



Peace United Methodist Church
Pastor Mickey Olson
303 Ninth Avenue South
Virginia MN 55792



The Methodist Messenger

January 2018

Church Office

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Phone: 218-741-7739
www.peaceumc.us
E-Mail: office@peaceumc.us
pastor@peaceumc.us

Worship Schedule

10:00 AM Peace UMC
303 South 9th Avenue
Virginia, MN 55792

Note: 1st Sunday of each month is
Communion Sunday

The Nursery is staffed each Sunday
from 9:30 – 11:30 am

Our Staff

Pastor
Youth Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Choir Accompanist
Custodian
Nursery Attendant

Mickey Olson
McKenzie Fossell
Holly Lundgren
Jeanene Hagberg
Char Cremers
David Stanaway
Petra Hagberg

Thought for the month:

Gracious behavior
is more important
than right belief

SCRIPTURE READINGS

7	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
14	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
28	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

TV WORSHIP TIMES

Peace United Methodist Church services are aired on Mediacom Cable TV Channel 5

Monday - 1:00 AM
Friday - 5:30 PM

Tuesday - 10:00 AM
Sunday - 9:30 AM

Thursday - 10:00 AM

WORSHIP HELPERS

GREETERS

7	Connie Rabideaux/Diane Hawley
14	Roger & Carole Summers
21	Nancy Wright/Doris Knoll
28	Jerry/Paulette Pfremmer

USHERS

Betty Culbert/Nancy Wright
Dale & Kathy Krog
Chris Hagberg/John Malovrh
John & Mary Bratt

LITURGIST

Pam Omersa
Holly Lundgren
Shirley Woodward
Fay Siers

COFFEE AN'

7	Holly Lundgren/Joanne Foster
14	Kathy Rice/Jack Haugen/Diana Wallert
21	Mary Williams/Connie Rabideaux
28	Pam Omersa/Sue Carle

COMMUNION

January	Jean/Roger Rosandich
February	Sandy/Jack LaBarre
March	Shirley/Gail Woodward
April	Val/Paul Wier

A NOTE TO ALL: In the event, someone comes in during the Sunday Worship Service in need of help, invite them to join us for worship and Pastor Mickey or someone will meet with them **AFTER** the service.

BIRTHDAYS

6 – Ivy Teasck	7 – Noelle Smith	11 – Diane Twite	14 – James Thomas
16 – Taylor Gunderson	16 – Jim Ryan	19 – Rachel Crain	19 – Gerald Etter
23 – Tammy Langfeld	25 – Linda Etter	28 – Diane Hawley	30 – Elaine McCarty

If you or a family member's birthday is not listed or is incorrect, Please let the Office know (741-7739).



From the Pastor

Happy New Year!!!! I think it is great that the new year begins the first of January. The coldest month of winter is the time when we need hope the most. There is always a tired let-down feeling after Christmas and we long for sunshine and longer days. The Sunday after Christmas is called Low Sunday because church attendance is at its lowest point. We find it easy to

talk ourselves into staying home and not going out into the cold. It should be the highest attendance of the year because we could still be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. We could find renewed hope and strength to change the world around us. We ourselves could model God’s sacrificial love and give ourselves to God’s purpose.

So where is our church going this year? What is God calling us to do? What new thing is God calling you personally to do? We have embraced great life-giving change in this church and though it may feel like you want to rest for a while, we can’t stand still. The world is changing and there is a desperate need for people to know Christ.

New Year’s resolutions are often about adding in something to our lives and when we do that we must leave some things behind. What do we, as a church, need to leave behind so that we are focused on the great commandment: To make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world? It is a new year with new possibilities and opportunities. Are you ready? Then let’s go!

Wild Blessings,

~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.

Emergency Pastoral Calls: 218-343-6849

E-mail: office@peaceumc.us

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have someone you wish to include on our prayer chain, please contact one of the following:

Gail Johnson: 741-0972

Mary Bratt: 744-2754

Office (Holly): 741-7739

CHURCH CLOSINGS

On the occasion a church event is cancelled due to inclement weather, please check the local TV and Radio Stations. (KBJR News 6, Range 11, 3; WDIO News 10/13; FOX 21 KQDS)(Duke – WDKE, WEVE, KQDS, WTBX, WUSZ). Please use your own judgement when it comes to traveling in winter weather.

THE WAY FORWARD

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church, our worldwide connection as Methodists, is undertaking to decide the issue of GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer) persons as a denomination. As most of you know, this is not a new issue. We have been debating this for over forty years. At the 2016 General Conference, this issue was at the forefront. There was legislation to remove the wording from the Discipline that states: homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The legislation never came to a vote and it was obvious that various factions were threatening to split the denomination if the legislation did or did not pass. The atmosphere was highly charged and our bishop, Bishop Ough, as president of the cabinet of Bishops, stopped the legislative session. It was decided to call on the Bishops to review this matter and to advise the General Conference for the future of the denomination. A task force was formed, called The Way Forward, to study this issue and to come with recommendations of how to proceed. The members of this task force are diverse in their opinions regarding this matter and represent the entire globe in its makeup. There will be an early session of General Conference to vote on the proposals of The Way Forward.

It is clear that we are facing a tragic division if we don't resolve this issue, and a tragic division even if we decide to be affirming of GLBTQ folk or not. There are churches and conferences that come out strongly on both sides and even in the extremes. The Way Forward is seeking to hold us together as United Methodists. Their early plans represent ways for us to be united but allow us to have different ways of viewing this issue. We have been praying for the Way Forward and I invite you to pray also. Please pray for the Spirit to guide them and not for your individual viewpoint to be affirmed.

These decisions will be broadcast in the news, so I wish to be proactive in having us discuss this as a church. We have the opportunity to discuss this as people of Peace and though I know there are a variety of positions on this issue within our congregation, I pray we can come together in a spirit of unity and with open hearts and minds to lift this issue up to God and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us as a church.

I will have discussion time after worship on **January 7** and **14th**. Please come to listen, to hear, to ask questions and to discern what God is calling us to do as Methodists for the future of the church.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MINISTRY

“As a member of this congregation I will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.”
Membership Vows - UMC

CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT/AD COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 14TH

Committee Chairs and Ministry Leaders will be meeting Saturday, January 13th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm to discuss and plan the ministry and business of the church for 2018. Administrative Council business will also be part of this retreat. Please come with your plans and calendar dates for the future.

METHODIST MOONLIGHTERS

The group is meeting Tuesday, January 23 at 6:00 pm at the Wandering Pines in Gilbert. The Theme is “God Amongst the Pots and Pans”.

RED BIRD MISSION

The Red Bird team will meet after church on Sunday, January 14th. Anyone wanting more information about Red Bird or considering joining us should plan to attend.

CHURCH CONFERENCE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH, AFTER WORSHIP

The Church Conference is the annual meeting of the church. The primary responsibility of this meeting is to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist churches. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

BOOK STUDY – *Razing Hell*

Does the idea of hell haunt your dreams and disturb your sleep? Have you ever wondered at the justice (or injustice) of it all? Are you confounded by a God who deems it necessary to send the majority of humanity to burn there forever? If so, then this book is for you.

Seventy percent of Americans believe in hell, as do ninety-two percent of those who attend church every week. Clearly, it's a hot topic. The author, Sharon Baker offers readers a safe space to contemplate tough issues as we rethink our traditional views of hell. In her candid and inviting style Baker explores and ultimately refutes many traditional views of hell, presenting instead theologically sound ways of thinking that are more consistent with our image of God as a loving creator who desires to liberate us from sin and evil.

This selection will provide clarity for those with questions about hell, God's judgment, and what happens to us when we die.

This will be a four-week study beginning at PORCH on Wednesday, January 3rd at 6:00 pm and on Thursday, January 4th at 10:00 am. There are three parts to the book; Read Part 1, chapters 1-4. The books are available in the Library and the cost is \$15.00 due at the first session.

PORCH

5:00 PM - Dinner

Jan 3	Soup--Taco or Chicken Soup, Sandwiches, Bar, Milk, water or coffee
Jan 10	Chicken Alfredo, Jell-O w/ carrots & celery, Green Beans, Bread
Jan 17	Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, Carrots & Peas, 7-layer Salad, Ice Cream
Jan. 24	Stew & dumplings, Broccoli Salad, Apple crisp & ice cream, Bread
Jan 31	Ham & Scalloped potatoes, Corn, Apple Coleslaw, Brownies

6:00 PM - Adult Groups

Jan 3	Book Study – Razing Hell, Part 1
Jan 10	Group Discussion – Current Events
Jan 17	Book Study – Razing Hell, Part 2
Jan 24	Book Study – Razing Hell, Part 3
Jan 31	Music with Mel Annala, guitarist and singer

6:00 PM – Children (5-11)

Jan 3	Craft/Baking/Fun Activities
Jan 10	Craft/Baking/Fun Activities
Jan 17	Craft/Baking/Fun Activities
Jan 24	Movie Night
Jan 31	Mission Night (Blessing Bags for the homeless or Survival Kit Bags for Police)

6:00 PM – Youth (12-18)

Jan 3	TED Talk (Try Something New for 30 Days)
Jan 10	Art/Craft Night
Jan 17	Game Night
Jan 24	Movie Night
Jan 31	Mission Night (Blessing Bags for the homeless or Survival Kit Bags for Police)

FROM THE CHOIR

On behalf of myself and the choir, I would like to thank all the individuals responsible for the Choir Appreciation Dinner. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated. From the excellent ham dinner, to the decorations and the pins; the entire celebration was perfect. So much thanks to all who helped: the kitchen crew, cleaners, setup, decorations, pies. God Bless, Jeanene

FROM THE OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Outreach Ministry Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who so generously donated Christmas gifts through our church Giving Tree. We appreciate the outpouring of love and caring you continue to show our neighbors in need.

FROM THE YOUTH FOYER

"I want to thank the church so much for all the gifts! The tenants were so happy to get things that they really wanted! I heard some of them say that they got everything they wanted! There was so much joy and excitement here today, thank you for making that happen!" Hannah Barnes, AEOA Homeless Youth Counselor

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A huge thank-you to Mark and Ellen Hedlund for taking congregation pictures for the 2018 Peace directory. If you were unable to come to one of the sittings, and wish to have your picture in the directory, you can email a picture to the Office. If you have an existing picture, you can mail it or drop it off at the office. Contact the Office if you want to have a copy of your picture. Holly can help you with this and provide a release of copyright form. If you have a change of address or phone number, and are not sure if the church has this information, please contact the Office.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School children and teachers would like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas program, "A Super Christmas", on December 17th. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed presenting it. Thank you to Ann Voss for leading and directing, Char Cremers and Val Wier for helping with the music, McKenzie Fossell and Michael Geer for designing and building the sets, Holly Lundgren for doing the power point, and Darwin Alar for his help with the sound system.

THANK YOU!!

A big thank you to all who helped prepare our Christmas Eve service. From those who decorated, shared a poinsettia, watered the poinsettias, ushered, prepared the candles, the musicians, the choir, those who arrived early to unlock doors and stayed late to lock up, the scripture reader, the greeters, the power point clicker, for Holly who attended to the bulletins and power point, the worship committee who attends to all the details so that we can have a beautiful and moving service. Pastor Mickey

REACH*RENEW*REJOICE

We have met our commitment to RRR for the third year! We have two more years to give to this vital ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative! Through RRR United Methodist Churches are reaching new people to come on the journey with us, to come with questions, to come with doubts, to come and find the wonderful life that can be had in service to Jesus Christ; Congregations are growing bold in going outside their church doors to build disciples of Christ and we are rejoicing and celebrating all God is doing with us and through us!

*Caroling, Caroling through the town
Christmas bells are Ringing*

Christmas 2017

Wow! What a year! We traveled as far west as Gambell, Alaska on St Lawrence Island (35 miles from Russia), as far east as Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada; as far north as Kotzebue, Alaska, (North of the Arctic Circle) and as far south as Mercedes, Texas on the Rio Grande River.

Gambell was a mission trip through the Presbyterian church of Alaska to help with the interior of a new church built on the island of St Lawrence, home for 700 Yupik natives. What a wonderful and interesting experience. As long as we were there we did some sightseeing in mainland Alaska.

The trip to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick was a Road Scholar trip (formerly Elderhostel) with our special friends from Ohio who were also celebrating their 50th anniversary. The plane landed in Kotzebue on our way to Gambell. Mercedes involved a NOMADS winter gathering of persons working in TX.

All of the kids and grandkids are doing fine. All 8 of them were together in MN this weekend; A nice picture for our computer background. Pam and Marc have Marli 20, Colby 12, and Liam 4. Sharla and Cory have Jayden 16, Kiera 13, Liam 10, Corbin 6, and Dalton 4. They are all growing up to be wonderful people. We are always happy and thankful to be able to see them when we are up North. Gary's mother is still in the nursing home in New Salem, ND and doing well for being 99 years old.

We are still driving around, (15 years ago we went full-time – means no house), doing mostly NOMADS projects, in particular disaster rebuilding and community home repair work. Our HFH work has slowed as we have aged.

Hope this finds all of you doing well and enjoying what you are doing.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,

Avis and Gary Norton
18902 Hwy 63
Hayes SD 57537
605-280-6975
Email address: garyavisnorton@gmail.com

Our 2018 Plans so we can meet you someplace

Period 1 – Jan 7-25 - Falfurrias, TX - NOMADS
Period 2 – Jan 28 – Feb 15 - Odem, TX – NOMADS - leaders
Period 3 – Feb 18 – Mar 8 – Taft, TX - NOMADS
Period 4 – Mar 11 -29 – Baton Rouge, LA – NOMADS Disaster Rebuilding
Period 5 – April 1-19 – Conway, AR – NOMADS
Period 7 – May 13-31 – Paynesville, MN – NOMADS – leaders
Period 8 - June 3 – 21 – Dazey, ND – NOMADS
June 23 weekend Saxowsky Reunion in Hebron, ND
Period 10 – July 15-Aug 2 – MMDC – Chatham, IL – NOMADS
Sept 23 – 27 - NOMADS Annual Meeting - Memphis, TN –an option
September 26-29 Norsk HostFest Minot, ND-another option
October 5-7 – JC Homecoming-and another option
November 6, 2018 Grandma Ruby Norton 100th Birthday in New Salem, ND

**Peace United Methodist Church
Treasurer's Report 2017**

	November	Year-to-Date	
		2017	2016
Cash balance @ Begin of Month	1,692.49	1,760.96	5,939.53
Cash Receipts			
Congregation Offering	15,114.79	139,014.60	135,495.48
Building Usage	100.00	1,040.00	1,026.00
Capital Project Funds	-	4,784.00	5,000.00
Church Groups	-	1,103.00	404.00
Benevolent Giving Income	1,125.00	7,908.37	6,827.90
Fundraiser Income	(2,917.41)	524.80	4,220.40
Memorial Funds	10.00	45,972.00	211,730.00
New Ministry Funds	250.00	13,450.00	20,000.00
Other Income	-	200.00	-
	13,682.38	213,996.77	384,703.78
Cash Disbursements			
Apportionments/Other Askings	1,759.42	21,612.85	15,430.15
Capital Project Expenditures	520.55	56,875.85	22,799.07
Church Operations	645.32	38,824.16	36,032.79
Church Programs	(145.36)	15,270.80	14,568.61
Benevolent Giving Expenses	-	6,286.59	6,130.76
Administrative Expenses	670.93	5,976.39	7,925.18
Staff Expenses	10,992.16	114,919.45	113,617.51
	(14,443.02)	(259,766.09)	(216,504.07)
Other (Receivables)/Payables			
Payroll Withholdings	(108.43)	211.77	(314.54)
Funds transferred from (to) savings			
Endowment Advances	-	28,770.00	20,000.00
Money Market Savings	1,405.37	12,716.26	5,943.74
Parsonage Mntnc Savings	(312.50)	(3,437.50)	(2,083.50)
New Ministries Savings	487.87	2,350.33	7,874.16
Memorials Savings		5,801.66	(204,508.62)
	1,580.74	46,200.75	(172,774.22)
Cash Balance at End of Month	2,404.16	2,404.16	1,050.48
Cash Accounts			
General Checking		2,404.16	1,050.48
Money Market Savings		4,365.35	16,008.66
Parsonage Maintenance Fund		10,502.69	6,748.75
Memorial Checking		280.17	280.17
Memorial Savings		13,765.99	19,552.45
New Ministries Savings		13,570.60	18,693.18
UMFCFCC Savings		10.00	10.00
Total Cash		44,898.96	62,343.69
Endowment Accounts			
Peac UMC		463,528.56	444,133.02
Aho/Appel		147,264.05	115,691.41
* Parsonage		96,446.23	171,886.82
		707,238.84	731,711.25
** Appel Outreach		134,478.25	110,063.26
Change in Market Value		102,973.38	20,848.93
Total Endowments		944,690.47	862,623.44

- * The PUMC Parsonage Endowment Funds are only to be used for capital improvement expenditures on the church or parsonage.
- * The Appel Outreach Endowment Funds are designated for missions and ministries sponsored by the United Methodist Church; This Fund is a permanent endowment with only the income to be spent for charitable giving; The Fund is administered by the United Methodist Foundation. These funds are not available to Peace UMC.