



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 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:

Philippians 4:7

⁷ Then the peace of God that exceeds all
understanding will keep your hearts and minds
safe in Christ Jesus.



From the Pastor

It has been a wonderful season of Lent. The preaching series on the Lord's Prayer has been especially meaningful for me. Anne Lamont on prayer says: Prayer is private, even when we pray with others. It is communication from your heart to God. Sometimes, we pray God Help Me!!! Or sometimes when in a very good and happy place: Thank you for....Sometimes it might be shouting at the top of your lungs or whispered into your sleeve, I hate you God. Lamott says this is prayer too because it is real, it is truth, and maybe the most sincere thought you have had in months. Prayer means that we believe we are invited into a relationship with someone who hears us when we speak in silence. Prayer is taking a chance that against all odds we are loved and chosen. We are making contact with something unseen, way bigger than we can imagine. God can handle honesty and prayer begins an honest conversation. I hope that you have found a deeper meaning in the Lord's Prayer this Lent, as I have. It is a prayer for daily guidance and also a radical world changing prayer. As we move to Holy Week and Jesus death on the cross, I can't help thinking about my rapidly approaching leaving. My prayers have been for a great new pastor to find this amazing congregation. My prayers have been of gratitude for the honor of serving you and walking with you. While it makes me sad to leave, I am also filled with grace and gratitude. We know that Easter is coming, new life abounds and God is at work in our lives and in the lives of this church. As we pray the Lord's Prayer let us trust in our Father who art in heaven, invite the kingdom into our lives and into the work of this church. Let us be assured that we will have all we need in our daily bread, and help us to be a forgiving and grace filled people. Let us not be led into the temptations of worry and self- interest, but be delivered from the evil of those thoughts. Most of all let us give God the glory and praise as we recognize that the church is God's presence on earth and God has plans and purpose for those of us who are the church.

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

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.

BOOK STUDY

The Lenten book study will continue through April 14th, 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 have been having some good discussions about the Bible and life. Each week has a little different focus that missing a week or more won't change your experience. Everyone is welcome. Rachel Bodas

ONE MORE BOOK STUDY BEFORE SUMMER

A new book study will begin on Thursday, May 5th. The book we will be reading is "All the Light We Cannot See" a novel by Anthony Doerr. There will be more information in the May Messenger (mostly time of day and cost of book) We will have copies available in the library by the end of April with a sign up sheet. Everyone is welcome! Rachel Bodas

About the book:

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON

LADIES SPRING BANQUET will be Tuesday, May 3, 6:00 PM at the church fellowship hall. The theme will be "Together Again". We will be having stuffed pork chops catered by The Deluxe Cafe. We will have entertainment by Shannon Gunderson and have a delightful skit. All women of the church are invited and they can invite their lady friends and relatives too. Contact Pat Sklors or Ellen Hedlund for tickets.

The prices are as follows:

Adult Tickets \$18.00

Children ages 6 to 12 \$10

Children under 6 - Free

Tickets need to be purchased by Sunday, April 24th (including take-outs)

WORSHIP

GOOD FRIDAY: Services will be at 6:00 pm

EASTER: We thank Jerry/Paulette Pfremer for resuming Easter Breakfast beginning at 9:00 am. There will be one Easter Worship Service at 10:00 am.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: For anyone interested in providing flowers or a plant for the Easter altar, there is a sign-up sheet in the library. Please bring them to the church on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, April 13-15 during church office hours. Please do not bring lilies due to their strong fragrance affecting those with allergies.

MISSIONS

Thanks to a very generous donation from Marilyn Evenson. the Missions Committee was able to donate many (well over 100) beautiful knit hats for students at Franklin Elementary, Parkview, and Roosevelt Elementary. We also donated hats suited to younger children to Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. Marilyn gives freely of her time and special talent, also participating in the Prayers and Squares quilt group. Thank you Marilyn for your generosity. We're sure your gift kept many heads warm during this lengthy, cold winter.

We were also able to use \$250.00 in noisy offering donations to purchase warm hats and gloves for adults. We made 19 sets that will be kept at church, available for anyone who walks in with a need. A man picked up a set, and shortly after our purchase, a woman came in needing help and was able to choose a set. Admin. Asst. Joan had also brought in a jacket, so this lady was able to leave protected from the cold. Thanks, Joan, and to all the congregation who so willingly help others.

Wild blessings,
Barb, Becky, Betsy, Connie, Terry and Pam

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 there is a sign-up list in library. We 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- Drawing on Psalm 23 and John 10:10-11, the theme is “Jesus: Healer.” It’s been almost three years since we last gathered in-person; you will be able to be in-person, in community, to see each other’s faces, and to worship, sing, pray, laugh and play together. Annual Conference attendees will meet at the Rivers Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud May 24 and 25. Please let Pastor Mickey know if you are interested in attending.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for some fun activities, building challenges, and great guest speakers as we start wrapping up the Sunday school year! Here are some dates to remember:

April 10th – Palm Sunday Scavenger Hunt

April 17th – Easter – No Sunday School

May 1st – Pentecost – Guest Speaker

May 8th – Mother’s Day Craft

May 15th – Last Day – Ice Cream Party



WELCOMING YOUR NEW PASTOR

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
2. Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor and family.
3. Invite church members individually to send cards of welcome and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
4. Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.
5. Plan for the transition. Occasionally important welcoming gestures are missed with everyone thinking someone else is handling these details.
6. Appoint a specific liaison person to whom the pastor can go for help and information during the transition.

WHEN I'M IN THE MESSY MIDDLE OF SOMETHING

Slow and Steady God,
Things have changed,
And I know they're not done changing.

I'm here on your potter's wheel
Where you're shaping my essence into
Something new with
guiding, loving hands.

But this messy middle time...
It's painful, and scary, and hard.
The wheel spins and my world swirls
and all I want is to see the end result.

Becoming the broken-down
Lump of clay was a
hard stage too, I might add.

Help me, God,
Commit to the process,
Not the outcome.

Help me embrace this messy middle time
when I must make space
for shifts and questions.

Change my mantras from
Clarity to exciting ambiguity,
Definition to open-endedness,
certainty to awe-filled surprises,
timeline to trust.

Help me believe, Lord,
that even what seems
to be negative change
makes room in me and around me
for something fresh (and good).

You hum a tune of possibility
And potential as you work.
With each move of your hand,
You mutter,
"Beautiful."
"Beautiful."
"Beautiful."

And, you smile. Amen.

Reprinted from Ash & Starlight Arianne Braithwaite Lehn