



Peace United Methodist Church
 Pastor Lisa Vick
 303 Ninth Avenue South
 Virginia MN 55792

**NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 MONDAY-THURSDAY
 10:00AM-2:00PM**

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: 612-558-5316
 Email: pastor@werpeaceumc.com

Mediacom channel 5TV
 Peace church service
 Weekly air times

Sunday	9:00 am, 8:00 pm
Monday	2:00 am
Tuesday	10:00 am
Wednesday	none
Thursday	10:00 am
Friday	5:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am

Our Mission at Peace United Methodist Church
Peace in our Communities, offering healing and wholeness to all in life's journey

The Methodist Messenger

January 2026

Church Office
 Hours: Monday – Thursday
 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Phone: (218) 741-7739 or (218) 741-7738
 Website: www.werpeaceumc.com
 Email:
 Pastor Lisa pastor@werpeaceumc.com
 Office 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

Find our online worship service at
www.werpeaceumc.com or on our Facebook
 page.

Our Staff

Pastor	Rev. Lisa Vick
Administrative Assistant	Rachel Bodas
Custodian	Neil Strong Sr.

Find us on Facebook:
We R Peace UMC
 Take a look.
 Like, follow and share.



From Pastor Lisa – Cookies, Brussels Sprouts, Glory Revealed

You can always tell when a new year has arrived by the advertisements. January brings a parade of fitness equipment, gym memberships, storage bins, and planners promising a “new you.” And every year, right on cue, I realize my Santa Claus Diet—a highly refined plan built almost entirely on cookies—has reached its natural conclusion. At some point my body gently (or not so gently) says, enough, and January arrives with its promises of balance. Out go the cookies. In come the Brussels sprouts. (Yuck. Just kidding... mostly.)

I’ll be honest—I can get pretty hung up on “getting it together.” Having the house in order. Feeling healthier. Being more organized. Starting the year strong. And I know I’m not alone in that. Many of us feel the pressure this time of year to fix what feels messy, to improve what feels lacking, to finally become the version of ourselves we think we’re supposed to be. And yet, I’m also at an age where I’m starting to feel a little... over it.

Have you heard of the “We Don’t Care” movement? It’s not about giving up—it’s about choosing our battles. It’s saying, we don’t care if the house looks perfectly put together when friends come over, and we don’t care if we don’t reinvent ourselves by February 1. We care more about showing up, being honest, and living with a little more grace toward ourselves and one another.

But our faith doesn’t begin with self-improvement. It begins with incarnation. Christmas has already declared the good news: God came to us as we are. Epiphany celebrates that the light of Christ was revealed—not just to a select few, but to the whole world. And now, in the season that follows, the question becomes a very real one: so what?

What does that light do for us and to us? How does it meet us in our longing to “get it together”? And what do we do because that light has been revealed?

This season invites us to an attitude check—not a harsh one, but an honest and grace-filled pause. Are we trying to earn our way forward, or are we learning to live as people already loved? The light of Christ doesn’t shame us into change; it shows us the way, gently and faithfully, one step at a time.

As we begin this new year together, my hope is not that we strive for perfection, but that we stay open—to God’s light, to one another, and to the ways glory continues to be revealed in ordinary, imperfect lives. Cookies, Brussels sprouts, cluttered closets, and all.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

We will be having a Potluck on January 11th after Worship. Please bring a dish to share. And join the festivities. Help us take a break from winter for an afternoon. All are welcome there is always plenty of food.

A Joyful Children's Christmas Program

The holiday season has passed, but we fondly reflect on the Sunday School program "A Visit From The Animals", presented by the students on December 14th.

With the support of narrator Rachel Bodas and classroom assistant Jonathan Crain, our 1st and 3rd graders delighted the congregation as they told the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of the animals in the stable.

The vocal and piano music, intertwined with the story, added a special touch to the children's presentation. Thank you to all who contributed to making the children's Christmas program a success.

Sunday School resumes on January 12th, as we begin with new stories of Jesus and his family history. Students will be learning about how the Israelites returned to their homeland (after being exiled in Babylon) and, with Solomon, rebuilt the temple to worship God. Much later, Jesus returns to that temple the his ancestors built. That temple shaped the experience of a young boy, who would one day express love and forgiveness for all people.

Adopt a Room of Windows to Clean Update

Thanks to the Worship Committee, the Prayers & Squares Quilt Group, the DND group, Lois Lackner, Chris Johnson, Val Weir, and Diane Hawley ten rooms of windows have been adopted and most are already sparkling clean! You can really see the difference and your effort is appreciated. There are still 4 rooms and some doors to adopt. Please sign up in the library and remember to give yourself a star when the job is completed.

From the Missions Committee

Buddy Backpacks Challenge

Are you looking for some physical activity during the coming January cold? We will again be participating with our Lutheran friends - Gethsemane, Our Saviors and Messiah - in a race to fill over 1,400 backpacks in under an hour. Teamwork wins the challenge, and hundreds of children win with supplemental food backpacks for kids in need.

We will meet around 4:30 pm on Wednesday, 1/21, at the United Way warehouse in Chisholm. We pack starting at five and are done by six. Sign up is in the library if interested. Carpools can be arranged. We guarantee great laughs, fellowship and fun.

At our December meeting, the Missions team moved to continue our support of a safety education program for children and senior citizens through the Virginia Police Department. We also sponsored a student in the Saint Louis County Youth in Action program, a partnership that helps strengthen connections between young people and their communities through meaningful service. We have participated in both these outreaches for a number of years. \$100 is allocated to each program.

Are you interested in outreach activities? Please join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, 1/14 at 11 am.

God's blessings,

The Missions Team

Support Wildlife, Biodiversity, and Beauty Where You Live!

Faithful Earth Keepers is partnering with Hope Community Presbyterian Church to host a forum on **Saturday, February 7 at 1pm** on how we can all make a difference. We'll watch a video presentation by entomologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, on how even small efforts can have big impacts for wildlife and pollinator populations. Then we'll hear from Dan Schutte from Shoreview Natives in Two Harbors on the how-to's of creating small or large native plant habitat on your property. Even if you don't own property, you can help with conservation efforts in your community! We hope to see you on February 7! And you're also welcome to attend the next Faithful Earth Keepers meeting on Monday, January 26 at 10am at Hope Community Presbyterian Church.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 – Kirstin Vosburgh | 24 – Betsy Nelson |
| 10 – Abel Vosburgh | 24 – Carol Chiabotti |
| 16 – Jim Ryan | 28 – Diane Hawley |
| 19 – Rachel Crain | 28 – Gale Switzer |
| 24 – Eugene Hawley | 31 – Susan Kralich |

January Worship Helpers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coffee 'AN</u>	<u>Friday Reader</u>	<u>Sunday Reader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Power Point</u>
<u>1/4/26</u>	Jerry & Paulette Pfremmer	1/2 Ann Voss	Craig Johnson	C. Rabideaux Courtney Wickham	J. Martinson C. Thomas	Rachel Bodas
<u>1/11/26</u>	Tom & Gail Johnson	1/9 Gail Smith	Jonathan Crain	Crain Family	Gail Switzer Kathy Rice	Gary Picek
<u>1/18/26</u>	Jim & Betsy Nelson	1/16 Rachel Bodas	Catherine Branville	R. Summers Mark Knutson	Pam Omersa Kathy Oliver	Joan Schriber
<u>1/25/26</u>	Bill & Lois Robillard	1/23 Lynda Alar	Jerry Pfremmer	Sue Carvelli Sue Carle	Ann Voss B. Norlander	Holly Lundgren

Communion Steward

- January –
- February –
- March –
- April –

COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED

There is a signup sheet in the library for anyone willing to help with setting up/serving communion in 2026.

COFFEE AN' HOSTS

****Donuts for Coffee an' are to be picked up at Super One SOUTH. You will need to pick up the Peace UMC account card from the office before going to Super One South. The church has an account set up for payment; you must go through the checkout line and show the clerk the account card. If you have any questions, please call the Office.