



Peace United Methodist Church
Pastor Rob Kopp
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

September 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 Rob: revrmkopp@gmail.com
office@werpeaceumc.com

Worship Schedule

10:30 AM Peace UMC
303 South 9th Avenue
Virginia, MN 55792

Note: 1st Sunday of each month is
Communion Sunday

Our Staff

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Custodian
PORCH Director

Rev. Rob Kopp
Joan Schriber
Esa Bay
Rachel Bodas

Thought for the month:

Hebrews 13:1
Keep loving each other like family.



Dear Church Family,

I've been serving churches in Northern Minnesota since 2010. Our summers are short-- significantly shorter than they were when I lived in the Twin Cities. Over the years, I've learned not to schedule as many church activities during this short season where people like to spend time outdoors with family and friends. (This is true for me as well).

Churches are (finally) able to be more active following the pandemic. What does this mean for us this fall season? Michelle and I are just getting started-- so we have no experience of what Peace and Wesley were like before the pandemic. What we observed in the churches we served is a decrease in activity and people. This is true of most of the churches in our conference. Even as restrictions loosened, people have fallen away from the habit of participating in the life of the church. Life being what it is, many have also had to face more than one crisis without support from their church family.

If you've ever boarded an airplane, you may remember the instruction, "In the event of an emergency, apply your oxygen mask before assisting others." God and your church family are so much more than an oxygen mask. But the metaphor works: This is a time for healing.

Perhaps more than we've experienced in years, we have a greater need to experience God's presence while sharing in community the assurance of God's love. My hope is that we will begin the fall season by spending more time together. Peace UMC is a vital part of Virginia-- and for us to be vitally engaged with the community, we need to be vitally engaged with each other.

If we have not met, this is your invitation to meet the new pastor. Whether we have met or not, I look forward to getting to know you! My hope is that we will have more opportunities to break bread together as a community-- whether it's around the Communion table or the fellowship table.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rob

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.

FIX IT FELLOWSHIP

Please think of joining our group whose mission is to help with small projects to help keep our parishioners in their homes. We have found it fun to work in a group, and not all the tasks we would think of it if doing in our own homes. We will meet at 6pm on Tuesday 9/6 in the library for a short meeting to update our policies and develop a list of projects we can or cannot handle. Hope to see you there. Talk to Pam Omersa if you have questions.

PASTOR NOTES

About Communion: We've begun to use a musical Communion setting when we gather to celebrate each month. You will also receive the Eucharist at the Communion rail. Ushers will invite you to approach the altar when it is your turn. Kneeling at the rail is not required. If anyone prefers to receive while seated in the pew, it will be brought to you. **Why are we doing this?** After two years of the pandemic, I believe we need to connect Communion to community. We have a rich experience of God's grace when we are able to be together. You are invited to find a place among friends at the Lord's Table.

ATTENDANCE BOOKS have been returned to the sanctuary, please complete each week.

FYI: Monthly worship services are resuming at Edgewood Vista on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am with Pastor Rob leading worship. If you would like to attend this service and be among old friends, please call ahead to see if it's possible. Their number is (218) 741-7106.

FYI: Jeanne/Harlan Cornell Celebration of Life Service will be Saturday, October 8th @ 11:00 am. at Peace UMC with visitation one hour before services.

SAVE THE DATE: A Harvest Potluck is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th after worship. More information will be in the October Messenger.

NOISY OFFERING

July 31st was the fifth Sunday of the month. Quad City Food Bank received \$200.48 for this much needed program. Thank you all for your donations.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rooted in PEACE (a new look for Sunday School)



This year, Sunday school is getting a new look. We are inviting children grades pre-k to 6th to join a designated mentor (one-on-one) in building memories and new relationships. "Rooted" will be Sunday mornings from **10:00-10:30am** before worship starting in October. There will be various activities to do with their mentor such as crafts, art, science, a reading corner, and more for each child to explore their own likes as they get to know their mentor. As always, visiting children are welcome to join a child and their mentor as well. There is something for everyone who is Rooted in Peace UMC!

More information will be sent out to children with connections to our congregation this month. If you know of any children interested in this program, please invite them to join us or contact the office for more information. Mark your calendars for the first day of Sunday school, Rally Sunday, on **October 9th**.

WORSHIP

COMMUNION TRAINING

There will be a training session after worship on Sunday, September 18th in the library for anyone willing to be a communion steward. You will be given written instructions and shown where communion supplies are located.

If you aren't able to be at the meeting, let me know and I will get you the information you need.

Lois Lackner

MISSION/OUTREACH

At this time we are not planning another rummage sale, so the church will not be accepting any donations; a couple suggestions are Cook Thrift Shop or Hibbing/Duluth Goodwill.

ROCK THE BLOCK

Rock the Block 2022 was held on Wednesday, August 24th and was even more successful than last year's event. Once again, we had to have the picnic inside due to the weather.

Volunteers from Peace and Gethsemane churches served hot dogs, corn, chips and root beer floats to approximately 200 people.

Chris Johnson and Val Weir, along with helpers from Gethsemane, entertained a lot of kids with games and face painting. Kids and even some adults were given name tags with their superhero name on it, which added to the fun.

As usual, the bounce house was a big hit. We weren't sure we were going to be able to get it due to the rain, but at 3:30 the decision was made to put it up and amazingly, not one drop of rain fell on it. Several men from our church spent nearly the entire 3 hours overseeing the bounce house and making sure everything went smoothly.

The Hutter Bunch entertained throughout the evening and we had people who attended just to enjoy their music.

Mark and Ellen Hedlund were busy taking pictures which will eventually be shared with the congregation.

At our wrap up meeting afterwards it was decided to do this again next year. During our discussion we all were surprised at the number of people who attended that weren't members of either church. We felt some of this was due to members from both churches who 'Walked the Block' the previous Monday visiting with people we encountered, personally inviting them and passing out fliers throughout the surrounding neighborhood.

Our sincere thanks to all who helped to make Rock the Block a success.

Pam Omersa, Carol Thomas, Terry Hilar and Lois Lackner

PORCH-People Offering Relationship Community and Hope

PORCH is returning! Our first Wednesday evening will be September 7th. Dinner starts at 5pm. The menu will be sloppy joes, chips, salad, and dessert. Our kick off PORCH activity will be a family game night. Everyone is welcome! Come help us build stronger relationships in our church and community. At this time PORCH will be only the first Wednesday of the month as we get started. I hope to see you there! Rachel Bodas

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee will be meeting Tuesday, September 13th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee an' will be provided. Anyone interested in caring for home bound/shut-ins are welcome to join us.

NEWS FROM SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

It is with deep regret that SPRC has accepted the resignation of our administrative assistant, Joan Schriber. Joan has faithfully served our church for the past three years with effectiveness and professionalism, along with a warm heart and smile.

Administrative tasks of this church have run smoothly and efficiently with her at the office helm.

We will miss her and are grateful for her dedication and service to Peace UMC. Best wishes to her in retirement.

The search for a new administrative assistant has begun, and hopefully the position will be filled by November 1st.