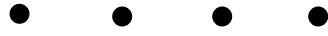




Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 17, Issue 2



February, 2024

FROM PASTOR MIKE...

THE HUMAN BODY AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

The Apostle Paul describes God's church as being like our bodies. In 1 Corinthians 12:12, he writes:

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So, it is with the body of Christ.

Certainly, our physical bodies are both complex and remarkable. Think of the various systems that are functioning in you right now! Those include the Skeletal, Muscular, Nervous, Endocrine, Cardiovascular, Lymphatic, Respiratory, Digestive, Urinary, and Reproductive System. Each system has different tasks but, in a healthy body, each must function in harmony with the other systems. And, there are seventy-eight main organs in your body. Each organ has a different purpose, but each must work in coordination with the others if a person is to be healthy. Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 12:

¹⁴ ... the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? ¹⁸ But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹ How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 1 Corinthians 12:14-21

And Paul teaches us that this is the way it is with the body of Christ. (The church) Our church (Maggie UMC) has many teams that fulfill their function in unique ways. Think, for example of our Board, Finance, Worship, Staff-Parish, Congregational Care and Women's Ministry teams, the study groups, and those who chair and serve in our various outreach ministries. Each group has a different focus. But, like the human body, we can only be a healthy and vibrant church when our various systems or organs function together in "sympathetic harmony". So, let's commit to living in "sympathetic harmony". Let's true each other and let's honor all the parts of our church as we work to be the body of Christ together. I sense that happening and I'm thankful.

As a "teaser", this Sunday I intend to speak on the theme, "Find your Laughing Place." When you come to church, plan on having fun! I look forward to seeing you.

In Christ's peace,
Mike

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 BAR SOAP (no Ivory), OATMEAL, GRITS, 1lb PINTO BEANS, SPAGHETTI NOODLES, and SHAMPOO this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping!

The Grace Sunday School Class meets on Fridays at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

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

All "Love in Action" articles for March are due to Shelly by Thursday, February 22nd.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 14th at 5pm in the sanctuary.

The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, February 15th at 5:30 and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, February 24th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

Winter 2024 Wednesday Night Spiritual Growth Group meets on Wednesday nights from 6-7pm in the Music Room.

THANK YOU...

*Dear Leaders and Members of Maggie Valley UMC,
Thank you for your gracious hospitality in hosting our scout troop for the weekend. It's wonderful that our United Methodist connection truly shines.*

*With deepest gratitude,
Rev. Brandon Harris*

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you all so much for the recognition and gift card that you all gave me. It is greatly appreciated. Most of all thank you for the relationships, friendships, and support that you all have given me over the past 2 ½ years. I am so blessed to have been part of the church family. What an awesome and amazing group of people you all are!*

*Love,
Belinda*

General Prayers:

Stacy & Richard Boris, Mary Coker, Susan Cryan, Grace Heger, Bob Humphrey, The James Family, Doris Jones, Destiny Little & Baby Christian, Cliff Peebles, Jim Neely, Carole Norquay, Georgia Painter, Frank Sanitore, Bill & Mary Ann Vignola, Darlene & Jr., Freda & Ashley

Those in hospital and/or surgeries:

Mike Simon (Ohio), Rena Upright

Homebound/Nursing Home:

Becky Bender, 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, Zelda Hanson, Jeanette Miller, Dave Pickens, Leon Roach, Ron Sellers, David Wagner



Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 14th. Below are prayers that you may want to pray on this day.

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes and bless the journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. As we remember our mortality and seek penitence today, we know you to be a God who is rich in forgiveness and abounding in steadfast love, love that culminates in eternal life with you. Guide our steps this Lent, so that we might find greater fulfillment in your promises and better serve others with a heart that's reflective of you. Amen.

A Lenten Prayer to Bring Beauty from Ashes

Dear God, In this season of Lent we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain, we don't see how our circumstances can ever change. But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf. Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked through. Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

1	Georgia Butler	20	Lynn Rains
1	Joan Rose	21	Rhianna Langlais
2	Eddie Ferguson	22	Susan Giles
5	Edith Highsmith	23	Rob Gudger
7	Retta Holland	23	Lucinda Sutton
10	Robert Lindler	25	Becky Bender
16	Lee Miller	28	Mary Sue Taylor
19	Clarell Litchford	29	Connie Jones

HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY!

10	Barbara & Donnie Hannah
11	Judy & Bruce Kossman
22	MaryAnn & Bill Vignola



EASTER ANNOUNCEMENTS...

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily or multiple Easter Lilies to place in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone, please call or email Shelly in the Church Office. We will be placing these in the sanctuary in mid March. The cost is \$9.00 per lily.

Palm Sunday	March 24th
Maundy Thursday	March 28th
Good Friday	March 29th
Easter Egg Hunt	March 30th
Easter Sunrise & Worship	March 31st

FOOD PANTRY AND SHEPHERD’S TABLE REPORT...



Our food ministries have been busy serving our community.

In December the Food Pantry served 70 households and 210 individuals.

Shepherd’s Table served 375 meals in December.

This is made possible by our volunteers, the community support and the financial donations made to these two wonderful ministries.



BELINDA MARR, TREASURER’S REPORT...

Monthly Financial Report for December 2023

December	
Needed for Budget	\$ 23,882.98
Expenses	\$ 34,693.03
Offerings	\$ 24,246.39
Over/Under	\$ (\$10,446.03)



Treasurer Report

We welcomed seven new board members in 2024 to the Board of the church. Please pray for all our leaders as they strive to faithfully lead this community where God is leading. If you would like a copy of the Board Leadership Team, please see Shelly and she will give you a copy.

Maggie Valley UMC Worship Service - 10:30 am

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Office Phone (828) 926-8036

Fax (828) 926-3932

shelly@maggieumc.org

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

mike@maggieumc.org

Pavel Wlosok, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

Shelly Clement, Administrative Assistant

“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



