



# Love in Action

*The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church*

Volume 17, Issue 7

July, 2024

**We are thankful for Pastor Mike and Sue!**



Rev. Mike Shirley  
Maggie Valley



Sue Shirley & Chloe visit the children!

**We love Mike's sense of humor and his great singing!**

**He's been known to say that he is looking forward to his second retirement! 😊**



**What a blessing you are to us,  
Pastor Mike!**

**Meet our new MVUMC staff members:**

**Nicki Conroy** will be our new **Church Treasurer** beginning this month, as Belinda Marr has moved to Virginia. We welcome Nicki and thank Belinda! Nicki has helped with bookkeeping at two churches in this area in recent years. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has done bookkeeping in QuickBooks as well as used both Realm and ParishSoft (church bookkeeping programs).



Nicki will also be our **Lead Preschool Teacher** for the upcoming school year! Nicki has spent the last eight years running and teaching in children's programs with anywhere between 10 and 100 children. In these programs she did lesson plans and taught students as well as trained other teachers. She brings a background of being on a preschool board, including the office of president. She's a mom to six adult children.



**David Chatman** is our new **Facilities Manager**. You may see David around the church doing all sorts of things! He is a strong, hard worker and is settling in great here at MVUMC. We welcome David!



**Pastor Dianne Lawhorn will be in the church office on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Pastor Dianne will lead Worship on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Plan to attend a Welcome Reception for her after Worship on the 14<sup>th</sup>!**

**United Women in Faith** will meet on **Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**. We are leading the way to replace the old wooden benches in the prayer garden! Help us to place new benches near the cross, by the creek. Any donations may be earmarked **UWF Benches** and placed in the offering plate or given to any of the UWF officers: Jan Wagner, Beverly Ketner, or Ruth Smith. **One of the benches has been slated as a memorial for Pete Planchock.**

**Our Church Food Pantry operates on Monday & Wednesday from 10am to noon.** We are asking for **Ramen noodles, spaghetti noodles, chicken noodle soup, peanut butter 18oz, jelly, instant oats, flavored grits and granola bars** this month. Personal hygiene items are also appreciated. Thank you!

**Connections Sunday School** meets Sunday at **9am** in the Grace classroom and has started a new series called "God and Race", A Guide for Moving Beyond Black Fists and White Knuckles. Please call or text Sue Shirley for more information (804-714-6320)

**You are invited to join Choir practice on Sunday morning at 10am** in the Choir room!

Pastor Mike and Sue's **Wednesday night Bible Study** will continue with "**The Chosen**" at 6pm in the Choir room.

The **Grace Bible Study Class** will meet on Fridays at **9:30am** in the Daisy Classroom.

**The Worship Committee will meet at 10am on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

**The Congregational Care Team will meet on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am.**

**AA Group meets in the Fellowship Hall each Saturday evening at 7pm.**

**The Men's Group will meet on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm.** And the group will have their **Monthly Breakfast on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 8am.**

**In His Creation Hikers:** The July hike will be on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at 9am. We will hike to Deep Creek! You will need to bring water, snacks, lunch and rain gear. Look for a sign-up sheet at the Narthex entrance of the church. For more information, call **Ruth Smith @ 863-608-0440.**

**Are you interested in becoming a church van driver?** Some additional drivers are needed for the hikes and other special outings. Please come by the office with your information if you are willing!

Thank you to all who have donated beautiful quilts for display in our Fellowship Hall! **We appreciate you and especially thank Clarell Litchford for her help in preparing the displays! Check them out!**

Would you like to volunteer to be a **Host or Hostess** for outside events held at the church? We occasionally need help with locking / unlocking the building and greeting groups. Please let Shelly know if you are interested.

**Pastor Dianne's first day in the office** will be Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>!

### **Our Missions at Work:**

In May, 2024, the Maggie Valley UMC Food Pantry served 106 families!

The number of individuals helped was 298!

The Shepherd's Table Ministry prepared, plated, and delivered 390 meals to local families and individuals!

**We thank all those who participate in and donate to these ministries of our Church!**

## Prayer Concerns

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

## General Prayers:

Mary Ann & Bill Vignola, Mason Jackson, Dan, Leo Cronin, Cheri Leopold, Gertrude Loadholt, Nathaniel, Steve Mehaffey, Lou Ann Barker, Walker Sutton, Michael Burke, Marley Gentry  
Travel Mercies for all travelers



Congregational Care Team

## Homebound/Nursing Home:

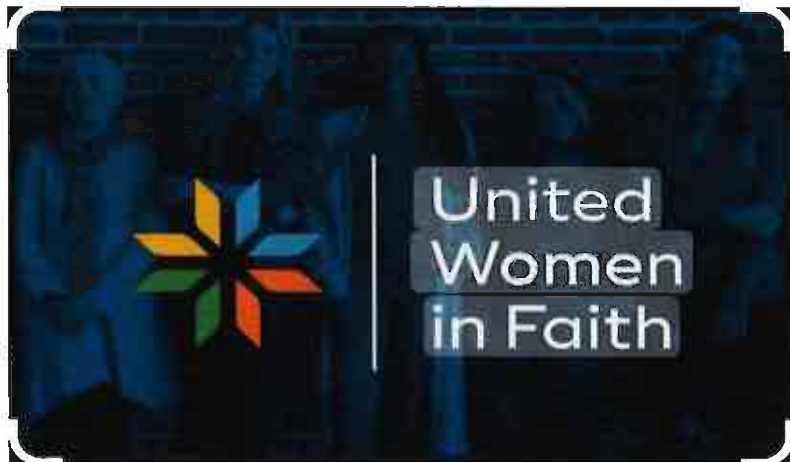
Kathryn Brannen, Willard Dockery, Joe & Helen Duke, Brenda Griswold, Jeanette Miller, Dave Pickens, Rena Upright, David Wagner, Kevin Jackson

Becky Bender - Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab  
Jerry Lindler- Silver Bluff  
Phyllis Jackson- Smoky Mtn Nursing Home



## Those in hospital and/or surgeries:

Bruce Johnson



**The Maggie Valley UMC United Women in Faith** met on Thursday June 6, 2024, at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall, with 18 women in attendance. A great program was presented, and refreshments were served. The Auto Bell Fundraiser was a success and \$1,000 was raised! The bench replacements for the Church Garden will be the focus for summer and fall. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**All women are welcome and bring a friend!**



# July

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Food Pantry 10-noon Shepherd's Table	2 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	3 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	4 Independence Day HOLIDAY!	5 Grace Bible Study 9:30	6 AA7pm
7 Connections SS 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 10:30am	8 Pastor Dianne! Food Pantry 10-noon Shepherd's Table	9 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	10 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	11 United Women in Faith 2pm	12 Grace Bible Study 9:30	13 AA7pm
14 Connections SS 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 10:30am	15 Food Pantry 10-noon Shepherd's Table	16 Worship Committee 10am Church Board 6pm	17 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	18 Congregational Care Team 10am Men's Group 5:30pm	19 Grace Bible Study 9:30	20 AA7pm
21 Connections SS 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 10:30am	22 Food Pantry 10-noon Shepherd's Table	23 In His Creation Hiking Group 9am	24 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	25 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm	26 Grace Bible Study 9:30	27 Men's Breakfast 8am AA7pm
28 Connections SS 9am Choir Practice 10am Preschool Graduation	29 Food Pantry 10-noon Shepherd's Table	30 In His Creation Hiking Group 9am	31 Food Pantry 10-noon Bible Study 6pm			

## Treasurer's Report

Monthly Financial Report for May 2024

Thank you, Belinda!

APRIL	
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	\$ 23,880.58
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 25,509.43
<b>Offerings</b>	\$ 15,739.00
<b>Over/Under</b>	\$ (\$9,770.43)



## Birthdays and Anniversaries for July 2024

Please call or come by the office to add your special dates to the list!

### Happy Birthday!

- 10 Sam Garvin
- 12 Jack Campbell
- 12 Eli Messer
- 14 Twila Medford
- 15 Tom Armstrong
- 17 Rachel Mehaffey
- 20 Therese Sutton
- 22 Tanya Thomas
- 24 Charlene Miller
- 27 Mark Raines
- 30 Jackson Kanupp
- 31 Sue Kennedy



### Happy Anniversary!

- 16 Gene & Shirley Saxton
- 17 Joe & Helen Duke
- 31 Jim & Debbie Hughes



Have a safe and happy Independence Day!

The Church Office will be closed for the holiday, on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen at 9am on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Dianne will be in the office!

## Maggie Valley UMC Shepherds Table

Shepherd's Table  
Is the name  
Of a cooking crew  
That is far from tame

Shirley is head of this  
Unruly pack  
Every Monday  
She has our backs

She works hard  
To keep us all in shape  
So tasty meals  
We can make

With notebook and  
ideas  
Always at hand  
The meals turn out  
To be very grand

We all wear aprons  
With such pride  
It's part of whom  
We are inside

We all work hard  
At the meals Shirley  
plans  
Creating a feast  
With gloves on our  
hands

Each one that helps  
It could be said  
Is not driven by self  
But is God led

Shirley stays calm  
For most of the time  
Gene by her side  
They start way before  
nine

Gene does whatever  
Shirley asks  
He's good at quietly  
Staying on task

Then there is Bill  
Who collects bread  
early  
He doesn't want to  
Disappoint Shirley

With bread in hand  
He sharpens his knife  
And cuts with  
precision  
It's part of his life

Twila would like to  
bring  
Limon cello  
But for Shepherd's  
Table

That's a definite NO  
NO

So instead she brings  
Delicious baked cakes  
She abides by the rules  
For Shirley's sake

Carolyn is an expert  
At cooking, we know  
In our kitchen  
She just simply glows

She can cook it all  
From meat to fish  
Oh she can make  
Such a tasty dish

Carol she is very nice  
But she doesn't  
Come when there's  
Snow and ice

She's good at odd jobs  
Here and there  
When her back's not  
hurting

She's focused and  
cares

Wanda is a Jack  
Of all the trades  
With everything she  
does  
She makes the grade

At Shepherd's Table  
She can wield a knife  
At Church she leads  
A busy life

Hannah travels  
From afar  
Sometimes she has  
trouble  
With her car

She has many a tale  
To always tell  
But she does her job  
here  
Very well

Beverly comes  
Well prepared  
And puts the boxes  
Out with care

Pen in hand  
The numbers altered  
In her quest she  
Doesn't falter

Jan you can hear  
Without hearing aids  
But she's good at it all  
I can truly say

She loves to make  
trifles  
Which are very yummy  
They slide down nicely  
Into our tummy's

Sandy she always  
Likes to knead  
She is such an expert  
Of that indeed

She builds up muscles  
As she digs in  
She never has to  
Go to the gym

Our resident Brit  
Her name is Ruth  
She hates cooking  
That is the truth

Spared of the kitchen  
The cakes she doth  
slice  
Iced by Helen  
They're all very nice

Helen light's up  
Every room  
Her radiant smile  
Cut's through the  
gloom

Ann quietly goes  
About her jobs  
She stirs things  
Expertly on the hob

She's quick off the  
mark  
Always to please  
In a kitchen where  
Often we all tend to  
freeze

What do I say about  
Frank?  
Let me see  
He makes us laugh  
Till we all have to pee

He clangs those scoops  
To birthday cheer  
We miss him so  
When he isn't here

One of his kidney's  
The Doctor took  
But fortunately for us  
He can still cook

Steve Dickinson he can  
do  
Lots of things  
I've heard it said  
He can even sing

He does whatever  
He's told to do  
He even makes boxes  
For birds that are blue

There's Herb and Leslie  
Not here all year long  
But when they are  
They're singing songs

In bars and restaurants  
Banjo, guitar in hand  
They're quite your  
folksy  
Little band

We have Becky and  
Debby  
They breeze in and out  
But they help such a  
lot  
Without a doubt

Both come from afar  
And help with our  
tasks  
Their dedication  
Is one that will last

Steve Whidden sits at  
the piano  
That he loves to play  
It brightens up  
Each and every  
Monday

He expertly plays  
With such intent  
His talent for sure  
From above is sent

Barb, David  
Gary and Saralyn  
They come after one  
Then their jobs they  
begin

Dishes they wash  
Meals they serve  
Without getting  
On anyone's nerves

Barb cleans so good  
That one can say  
Our kitchen sparkles  
At the end of the day

When we all sit for  
lunch  
We smile and we laugh  
The food is so good  
That none of us barfs

Shirley is good  
At the soups she  
creates  
But Bologna  
sandwiches  
Taste not so great!

She always prays  
Halfway through  
Then announcements  
she makes  
More than a few

Mike and Shelly  
Join us for lunch  
They love the food  
And our crazy bunch

As Shirley says  
Lunch is a gourmet  
meal

Pastor Mike rubs his  
tummy  
Because that's how he  
feels

It's important the  
meals  
Go out to each house  
So our cuisine  
Ends up in hungry  
mouths

The ones who deliver  
We mustn't forget  
They do a great job  
We're all in their debt

Caryl, Robert  
And also John  
They come to help  
With a will that is  
strong

Zeata was great  
At serving cakes  
But sadly she left  
For her health's sake

She has such a special  
Artistic touch  
We love and miss her  
Very much

For all of those  
Who have helped in  
the past  
Our memories of them  
Will forever last

The ties that bind us  
We'll never sever  
They'll be a part of  
Shepherd's Table  
forever

Each person here  
Adds their own special  
touch

Nothing they do  
Is ever too much

We come each week  
We laugh and we joke  
And sometimes fun  
At each other we poke

It could be said  
We're a motley crew  
But one thing for sure  
is  
We all pursue

To turn out those  
lunches  
Whatever the cost  
Rarely has anything  
Ever been lost

With sweat and toil  
The kitchen's heaving  
But not one person  
Thinks of leaving

We are there to  
provide  
For those in need  
A labor of love  
A community to feed

At the end of the day  
We are family, we are  
one  
And God looks down  
and says  
That's a job well done

*This poem, written by  
Ruth Smith, is  
dedicated to the  
captain of this fine  
ship, Shirley Saxton  
and all who sail in her.*