



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



The Methodist Messenger

May 2017

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	Mickey Olson
Youth/Family Ministry Director	Becky Crain
Youth Coordinator	McKenzie Fossell
Administrative Assistant	Holly Lundgren
Choir Director	Jeanene Hagberg
Accompanist	Char Cremers
	Shannon Gunderson
Custodian	David Stanaway
Nursery Attendant	Petra Hagberg

Thought for the month:

Today, with God's help, no matter what I face,
 I will let faith and trust be my first response...
 instead of worry and fear.



One of the most important scriptures in our gospel is Luke 4:42 - When daybreak arrived, Jesus went away to a deserted place. Jesus was very good at knowing when he needed to step away from his ministry to spend time with God. He knew he needed to rest, recharge and just breathe. We know this as Christians but we are workers and doers who rarely take time away. How can God speak to us when we are so busy doing, instead of being?

I think you will all agree that we have been extraordinarily busy in this church. When I came here five years ago, you had just decided to share a pastor with three churches. Attendance was down, finances were tight and all three were in survival mode. We worked hard together and started to relax as we put things into place for function, healing, and new ministry. Then the Eveleth Church decided they could not go on and we started the work of discerning what God was calling the church to do. In an almost year long process, it was decided to merge with Virginia, to sell the building, and to become a new church, symbolized by a new name and mission. Then, we entered the Healthy Church Initiative. We worked for a year on hospitality, building upgrades, and developing a Wednesday night program. We hired Paul and sadly his health took him away from us before he even began. Then we paused to start again and hired two staff to lead us. This year we lost Darin and have been unable to find a new organist. We have had many funerals since I came and each loss has been difficult in its own way. All of these efforts are yielding fruit for the kingdom and we are blessed in our ministry to the community. But it has been arduous and at times stressful.

I have been feeling exhausted for a while now. My personality is driven at times and I don't always take the time I need to rest and recharge. So, after prayer and a conversation with the District Superintendent and the Staff Parish Relations Committee, I have decided to go away to a deserted place to spend time with God, but only for three months. So this summer, June 1 - September 1, I will be on renewal leave. I look forward to time to rest, renew, recharge and to breathe.

The Methodist Annual conference recommends a renewal leave every five years. I went from five years of intense seminary to three years in my first appointment in which Kim and I moved out of the area for the first time in our lives, leaving behind family and lifelong friends. At the same time we were adjusting to Kim's Parkinson diagnosis. My mother died right before Easter my first year and I did not have time to grieve. It feels like I have packed way too much into my first 8 years. While Kim is doing well for someone with Parkinson's, it is still a challenging disease and it does increase my stress level at times.

I truly believe this congregation is healthy and well as it grows in faith. We have great leaders in the congregation. I know you will be fine when I am gone for three months. I wouldn't leave if I didn't believe this in my heart. I have arranged for preachers to come and you will experience some great preaching. This is a good opportunity to experience God through the voices of faithful people. My Methodist colleagues will be on call for funerals and pastoral care needs. The summer is a less busy time in the church life and is a good time for the church to rest a bit too.

I hope you will support me in this renewal. I know when I come back I will be renewed, refreshed and ready to delve in this fall. You are a great congregation and you deserve the best Pastor possible. You can do this. I hope you will come each Sunday to worship, to hear the preacher and continue to support your church and its ministries. You may have questions and I will explain and answer them at the Church Conference on Sunday April 30th, after worship on Sunday May 7th or you may come and talk to me personally or to the members of the SPRC.

I love being your pastor. I continually give thanks to God for you. This summer I will spend some time doing nothing. I will do some painting as I am an artist who has no time to paint. I feel the presence of God while painting. I have gathered some books on the Christian mystics that I will now have time to read and allow them to inspire me and my preaching. I hope to visit some art galleries. Mostly I will breathe deeply and enjoy God's creation as I listen for God's voice in the stillness of a deserted place.

~Pastor Mickey

THE MONTH OF MAY

SCRIPTURE READINGS

7	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
14	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 3:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
21	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
28	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53

TV WORSHIP TIMES

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

Monday - 1:00 AM	Tuesday - 10:00 AM	Thursday - 10:00 AM
Friday - 5:30 PM	Sunday - 9:30 AM	

WORSHIP HELPERS

	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST
7	Mark/Ellen Hedlund	Pat Sklors/Kathy Oliver	Shirley Woodward
14	Diane Walz/Pam Omersa	Roger/Jean Rosandich	Jerry Pfremmer
21	Craig/Chris Johnson	Joy Stanaway/ Prue Wirtz	Lynda Alar
28	Virginia Peterson/Kathy Rice	John Bratt/Tom Johnson	Pam Omersa
June 4	Kelly Dahl/Diane Hawley	Mark/Ellen Hedlund	Kay Ryan
	COFFEE AN'		COMMUNION
7	John/Mary Bratt		May M/D Bergerson
14	Bill/Lois Robillard/Wayne/Fay Siers		June Iris Teasck/Joanne Foster
21	Judy Venaas/Kathy Oliver		July Kay Chapik/Pat Sklors
28	<i>No Coffee An'</i>		August Sarah/Jeff Teasck
June 4	Wayne/Fay Siers		

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, when the service is over.

BIRTHDAYS

4 – Jack Haugen	4 – Diana Wallert	5 – Pat Sklors
8 – Dane Beise	8 – John Bratt	13 – James Hopper
15 – William Oliver	15 – Gail Smith	17 – Jan Cook
18 – Diane Bloomquist	19 – David Kralich	20 – Wayne Siers
21 – Don Werner	23 – Val Wier	25 – Ann Voss
28 – Joleen Constantine	30 – Joseph Kralich	

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

OUR PEACE FAMILY

Thank you to the Choir for another wonderful season of music! Enjoy your summer hiatus – we look forward to having you back in September!

A Thank you to my church family for your love, prayers and support over the years; Also, to all who volunteered to work with me on various projects over the years; As I start on a new path, I will be fortunate to find friends as true as all of you. Good bye for now. Jeanne Cornell

Hello Church Family,

Since Christmas we have been working on NOMADS projects in 4 different locations. We started in Falfurrias, TX, working in the community on homes that badly need repair of plumbing, electrical issues, and new siding and insulation for warmth and safety. The southern part of the country deals a lot with termites and old rot. This family was living in a house that his grandfather had lived in many years ago. Second stop was back to Brackettville, TX where we have worked in the community a number of times. This time besides working on two homes, we helped renovate an older building so that the church can use it as a thrift store. We added a deck and handicap ramp. The income from the store will help the church with its outreach programs and will also give the people of the area a place to shop for inexpensive clothing and other stuff locally. We love being in Brackett, everyone knows us and we are always so welcomed in the entire community.

We are now parked at a Hispanic church in Tucson. We worked on this church for 3 weeks. A lot of painting plumbing, and electrical was done. Many of the tasks were in the educational building and the adjacent playground. The education building will be rented by a larger church as a day care facility. The rental payments will provide income for this very poor church.

Now we are working at an agency in downtown Tucson that helps the homeless. They have 17 different facilities which include shelters and services for men, women, veterans, and families. We are painting the exterior of an old motel that is now a 90 day shelter for families. As the rooms open up we are helping to paint and get them ready for more families. It has been in the 90's all week so we are suffering a little from the extreme heat!!

When we are not working or resting, we have been seeing the sites of the AZ desert which has just started turning green and blooming this week. We also have many friends from other areas of the country and from other times in our lives that we are getting squeezed into our schedule. We really love this part. But we are always glad that we are able to help those in need. We have 2 more weeks here and then will travel to the NW, visiting friends and family before we get back to ND. Our next project will be in June at the Koronis UMC camp in Paynesville, MN.

Happy Easter, Love, Avis and Gary Norton

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: pastor@peacumc.us

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

THANK YOU

Dear Peace UMC,

I want to thank you for your continued support of Mobile Ministry. There are many things happening – like an afterschool program on Wednesday, and things we are preparing for – like “our” summer people returning and VBS – that your support helps with. I’m looking forward to an opportunity to share, with you, about what is happening “Up North.” Thank you again!! Peace, Pastor Barb McKewin

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Now that the weather is warming up, there has been a lot of activity at our LFL! As you do your spring cleaning, please donate your books to this great outreach ministry!

METHODIST MOONLIGHTERS

Ladies Spring Banquet

The Ladies Spring Banquet will be held Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall; We will be serving a Turkey and Gravy Dinner catered by Deluxe Café; Wallace E. Mattson, a Duluth area butterfly expert will be our Guest Speaker; Adult tickets - \$15.00; Children ages 6-12 - \$9.00; Children under age of 6 – free. Contact Pat Sklors (744-1193) or Ellen Hedlund (744-2358) for more information.

Salvation Army

The Group serves Dinner at the Salvation Army on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

May Meeting

Meet at Grandma’s in the Park, Hibbing, at 6:00 pm; The Theme is: In faith I planted a seedling or started a project. Bring your spouse or friend this month!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday School will be May 7th. We have a special Mother’s Day project planned and, of course, some treats.

Following is a brief recap of what we did in Sunday School. We had a busy year starting with a carnival theme kick-off in September. Our fall lessons were from the Old Testament. We learned about Joseph’s brothers selling him into slavery, and how he gained favor with Pharaoh and was able to help his family. Then we studied about Moses and the plagues of Egypt and the Ten Commandments. We also started teaching the Lord’s Prayer and the meaning of communion. We added a new teaching tool this year, a TV and DVD player. The material comes with a DVD and was something the children enjoyed.

December meant the lessons of advent and, of course, continuing to rehearse for the children’s program, “Symbols of Christmas”.

The lessons for winter and spring were gospel lessons and included the miracles of Jesus and the parables, followed by the stories of holy week and Easter.

In addition, the older children learned how to use their Bibles, and the younger ones did crafts relating to that day’s lesson. Also, along with the congregation, we helped with two mission projects. Last fall we filled the “Helping Hands” bags and this Easter season, we raised enough money to purchase 20 dozen chicks for the Heifer project.

We enjoyed teaching your children this year and hope to see everybody back next fall. Enjoy the warm days of summer. ~Your Sunday School teachers

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECT

Thank you to all who donated to our Heifer Project! We are able to purchase twenty flocks of chickens! Giving chickens is no ordinary gift; it is like giving a family a small business. Chickens can provide meat, eggs, fertilizer, and income! Your donation will give several families a chance for a sustainable livelihood and access to school and medicine, as well as providing food.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

We are excited about our upcoming outreach ministry projects, which include the Foyer, Love Offering, and Mobile Ministry. I've received word that the Youth Foyer is always in need of used twin sheet sets and comforters- in good condition, new or used kitchen utensils and small appliances like toasters and coffee pots.

Range Transitional Housing will take couches, love seats, kitchen tables and chairs; newer microwaves, lamps and end tables; microwavable dish sets; beds in good, clean condition, silverware and newer, clean, small appliances. Call Sean at 218 735-6325. Leave message.

Our Love Offering, which will be taken to the annual conference in June, will benefit the people of Sierra Leone (in West Africa) and homeless women and children in the twin cities area. Read more about these missions in the Annual Conference section of the newsletter.

Kerry Roen encouraged his group, the Eveleth Masonic Lodge to donate to the Salvation Army Food Shelf during the Minnesota Food Share Month in March. The MN Masonic Charities also gave a matching donation of \$250.00! It's through this generosity that The Salvation Army can share God's love – along with food, clothing and emergency assistance, with those who might otherwise be without hope!

We will be working on other mission projects throughout the summer, including the Mobile Ministry in August. The Outreach Ministry Committee is very thankful for your constant and continued support. Thank you! Peace to all, Diana Wallert, Outreach Ministry Chairperson

RED BIRD

Red Bird Mission Trip to Beverly, Kentucky, September 15th – 25th

Fundraising Bake Sale – 1st Sunday of the Month

Thank you for your support of our monthly bake sales. Funds raised, help defray the cost of our registration fees and travel costs to Beverly, Kentucky. We will be selling bake goods in the Fellowship Hall on May 7th.

Labels for Education

The Peace Red Bird Group is asking for your help to collect Campbell's Labels for Education. If you are using these products or services and are not donating them to your local school, consider sending them to Red Bird Mission. The Red Bird Christian School is collecting labels to purchase a mini-van.

East Range Development Achievement Center

The Peace Red Bird Group is asking for your help to collect candles, wine corks and aluminum can tabs for the ERDAC.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Youth and Family Ministry Director – Becky Crain, yfmdirector@peaceumc.us, (218)591-9906

Youth Coordinator – McKenzie Fossell, youth@peaceumc.us

PORCH: Ministry of Acts

I find it interesting that in the scriptures leading up to Pentecost, the Acts of the Apostles dominates the worship scene. Of course, the day of Pentecost comes from the book of Acts (2:1-13) when the Holy Spirit speaks through the apostles as they relay Jesus' message through several languages, allowing the crowd to hear it in their own tongue. However, the remainder of Acts doesn't focus completely on the events or journeys of the original apostles, but on the journey of other newly converted believers as well. I feel these stories are written to show how we, as everyday believers of Jesus, are called to spread not only the Word but to display "Acts" as true loving Christians. Believers are converted left and right in these stories

in addition to the commissioning of church leaders like Paul (Saul). Perhaps this book should have been called the Acts of Believers.

These are just some of the many biblical stories that call us to act out our Christian calling and become a loving community. PORCH is intended to create space for our neighbors and invite them to create loving relationships with others. As our PORCH season comes to a close (May 24th), I am inviting you to the PORCH to experience community in new ways. My prayer is that you feel the Holy Spirit's presence and discover your gifts and calling to "act" as a loving community of believers in new ways, old ways, and current ways. Together we can bring Jesus' loving community of neighbors to life just as Paul's "acts" brought new Christian communities to life among the Gentiles.

THIS MONTH AT THE PORCH

5:15 PM - Dinner

May 3 rd	Beef Stroganoff; Whole Kernel Corn; Veggies & Dip; Roll; Ice Cream
May 10 th	Hamburger Rice Casserole; Jell-O Salad; Green Beans; Bread; Brownies
May 17 th	Mock Ravioli; Lettuce Salad; Garlic Bread; Fruit Salad
May 24 th	Surprise

6:00 PM - Adult Groups

May 3 rd	Book Study: 5 Love Languages of Children/Teens (part 2)	Yoga
May 10 th	Book Study: 5 Love Languages of Children/Teens (part 3)	Yoga
May 17 th	Book Study: 5 Love Languages of Children/Teens (part 4)	Yoga
May 24 th	Picnic Party: All are invited to celebrate our last Wednesday the season!	

6:00 PM - Children Groups

May 3 rd	Kids: Skit Club—Spring is in the Air with Kites	Youth: Games in the Park
May 10 th	Kids: Movie Night- <u>Beauty and the Beast</u> (G)	Youth: Games in the Park
May 17 th	Kids: Skit Club - Safari	Youth: Treasure/Selfie Scavenger Hunt
May 24 th	Picnic Party	

CHURCH FLOOR - Jesus walked on water, Peace will walk on tiles

Thank you to all who have made a second level of giving to support our new floors. The tiling is complete and the floors look wonderful! Please continue to support this visional endeavor: **"GOD WILL SMILE WHEN YOU DONATE TO A TILE."** We are very close to our Memorial Day goal and hope to surpass it! We have raised \$4,580.00 through April! We are doing this together!

NOISY OFFERING

The newsletter was printed prior to our April 30th Noisy Offering. The Offering will be reported in the June Methodist Messenger!

PLEDGE CARDS

We received 31 Pledges from the congregation pledging \$71,465.00 to support and strengthen the mission and ministries of the church and to make a positive difference in the lives of others.



Annual Conference 2017

The 163nd session of the Minnesota Annual Conference will take place June 20-22, 2017, at the **River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud**. McKenzie Fossell, Michael Geer, Pam Omersa and Holly Lundgren will be attending this year's Annual Conference.

Guest speaker, Rev. Junius B. Dotson: Dotson—former pastor of a 3,500-member multi-campus church in Wichita, Kansas—became general secretary of Discipleship Ministries in April 2016. "We must shift the conversation from fixing churches to reaching people for Christ, not to save or preserve the institution, but because we are committed to living out of the biblical mandate that Jesus gave us, called the Great

Commission,” Dotson said when being installed as general secretary. In Minnesota, he’ll deliver talks about the “why” and “how” of evangelism and provide both inspiration and practical ideas for sharing our God stories.

LOVE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS – Diana Wallert will speak on Sunday, May 21st about this year’s Love Offering. For more information look on the conference website at www.minnesotauc.org/loveroffering

UNITED METHODIST UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE – SCHOOL OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES (60%)

Sierra Leone has one of the lowest life expectancies in the world, and one in every five children die before their fifth birthday. The vast majority of the country’s citizens don’t have access to health services, and there is an acute shortage of trained health professionals. This portion of the Love Offering will be used to expand United Methodist University of Sierra Leone by creating a School of Applied Health Sciences in the city of Bo. Funds may be used for rehabilitating an existing classroom building, hiring staff, preparing a curriculum, and purchasing materials. The school will be adjacent to United Methodist-affiliated Mercy Hospital, where students will receive practical, hands-on training. Midwives, nurses, community health officers, and technicians who graduate from this new institution will significantly improve the accessibility and quality of health care

EMMA NORTON SERVICES (TWIN CITIES BASED NON-PROFIT) (30%)

Emma Norton Services helps women, children, and families achieve victory over homelessness, mental illness, and chemical dependency. The Twin Cities-based nonprofit provides safe, affordable housing through Emma Norton Residence, which supports 50 women in transition at any given time, and Emma’s Place, which houses 13 families on a permanent basis. In addition to housing, Emma Norton Services provides case management, peer and individual support programs, youth programs, life skills and out-of-poverty training, mental health support, and advocacy for women with disabilities. Through Emma Norton Services, families receive resources and coaching to equip them on their path.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION SCHOLARSHIPS (10%)

Mission trips transform the lives of participants by giving them an opportunity to grow in faith and gain a new perspective of the world. Through the United Methodist Church’s Volunteers in Mission program, teams spend up to two weeks working on mission projects domestically or abroad. Most teams from Minnesota are engaged in hands-on projects that build infrastructure to ensure that nutritional, medical, and educational programs in developing countries become sustainable and locally run. Team members pay their own way, and the Love Offering helps offset the cost for first-time participants.

Camp Minnesota

Welcome to Camp Minnesota, a year-round ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our mission is to provide quality camp, retreat, and conference experiences in which Christ is offered to as many as possible to raise up faithful disciples so that the world is transformed.

Our goal at Camp Minnesota is to help all campers and guests feel safe, secure and loved, and to share and learn about Christ and creation. Whether you are looking for a great kid’s camp, sleepaway camp, youth camp, adult retreat, outdoor adventure or a cabin to rent for a getaway we look forward to serving you.

Camp Minnesota – building connections with Christ, Community and Creation; Find more information on the website: www.campminnesota.org or pick up a camp catalog in the kiosk in the Narthex.

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

	March	Year-to-Date	
		2017	2016
Cash balance @ Begin of Month	2,499.80	1,760.96	5,939.53
Cash Receipts			
Congregation Offering	12,192.00	36,665.00	27,241.46
Building Usage	165.00	265.00	346.00
Capital Project Funds	3,379.00	3,479.00	-
Church Groups	-	100.00	39.00
Benevolent Giving Income	1,169.62	2,001.24	1,428.44
Fundraiser Income	552.00	652.00	-
Memorial Funds	220.00	40,557.00	-
New Ministry Funds	-	6,500.00	10,000.00
	17,677.62	90,219.24	39,054.90
Cash Disbursements			
Apportionments/Other Askings	-	3,518.84	1,300.00
Capital Project Expenditures	17,265.98	17,511.98	4,940.00
Church Operations	6,900.67	13,821.92	7,282.12
Church Programs	248.74	3,818.54	1,613.92
Benevolent Giving Expenses	1,025.12	1,405.12	372.00
Administrative Expenses	305.25	1,060.83	828.45
Staff Expenses	11,353.52	34,913.52	19,096.25
	37,099.28	76,050.75	35,432.74
Other (Receivables)/Payables			
Payroll Withholdings	139.04	163.11	(547.63)
Funds transferred from (to) savings			
Endowment Advances	(31,230.00)	(21,230.00)	-
Money Market Savings	7,189.38	7,189.38	-
Parsonage Mntnc Savings	(312.50)	(937.50)	(625.00)
New Ministries Savings	37,551.23	(4,699.15)	(10,000.00)
Memorials Savings	3,060.00	3,060.00	3,115.00
	16,258.11	(16,617.27)	(7,510.00)
Cash Balance at End of Month	(524.71)	(524.71)	1,504.06
Cash Accounts	0.00		
General Checking		(524.71)	2,585.17
Money Market Savings		9,886.57	15,621.02
Parsonage Maintenance Fund		8,000.48	5,601.19
Memorial Checking		280.17	280.17
Memorial Savings		16,498.92	17,364.62
New Ministries Savings		20,611.05	20,072.54
UMFCFCC Savings		10.00	10.00
Total Cash		54,762.48	61,534.71
Endowment Accounts			
Hadden Endowment		463,528.56	438,760.25
Housing Endowment		109,573.96	113,722.25
MN UM Foundation Endowment		183,999.50	115,080.44
MN UM Foundation Endowment - Appel		117,332.89	-
Change in Market Value		20,398.50	591.04
Total Endowments		894,833.41	668,153.98