



# Love in Action

*The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church*

Volume 16, Issue 9

September, 2023

## FROM PASTOR COLE...

*God has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8, CEB)*

The beloved and often-quoted verse above from Micah is a beautiful gift for us. Some translations say the first part of the verse like this, "and what is required of you?" If the first part is a question, the second part is what the prophet Micah discerned was God's answer for the people: to do justice, embrace God's love and to walk humbly each day with God.

That sounds simple enough, and I am grateful for the clear direction(!), but what does it really mean? What does it mean for us to do justice in our lives? What is justice? What does it mean to embrace God's love for us and for all? Especially right now, with so much division in our communal lives, how can we really love others? Finally, what does it mean to be humble with God? How do we "walk" in humility in the way God is calling us?

These are big questions with no simple answers. But exploring these ideas may help us find a closer connection with God and those around us. As another political cycle is beginning to gear up, I know that I need a reminder of how to be in good relationship with those around me and with God. That is what this verse is all about.

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.

I want to invite you to journey with me throughout September and into October. Begin reading Micah 6:8 daily. Open it up in different Bibles. Talk to each other about it. Then let it guide your actions. I believe this series can change how we connect with those around us, especially those who we might find it difficult to connect with. So, be in prayer that God will do something in your life; in the lives of those around you; and in the lives of our whole community.

*Grace & Peace,*  
Pastor Cole

## CHURCH UPDATES....

**Youth Group:** After a year and a half of meeting twice a month, the youth group is beginning a new chapter. Beginning in September, the youth group will be going on wonderful adventures all throughout Haywood County and beyond. For example, on September 29th at 6pm, all are welcome to join the youth as we have a blast at Smoky Mountain Sk8way & Fun Zone. We will skate, play putt-putt, arcade games, eat pizza and have a blast together! One of the benefits of making this change is that now YOU can get involved with the younger folks of the church. While these events will be specifically geared towards people 18 and under, everyone is welcome to join us! So, you can be young or young at heart and join us for a great time of fun and fellowship.

Lastly, the youth want to send a HUGE "thank you" to everyone who supported their growing through prayers, food, showing up and more. We are grateful for how we've met in the past and look forward to these new adventures together. Join us in September for a lot of fun!

**Security Update:** As most of you know, we have made several security updates to help ensure our safety as we gather to worship and serve each week. We now have cameras all around, inside and out. We are also locking all exterior doors on Sunday morning after 10:30 except the door at the back of the sanctuary. We know this isn't the friendliest thing to do, especially as a church. However, we have signs that are put on the exterior doors each week encouraging folks to use that one entrance. This is so that no doors are unmonitored while everyone is in the sanctuary during worship.

We have and will continue to consider how we keep the most vulnerable among us safe. Specifically, we are thinking about how to ensure those who work with children are protected and that the children they are working with are protected as well. We are following "Safe Sanctuaries" which is an outline of safety protocols given to us by the United Methodist Church. If you ever feel unsafe or have a safety concern, please contact Pastor Cole, Pastor Mike or any member of the One Board and we will do our best to resolve any problem.

**Child Care:** Beginning September 3rd, we will resume offering childcare for children 5 and under on Sunday mornings. There is a devoted group of volunteers who have been trained, have undergone background checks, and are exceptionally committed to making this a fun, joy-filled time for the littlest who join us.

Each week childcare will be available from 10:15 until after worship (no later than 11:45). We ask that any parent who wants to use this great resource do so! The ladies who are working each week are a delight and will fill your little ones with love all morning so you can enjoy worship. Please spread the word to families around you and we hope the growing ministry towards children and youth continues to be blessed.

\*Note\* — THANK YOU to all the wonderful folks who have volunteered their time to make this possible. They are Gail Quick, Jessica Kanupp, Gail England, Caroline Miller, Wanda Messer, Kalynn Wiley, Lindsay Altizer, Vicky Flynn, Lovia Barefoot, Caryl D'Amico, Beverly Ketner, Clarell Litchford and Barb Planchock. Please be in prayer for these folks as they take care of those precious children!





## 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:

Lucia Amerelli, Steve Baden, John Burton, Stetson Cooper, Grace Heger, Dale Howell, Bob Humphrey, Holt Isom, Caroline Miller, Wanda Ann Kinnamon's Mother, Lisa & Family, John, Detra Loadholt, Jim Neely, Georgia Painter, Sandy, Cindy Smith, Daneeta's son



**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, 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 all those who are afflicted by loneliness, depression, anxiety and the too many other forms of mental illness. Let us pray that we might be one in God's love and grace.



# September

2023

August							October						
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	31			29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Connections Sunday School (9:00am) Worship (10:30am)	28 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table	29 Food Pantry (10-12)	30 Food Pantry (10-12) Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	31 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	1 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	2 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall
3 Connections Sunday School (9:00am) <b>HOMECOMING</b> Worship (10:30am) Covered Lunch After	4 OFFICE CLOSED Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	5 "Sacred Seeing" (7:30am) — Parking Lot	6 Food Pantry (10-12)	7 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	8 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	9 Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)
10 New Membership Class (9:15am) Fellowship Hall Connections Sunday School (9:00am) Worship (10:30am)	11 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	12 Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)	13 Food Pantry (10-12) (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	14 NO Pastor's Bible Study Donations Accepted & Workday at Barn (9am-12pm)	15 Donations Accepted & Workday at Barn	16 Barn Sale (7am-1pm)
17 New Membership Class (9:15am) Fellowship Hall Connections Sunday School (9:00am) Worship (10:30am)	18 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	19 Charge Conference (5:30pm) — Fellowship Hall One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	20 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	21 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30pm) — Grace Classroom	22 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	23 Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall
24 New Membership Class (9:15am) Fellowship Hall Connections Sunday School (9:00am) Worship (10:30am)	25 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	26 In God's Creation Hike (2pm) — Parking Lot	27 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	28 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	29 Family Night Out (5:30pm) Sk8away Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	30 Family Night Out (5:30pm) Sk8away 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.

**The church office and Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day Holiday. The Shepherd's Table will operate on a normal schedule.**

**"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 September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall.**

**The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** Please bring UMCOR Health Kits. All women are welcome!

It Barn Sale Time!!! The next Barn Sale will be on **Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM to 1 PM.** As usual, the Barn Sale proceeds will support the missions of Shepherd's Table and the Food Pantry. If you have items you would like to donate for the sale, we would be pleased to take them provided they are clean, undamaged, and in working order. Please do not bring clothes that are dirty, damaged, or stained. Those should be taken to a charity that will accept them for rags.

**Donations will be accepted at the Barn on the following days:**

**Saturday, September 9 from 9-12**

**Tuesday, September 12 from 9 - 12**

**Thursday, September 14 from 9-12 (Donations and Work to set up)**

**Friday, September 15 from 9-12 (Donations and Work to set up)**

If you have a large item such as furniture, please let the Church Office know before bringing the item and we will make sure there is adequate storage. We will also need lots of folks to help with donations and then set up on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and the sale itself on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. **If you would like to volunteer, please call Barb Planchock at 828.400.3144 or notify Belinda in the Church Office.**

**All are invited to an important Charge Conference on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the roof and voting on a loan. The One Board will meet following the Charge Conference at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

**All "Love in Action" articles for October are due to Belinda by Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.**

**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...**

Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> we are planning to go to Cataloochee Valley to hike, picnic, and see the elk. We will meet at the church at 2:00. Please bring a blanket or folding chair, water, and rain gear. The church will furnish fried chicken and coolers to keep food in. Please bring a side dish to share for the picnic.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of taking in God's beautiful creation. Enjoy the trees, flowers, butterflies, and flowing creek.

You can hike at your leisure from 3:00-5:00. At 5:00, we will have a picnic and a time to relax, visit, and hopefully see some elk. Cole will also have communion for us. We plan to head home around 6:30.

Please contact Judi Ferris, 828.734.0156 or Pastor Cole, if you plan to join us. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the side entry. We need to have a head count for the chicken. Hope to see all you fellow hikers.



**BELINDA MARR, TREASURER'S REPORT...**

Monthly Financial Report for JULY 2023



**Treasurer Report**

<b>JULY</b>		
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	\$	\$23,882.98
<b>Expenses</b>	\$	\$23,869.15
<b>Offerings</b>	\$	\$28,202.00
<b>Over/Under</b>	\$	\$4,332.85

*THANK YOU'S...*

*Dear Community Closet Volunteers,*

*I want to thank all of you who have graciously volunteered to help with the community closet.*

*This new mission at MVUMC has been very successful. We have given out a lot of clothing, coats, and shoes, to those in need.*

*Judi Ferris*

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*Dear Friends,*

*I just wanted to reach out and Thank you for the Absolutely wonderful Meals! On Mondays*

*Every Monday is a Blessing because of Everyone who is Deserving of Recommendation!*

*Please Thank everyone for Making My Monday, ...*

*Wonderful!*

*Love and Prayers always!*

*Dave Pickens*

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

### HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Judy Wall
- 3 Hannah Cabe
- 3 Mike Shirley
- 3 Tina Oellerich
- 7 Joe Plott
- 8 Lauren Dubuke
- 9 Roy Childs
- 9 Mike England
- 9 Megan Planchock
- 11 Peggy Collins
- 11 Becky Revis
- 13 Mary Coker
- 13 Jim Hughes
- 14 Dan Planchock
- 15 Iris Silvers
- 16 Kathy Bogo
- 16 Zeata Ruff
- 18 Jackie Garvin
- 18 Harvey Hintzman
- 18 Daryl Ross
- 21 Ellis Forga
- 24 Judi Ferris
- 27 Tom Barefoot
- 29 Lurie Albritton
- 29 Sarah Braley Davis



### Happy September Anniversary!

- |    |                                 |    |                                    |
|----|---------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 21 | Judy B & Sammy Sutton           | 25 | Wanda & Bart Campbell              |
| 23 | Belinda & Eddie Ferguson (1972) | 27 | Lillianne & Bill Chamberlin (1980) |

## THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

**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.

**Thanksgiving Boxes:** Be on the lookout for an opportunity to donate or help us prepare our annual "Thanksgiving Boxes." Each November, the Food Pantry tries to put together a thanksgiving box ready to go for families in need in our community. We have typically given away 50-100 boxes and it is a great blessing to our community. More information will be coming in the next months. THANK YOU to Gail England and all the Food Pantry volunteers who make this meaningful work possible.

**Advent Devotion:** Do you like to write? OR, do you like to read the Bible and does it mean something in your life? I assume that (for at least the second question) most of us would say "yes." This year we are creating an Advent Devotion made by us and for our community. We are asking that you limit your devotion to 250 words or less. For an example of what we are looking for, think of the "Upper Room" devotions that are available each month at the church. You can visit [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org) for an example. Focus on a verse or passage from the "Advent" story and share what God has spoken to you. All devotions should be submitted no later than November 23rd.

**Christmas Plans:** This year we anticipate "adopting" several children from Jonathan Valley Elementary as well as giving gifts to the residents at the McCracken Nursing Home in Waynesville, NC as we have in previous years. In late November or early December, we will make available the names of children and adults you can purchase gifts for and we hope to spread the great Christmas joy of God with those nearest to us in that very special way. Thank you for your continued support!



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

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***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 – Cell (804) 714-6319

VACANT, Music Director

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](http://www.maggieumc.org)

