3	Julie & William Messer	22	Clarell & Stephen Litchford (1970)
6	Lynn & Mark Rains (1977)	23	JoAnn & Jim Chilakos (1998)
8	Bettie & Carroll Avera (1953)	23	Lovia & Tom Barefoot (1963)
18	Sherry & Ernest Laster (2018)	23	Charlene & Lee Miller (1988)
19	Susan & Sandy Giles	24	Linda & Tom Palmer (1991)
19	Linda & Mark Liverett (1995)	31	Iris & James Silvers





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

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

Janice Rogers, Organist

Belinda Marr, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

“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

