



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

March 2022

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
PORCH Director
Administrative Assistant
Custodian

Rev. Mickey Olson
Rachel Bodas
Joan Schriber
Scott Lammers

Thought for the month:

Matthew 11:28

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are struggling
hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give
you rest.



From the Pastor

Packing again. I have moved three times in 13 years. Each time I pare down my stuff a little more. But I still have too much stuff. I will be moving to a small condo with very little storage and so I am paring down even more. I have spent the most amount of time in looking at old pictures and deciding which ones to keep and which to toss. This is difficult work. I inherited my mother's pictures and some of my in-laws. Though they are special to me, I know my children won't want them, see their value or even recognize who those people are. If I keep them, I have no place to store them. I have two large bins of fabric that I have intended to sew into artistic quilts. I haven't sewn anything for years. Will I sew in my retirement? I have many wood items I have been intending to paint. Do I bring them or is it time to let them go and start oil or watercolor painting?

This practice has me asking the questions; Who am I? Who do I want to be? What do I want to do? Very existential questions. In this time of transition, those are very important questions to ask. When I had decided to go to seminary and to become a pastor, I gave a sermon called: "What do you pack for a journey and what do you leave behind?" I think this business of packing and retiring has me asking these same questions. I am discovering how to let go of everything I own. There is grief in this process but there is also a freedom in letting go. Each item I hold brings a memory as I decide to keep it or let it go.

This process is paralleled in my leaving the church. I must leave you all behind, but not forever. I have many memories of our time together that are precious. I hope you are remembering some of our best times together. As you prepare to welcome a new pastor, what do you as a church need to pack and what will you leave behind?

With Love, Pastor Mickey

PASTORAL CARE

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.

OFFICE NOTES

MINISTRY GROUPS-As the Covid numbers appear to be decreasing we are in the process of updating church ministry groups; upon completion the list will be mailed out in an upcoming Messenger.

If you would like to assist Carol Thomas on the Funeral Hospitality list please contact the office. I will be compiling a list for bar/cake donations, assisting with serving, or assisting with clean up.

If you would like to assist Gail Johnson and Mary Bratt on the prayer chain list please let the office know.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE- As of now Annual Conference 2022 is scheduled to take place in person May 24-26, 2022 at River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN. Let Pastor Mickey know if you are interested in attending.

COVID UPDATE

Covid update: We are planning to resume coffee-an in March and are hoping to relax our mask guidelines. Doctors are predicting that with the relaxed requirements will come a brief surge in cases. We also know that home tests are skewing public health numbers of cases. So as usual, it will be a wait and see. I hope you are all staying healthy and are able to find joy in these times of anxiety, exhaustion, and weariness. God is good all the time.

LENTEN WORSHIP

Lent - Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd. There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 6. We have not had an Ash Wednesday service for two years and I think we need it. Throughout Lent I will be preaching on the Lord's Prayer, following the book by Adam Hamilton. This prayer which is central to our faith has deep meaning and it can be our Lenten practice to pray it three times /day, morning, noon and evening. I hope you will join us for Ash Wednesday and for church on Sundays as the pandemic numbers decline (we continue to hope) as we open ourselves to the power of Lent and to the Lord's Prayer. Holy week plans are in the works and I invite you to this journey of spiritual growth through Lent. Pastor Mickey

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

The Lenten book study will continue through March, Thursdays at 10am. We will continue focusing on *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Copies are available in the library for purchase (\$13.50 per book). We had a good time starting the discussion about this book in February that I would encourage anyone to still join us. Each week has a little different focus that missing a week or more won't change your experience. Everyone is welcome! 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.

MISSIONS

March is Minnesota Food Share Month

"Pay attention to the hungry, both in this country and around the world. Pay attention to the poor. Pay attention to our responsibilities for world peace. We are our brother's keeper." George McGovern

The Mission/Outreach committee project for March is to collect for the Quad City Food Shelf. Giving in March is a truly wonderful opportunity, as all donations are matched. If you would like to donate food items, a table will be placed in the old choir section (behind the organ) and will remain there for the month. Sunday the 27th will be your last opportunity to leave donations, as they will be packed up and delivered to the Food Shelf on Monday the 28th.

Should you wish to make a monetary donation, you may write a check to Peace UMC with a notation in your comment line that it is for the Quad City Food shelf, or you may put cash in an envelope addressed as Food Shelf. You may put these in with the Sunday offerings.

Thank you for helping feed our community friends and neighbors in need.