



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

November 2021

Church Office

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

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	Rev. Mickey Olson
Youth Coordinator	
PORCH Director	Rachel Bodas
Administrative Assistant	Joan Schriber
Music Director	Jeanene Hagberg
Choir Accompanist	Char Cremers
Custodian	Cassie Adams

Thought for the month:

Sirach 13:25
A person's heart changes the disposition, whether
for good or for ill.



From the Pastor

Well, Fall finally arrived and though we know it is coming it is still a shock to our system when the temperatures cool. I think we all thought we would be done with Covid by now, only to find it is rampant in our area. It feels like another shock to our system. The news is filled with stories that make us anxious and we just want some normalcy and calm. People are angry and behaving badly and I have a hard time understanding why. As I thought about this, I realized that we are dealing with grief. Grief for people who have died or have severe health effects from the virus, grief for the loss of relationships in our contentious political viewpoints, grief for the loss of in-person contact with family and friends, grief for how we can't do things the way we used to. The stages of grief are: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Some people are in denial (the virus doesn't exist), some are in anger (no one is going to tell me to wear a mask), some are bargaining (if I stockpile goods, I will be ok), some are depressed (I am not sleeping, I can't think straight), some have reached acceptance (this is the way it is and may be for a time but I choose to live my life with joy). Grief is not linear. You do not go from denial through the stages until you reach acceptance. You may go back and forth and even skip around. Knowing this we can be compassionate and caring for those in different stages than we are. We can choose how we interact. We can choose to be kind to ourselves as we go through the stages ourselves. In all of this we know God is there to help us grieve. "How long, O God, how long" the Psalmists cried out. Max Lucado in his book; *God will use this for Good*, says, "You will get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. With God's help you will get through this" So be gentle with yourselves, be gentle with each other, give yourself time to feel sad, cry if you want to, feel angry in a healthy way, and find acceptance with God's help. Then look for ways to feel joyful. Do things that make you happy, call someone and share the joy.

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@werpeaceumc.com

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.

CARING COMMITTEE

Caring Committee will meet Sunday, November 7th upstairs after worship services.

FIX IT FELLOWSHIP

As a reminder, the Fix It Fellowship group is available to assist with your household projects. The applications are available in the library or call the office to have one mailed out. We will be in touch with you to schedule completing your tasks.

OFFICE NOTES

VETERAN'S: I would like to honor our veterans Sunday, November 14th with their pictures on a slideshow. I already have the Veteran's from last year. To have yours added email pictures to office@werpeaceumc.com or bring hard copy into the office . Please list your name, service branch, and years served. Thank you in advance and thank you for your service.

OUTREACH /MISSIONS

PEACE FOOD PANTRY-The church food sacks are still needed in the community. A few suggested items needed are canned meat (tuna, chicken) canned meals (Chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore), soup, peanut butter, crackers, small bottles of water, and fruit cups. Please purchase pull-top lids for canned items. If you prefer a donation by check make a notation "Peace Food Pantry".

RUMMAGE SALE: We have decided to delay our rummage sale until spring, hoping Covid will have decreased. The committee has spent hours going through and organizing the donations. Please do not bring further items at this time. We'll let you know when a sale date is set, and when we will accept more drop offs.

YOUTH FOYER GIFTS: Before you know, the holiday season will be upon us. We'll be making plans to continue our Christmas gift giving to residents at the Youth Foyer. We look forward to your generous participation again. Watch for updates in the bulletin, on the website, and in the next newsletter.

PASTOR NOTES

Charge Conference will be held Sunday, November 14th after worship services.

Covid update: We will continue to mask and not have coffee -an for now until the numbers go down significantly.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume in November. Check out the Facebook page: Peace UMC Sunday School

TRUNK OR TREAT

Congregation members from Gethsemane and Peace will be handing out treats in the Peace parking lot from 1:00-4:00 on October 31st. A great big thank you to all who donated candy to this event and also to Walgreens for their donation of 4 large bags of candy.

Even if you are not participating by decorating a car and passing out candy, stop by and see all the kids in their costumes and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or coffee served in the parking lot by Craig Johnson and friends.

Put on your warm duds and come and visit us for this fun outreach event. After all the Vikings don't play until 7:00!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Commission will meet on Thursday, November 4th at 6:30 in the church library. Items of discussion will include Advent preparations.