



Peace United Methodist Church
Pastor Mickey Olson
303 Ninth Avenue South
Virginia MN 55792

Peace UMC Mission

Peace in our Communities,
offering healing and
wholeness to all in life's
journey.

The Methodist Messenger

April 2021

Church Office

Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Phone: 218-741-7739 or 218-741-7738
www.peaceumc.us
E-Mail: pastor@peaceumc.us
office@peaceumc.us

Worship Schedule

10:00 AM Peace UMC
303 South 9th Avenue
Virginia, MN 55792

Note: 1st Sunday of each month is
Communion Sunday

Our Staff

Pastor
Youth Coordinator
PORCH Director
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Choir Accompanist
Custodians

Rev. Mickey Olson
McKenzie Fossell
Rachel Bodas
Joan Schriber
Jeanene Hagberg
Char Cremers
Jerry Anderson

Thought for the month:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the
heavens



From the Pastor

The last word in our sermon series on Gifts of the Spirit is joy. It is a great word. When I was told I could get my first Covid vaccine I felt such a rush of joy. My body felt lighter without the worry of contracting the virus. The second vaccine sealed the deal and I joyfully checked off the days on the calendar until I had fulfilled my two weeks. Soon I can hold my new

grandson and hug my granddaughter. I am still careful. I mask and distance and avoid crowded places. I know I am protected but I could carry the virus to others. That has been the most puzzling aspect of the pandemic for me. Why would you risk the health of other people in fulfilling your own wants and needs. Why would you buy way more toilet paper than you could use in a year? Why has a serious, potentially life threatening, illness been the cause of so much dissention?

It is with joy that we opened to in person worship and joy that many are still worshipping with us on television and the web. It is with joy that we can worship on Easter together. Last year we had no in person Easter service. Like the Grinch who stole Christmas we realized that Easter came without all of the usual traditions we expected. We still celebrated Jesus' resurrection with joy. And that is what the journey of Lent was all about. It was about cleaning out the closets of our souls to prepare ourselves for the full-hearted joy of Easter. It is like the release experienced from the worry of Covid. It is a tension that our bodies carried. Waking up on Easter morning and being reminded that Jesus has guaranteed our salvation, is a cause for great and unending joy.

I have prayed that the other words of the Spirit's fruits of a faith life have touched you as they touched me each week. Every word of love, joy peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control has led me to self-examination and soul searching. Writing a sermon for each word helped me to delve into my own actions and responses. Though it was not done for us to receive a grade, I think my report card would say needs improvement. There is no shame in this or feeling of failure. It is a good and healthy thing to soul search. To be aware of what we struggle with in living as faithfully as we can.

Lent is ending on Sunday to make way for the joy of Easter. I am ready for unabashed exultant joy and celebration. How about you? I pray that the last word you live with this Lenten season is joy. Joy in a god who loves us no matter what and loves us when we realize there is room for improvement. As Easter people may we seek and find joy each and every day.

Wild Blessings,

~Pastor Mickey



Please notify the Church Office (218-741-7739) if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization, surgery or emergency.

Pastoral Calls: 218-343-6849

E-mail: pastor@peaceumc.us

Pastor's Phone Number - Please put my cell phone number in your cell phone directory for emergencies. If I don't answer, please, please, please, leave a message. Please do not give my cell phone number out to strangers asking for help. I pray you will call me when you need me.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2-Bruce Lundgren	4-Suvi Branville	4-Henrik Branville	5-Kelly McCue
7-Joy Stanaway	8-Doug Nelson	10-Laurie Hill	11-Valerie Horvath
12-Jerry Pfremmer	12-Vera Tapani	13-Brooke Dahl	13-Hayley Lundgren
13-Lloyd Thomas	16-Diane Koepke	21-Cade Hagberg	21-Edwin Hill
22-Dorothy Nordling	22-Abigail O'Malley	23-Lynda Alar	23-Gail Johnson
24-Shirley Woodward (90)	26-Lois Robillard	27-Cathy Woods	29-Anne Grierson
29-Bill Robillard			

If your or a family member's birthday is not listed or is incorrect, Please let the Office know
(218-741-7739)

APRIL CALENDAR

As more meetings are being scheduled, please check calendar in library to avoid conflicts.

Communion will be on April 11th, instead of the first Sunday.

April 4	Easter Worship Service 10:00 am and 11:00 am/No Sunday School
April 6	Mission Meeting 10:00 am
April 6	PEO 11:45 am
April 7	Book Study 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
April 7	Prayers and Squares Quilt 10:00 am
April 8	Ad Council Meeting 6:00 pm
April 11	Worship Service/Communion/Sunday School 10:00 am
April 14	Book Study 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
April 12-19 th	Pastor Mickey out of office
April 18	Worship Service/Sunday School 10:00 am
April 25	Worship Service/Sunday School 10:00 am
April 27	Moonlighters 6:00 pm

FIX IT FELLOWSHIP

As we begin to get a handle on the coronavirus, we are hoping we can return to some normal activities. The Committee has met, and we are anxious to begin working on projects. Plumbing, wiring, and roofing require professionals, so we cannot handle those repairs. We would like to help with things such as replacing bulbs and batteries in lights and smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors, washing windows, and a variety of minor repairs, either inside or out. We've been vaccinated and follow safety protocols.

We've enclosed an application form for you to complete and drop off at the church office. If you are unsure if it is something we can do, we'll gladly check it out and let you know. As spring arrives, think of those projects you always wish you could finish and reach out to us. There is no cost to you except for any materials needed for the project.

MOONLIGHTERS

The Moonlighters will be meeting at 6:00pm at the church, Tuesday, April 27th. Bring your own supper. (Saigon Cafe and many other restaurants have take outs.) We'll have coffee and a surprise dessert.

We'll be working on sending out Mother's Day cards to the previous attendees of the Ladies Spring Banquet.

It will be wonderful to see everyone again!

Any questions call Ellen Hedlund 744-2358 or Pat Sklors 744-1193

RELIEF FUND

At the request of Pastor Mickey the Missions Committee has researched ways to distribute our relief fund donations. We have contacted the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and they have a foundation set up specifically to help people in crisis, "who fall between the cracks." The foundation will administer and disburse our donations to the following programs: homeless housing, energy assistance, and the food shelf. If you wish to make a donation please indicate Relief fund on the check.

There is a printed copy outlining the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency foundation on the narthex table if you would like to read more of their programs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Sunday School will resume on April 11, and continue through May 9.

A huge thank you to Chris Johnson, who has been the teacher during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you, Chris, for your dedication and devotion to the Sunday School at Peace UMC.

WORSHIP/MEETING UPDATE

The church is open for in person worship and group meetings. We will still require masks and social distancing. There is spike in Covid cases in our area so this may change at any time. Check the calendar before scheduling a meeting. Make sure you put your meeting time, date and room you will be using on the calendar so that we can coordinate space to allow for distancing. There will be no coffee fellowship after church until further notice.

WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

Now that many of us have been vaccinated against COVID-19 I'm asking you to consider being a worship service helper. For now, we need ushers and readers on Sunday mornings and readers at 11:00 on Fridays for the church service tapings.

Also, I would like to thank everyone that was a reader or usher over the past year. You made my job easy by always saying yes. If you would be able to help out call me at 744-5198 or text me at 218-404-2907.
Diane Hawley

YOUTH LEADER

Our youth coordinator, McKenzie Fossell, will be leaving us. She has been a great asset to our youth, Porch, Sunday School, Youth Group, confirmation, and in preaching, leading worship and leading the children's sermon. She shared her contemporary Christian music during worship and brought an enthusiasm and joy to all of the ministries at Peace. We have watched her blossom and grow. We have all been blessed by her presence and her deep faith. We were lucky to have her through her college years with all of the challenges that entails. We will miss her terribly but wish her well in this new season of her life. She has been an amazing blessing. Her last Sunday is the 28th of March and she will preach and lead worship on April 18th when Pastor is on vacation.

WEBSITE AND EMAIL

Due to difficulties with our provider it looks like we will have to change our website address and email addresses. This will be the middle of April. Watch the current website for updated information. Thank you for your patience on this change.