



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.

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# **The Methodist Messenger**

## **February 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:**

#### **Sirach 18:26**

From morning until evening  
opportune times change, and all things are  
fleeting in the Lord's presence.



## From the Pastor

It has been two years of wrestling. Wrestling with a pandemic and all of the consequences of that. Wrestling with other people as we have been living with very different viewpoints on the pandemic, politics, and who we are as a country. I too have been wrestling. Wrestling with the future. Wrestling with decisions for the church. After much prayerful discernment and sleepless nights, I have decided to retire this summer. It was not an easy decision and not what I thought my life would be like. But it is the right time as I found a sense of peace in my decision. There are many aspects of a retirement decision. I am 65 and qualify for Medicare. I have been working since I was 16 and actually as a babysitter well before that. Kim's health with Parkinson's certainly entered into the decision. The difficulties of ministry during the pandemic were draining. My two grandchildren, whom I don't get to see often enough, were a big part of my decision. My sons live in Duluth, which is only an hour away, but it is a significant hour in the time we spend together. Kim and I need the presence and support of our family and friends. We plan to move to Proctor this summer.

This church family and I have had a very successful ministry together for 10 years and God has walked with us through all of the changes we have encountered. I feel it is time for your next steps in your faith journey as a church. I know this change will not be easy for either of us, but we can look with anticipation for what God is calling you to do. You are a strong, healthy, and vibrant church and you will bless any pastor who is called to journey with you. I know God is going to send you just what you need.

So far as I know at this time, I will be with you through mid-June and you should have a new pastor by July 1<sup>st</sup>. In our lasts months together, I hope you reflect on our 10 years of ministry and find joy in your memories. I will answer any questions you have and I hope we can each spend some time together to say goodbye. I hope you know how loved you are. When I retire, I will no longer be your pastor but will always be your friend.

With Love, 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

Please check the website [www.werpeaceumc.com](http://www.werpeaceumc.com) for calendar updates ( calendar/updates *on top bar*) Occasionally Friday taping times or meetings are changed. In addition, four weeks of worship services may be viewed (Worship/View worship services).

**CAMP MINNESOTA**-brochures have been received and are on narthex information table. Did you know there are adult camps? Did you know there are camps for grandparents with their grandchildren? Contact office to have information mailed out or check: [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org)

**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.

**JANUARY NOISY OFFERING** will purchase hats and mittens for Peace Food Pantry patrons.

**PEACE UMC FACEBOOK:** Check out our Facebook page, "Peace United Methodist Church," Rachel Bodas is updating daily.

**WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULE:** Thank you to Diane Hawley for completing the Worship Helper Schedule through June and to each of you for helping. There is a copy of the schedule on the narthex counter in the white spiral notebook.

## COVID UPDATE

Covid update- with numbers skyrocketing, due to the Omicron variant the decision has been made to wait on Coffee-an until March. Lent starts in March also and I am praying that the numbers go down sufficiently so that we can have our Ash Wednesday and Holy week services. I know we are weary of restrictions and are waiting for the day when we can say it is safe to resume our church activities.

## MISSIONS/SUNDAY SCHOOL



### 'Soup'er Bowl Sunday

It's that time of year again! Sunday School students are collecting soups, stews, and meals in a can to help restock our church's food shelf. Please remember that cans with pop top, or easy open, lids are preferred. Money donations can be made as well, just write "Souper Bowl" in the memo line. All donations to be collected by Sunday, February 13.

When I said "God, thank you for this delicious noodle soup", my dad said "Ramen"

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us, students, for a Souper Bowl Sunday trivia day at Sunday school on February 13<sup>th</sup>. For the Month of February, we will be exploring the stories of Moses and his life journey with God.

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

The next book study will be starting Thursday, February 24th at 10am. If there is an interest in having an evening discussion that can be arranged. The book we will be focusing on is *Inspired by Rachel Held Evans*. I will arrange with Joan to have copies available in the library for purchase. We will also have a sign up sheet. We had such a fun time talking about last month's book that I was encouraged to come up with another book study. I hope you can join us! Rachel Bodas

### Book overview

If the Bible isn't a science book, instruction manual, or position paper, then what is it? New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans invites readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present.

Drawing upon recent scholarship and literary analysis, Evans creatively retells our favorite Bible stories, explaining their contexts and possible interpretations, and then connects these ancient stories to our present-day ones. Using her well-honed literary instincts and experience in both evangelical and mainline Protestant traditions, Evans discovers a way of understanding that avoids noncommittal liberalism on one hand and strident literalism on the other.

Readers are invited to fall in love with Scripture all over again without checking their intellect--or their imaginations--at the door.

## MISSION/BACKPACKS

Sheila Davidson from Gethsemane has asked if we would like to join them in an evening filling backpacks for the United Way Buddy Backpack project. The date is February 24 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm at the United Way in Chisholm. They already have 25 members signed up and are hoping to reach 50. Please sign up in the library to enjoy another fun evening with our neighbors from across the street.

Our neighborhood picnic was such a success last summer, we'll be collaborating with them again in August for what we hope is an annual event.

If you have questions, please contact Pam Omersa.