



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**

## **January 2022**

### **Church Office**

Hours: Monday-Friday  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Phone: 218-741-7739 or 218-741-7738  
[www.werpeaceumc.com](http://www.werpeaceumc.com)  
E-Mail: [pastor@werpeaceumc.com](mailto:pastor@werpeaceumc.com)  
[office@werpeaceumc.com](mailto:office@werpeaceumc.com)

### **Worship Schedule**

**10:00 AM** Peace UMC  
303 South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Virginia, MN 55792

**Note:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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	Scott Lammers

### **Thought for the month:**

#### **Job 11:18**

You will be secure, for there is hope; you will look  
around and rest safely.



From the  
Pastor

January is here. The weather is almost always the coldest this month. I always feel like I have made it through winter when January is done, even though we still have two months or more of winter weather to contend with. I am one of those people who keep a mental checklist in their heads, and I always take a breath of relief when something is checked off. So, on January 31<sup>st</sup> I will take a breath of relief that I made it through January. But January gives us an opportunity. We often stay in and stay at home more when it is cold out and we can check household projects off of our checklist.

I wonder if there are things in my faith life that need to be checked off my list. Things like more time set aside to read scripture. More time to ignore my checklist and to just sit and do nothing. More time to pray. More time to listen to God. More time to be present instead of waiting for something to be done.

January is a beautiful month as well. The sun is often sparkling on the snow. The trees get coated with frost. The chickadees flitter about looking for nourishment. The winter animals leave tracks in the snow. Snowflakes fall gently to earth. The wind howls outside our homes where we sit snug and warm inside. It is a good time to snuggle up with a blanket, a hot beverage and a good book.

This year I plan to enjoy January, each and every frigid day. I hope you do too.

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](mailto: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.**

## OFFICE NOTES

Thank you to everyone for the cards and kind words of sympathy on the passing of my brother-in-law.  
New Year's Blessings to all of you and your families.

Joan

Church Closing-In the event a church event is cancelled due to inclement weather, please check  
Local TV-WDIO News 10/13  
Radio Station WEVE  
Facebook, website  
Please use your own judgement when it comes to traveling in winter weather.

## OUTREACH /MISSIONS

Thank you all for your more than generous gifts totaling \$1,000+ for the residents of the Youth Foyer.  
We were able to provide each resident a Christmas mug filled with hot chocolate packets, candy and a  
\$50 gift card to help with any needs they may have. The two infants and one toddler each received  
beautiful quilts and toys. What a joy our church is able to share the blessings we have received to help  
others.

If you decided to try the Advent Calendar Challenge to supplement our church food shelf, you may bring  
your box to church the week of January 2-8. Call Pam Omersa at 744-7921 or the church office, if you  
need to have it picked up.

We've participated in many outreaches this year and look forward to new opportunities in 2022. We are  
always interested in learning of new outreach ideas you may have. We pray you have a healthy, blessed  
year.

Terry, Barb, Connie, Becky, Betsy and Pam

## PASTOR NOTES

We plan to restart Coffee-an in February. It will be delightful to stay and share coffee and conversation.  
Hopefully Covid numbers will be down by then, stay tuned.

Special thanks to Val and Pam who led worship while I was isolating during my covid infection. Both Kim  
and I had very mild symptoms and I am grateful for the vaccines which limited our disease severity.

Thank you for all of the warm holiday wishes. Pastor Mickey and Kim

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Congratulations students on the excellent Christmas Program in December! We received a lot of great reviews from our congregants. We are so blessed to have such creative, artistic students. This month the Sunday school students will be mining the stories of Genesis as we explore Adam and Eve’s experiences in the Garden of Eden and beyond.

Dates to remember:

Jan 2: No Sunday school

Feb 13: Souper Bowl - collection for Peace UMC’s food shelf “

## BOOK STUDY

On January 5<sup>th</sup> I will be leading a book study at church. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6pm and Thursday mornings at 11am. The book we will be reading is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

Book description:

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.

### OVERVIEW

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a historical novel by American author Kim Michele Richardson. Published in 2019, the book takes place in the Kentucky hills during the Great Depression in 1936. In its depiction of prejudice and community in 1930s Kentucky, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* touches upon themes including the distrust of authority, the random and dangerous nature of prejudice, the power of community, and the importance of caring.

I hope you will think about joining us. Books will be available in the church library for purchase the price is \$8 per book. The book is also available from many booksellers and for borrowing from the public library.

Rachel Bodas