



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

December 2019

Church Office

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Phone: 218-741-7739
www.peaceumc.us
E-Mail: pastor@peaceumc.us
office@peaceumc.us

Worship Schedule

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

Note: Communion is the
1st Sunday of the month

Our Staff

Pastor	Rev. Mickey Olson
Youth Coordinator	McKenzie Fossell
PORCH Director	Rachel Bodas
Administrative Assistant	Joan Schriber
Music Director	Jeanene Hagberg
Choir Accompanist	Char Cremers
Nursery Attendant	
Custodian	Jerry Anderson

Thought for the month:

**Christmas is not about opening
presents, but opening our hearts.**



**From the
Pastor**

Advent means to prepare and the Christmas Holiday requires much preparation. I spend most of my preparation in the church (with the help of many elves) and not much preparation at home. Until last year I didn't have company on Christmas and so decorated or prepared minimally. We draw names so I don't have much shopping to do. For many of my friends I donate to the Heifer project and give a life-saving and sustainable gift instead of buying things for people who have all they need and want already. Lest I sound proud of myself, like a Pharisee, that is not my intention. I enjoy the holiday more without all the prep work and can focus on the people I am with instead. I remember years when the boys were growing up and we had the entire family over and bought gifts for everyone. As a working mom, I often felt stressed trying to accomplish it all and to be the best hostess and gift giver. There were many Christmases when I dissolved into exhausted tears and was crabby with my husband and children because they didn't help. Jesus tells us to not worry, to not focus on that which does not last, to enjoy the life God has given us. So, what can you release this Christmas that will give you more time to spend with God? What impossible standards can you let go of? How can you help prepare so that the burden doesn't fall on one person alone? I hope as you prepare that you find the time to ponder preparation for this baby Jesus. This amazing love of God with us. The peace that can surround us in this season.

Merry Christmas,
~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.

Pastoral Calls: 218-343-6849
218-744-1515

E-mail: office@peaceumc.us

BAPTISMS

We welcome Landon James Devoy, who was baptized on Sunday, October 27, 2019 and Silje Elaine Branville who was baptized on Sunday, November 17, 2019. Blessed be To God, now and forever!

DISCIPLESHIP

“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

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Did you know we have Greeters each Sunday greeting and welcoming everyone as they arrive for Worship? Did you also know you are a Greeter as well? We want to be a church that is genuinely interested in people and has the desire to help them know and love Jesus Christ. We are encouraging everyone to build relationships and friendships. Try the following practices to help all feel welcomed!

CIRCLE OF 10

Greet and engage in conversation with everyone who comes within 10 feet of you. Make a special effort to greet our guests and the people you don't know.

RULE OF 3

It only takes three minutes for people to exit the church. The loneliest time for a guest is after the service when everyone turns to talk with their friends. Seek out our guests; Introduce them to Pastor Mickey and other congregation members; Invite them to join you for Coffee 'an; Thank them for being with us on Sunday morning.

WORSHIP SERVICE – Edgewood Vista

December 11th– (2nd Wednesday of the month) A worship service led by Pastor Mickey is held at Edgewood Vista at 10:30 am. The congregation is invited to worship and visit with the residents.

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM

Several church members took the UMCOR-ERT training a while ago and had our first ERT (Early Response Team) call on Monday November 4, 2019. Mark Knutson, Connie Rabideaux, and Terry Hilar were able to clean-up brush at three residences in Duluth. It took most of the day with several trailer fulls to the waste recycle. We had a great day just being able to help others out. We even got homemade cookies from one homeowner. We look forward to our next assignment.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY-VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers needed Wednesday, December 4th and Thursday, December 5th for a house in West Eveleth. Also Wednesday, January 8th and Thursday, January 9th

Sign up sheet in library, contact Connie Rabideaux with questions:
218-735-8800.

MINISTRY-METHODIST MOONLIGHTERS

METHODIST MOONLIGHTERS

The Moonlighters serve dinner at the Salvation Army from 3:30 pm– 5:30pm December 11th (2nd Wednesday of the month):

The Moonlighters will be organizing the Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army on Thursday, December 12, at **Super One North** from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. We will be indoors and have chairs to sit on if needed. Sign up in the library or let Pat Sklors 744-1193 or Ellen Hedlund 744-2358 know. We can have 1 to 3 people ringing bells at a time for half to two hour increments. This is a wonderful service our church can do for our community. Come join us.

Methodist Moonlighters was originally started many years ago as a circle for the women of the church who were unable to attend a daytime circle. We look forward to our meetings as a time of fellowship with our church friends. We serve at the Salvation Army for their suppers and ring bells for donations at Christmas time. We also help where needed at the church. We also sponsor the Spring Banquet, which we've enjoyed doing for many years.

OFFICE NOTES

Please remember to put your name on your offerings to credit your pledges correctly.

Please remember to let office know of address or phone number updates.

Upon receiving emails, my practice will be to respond it was received.

Please note the January Messenger will be mailed out on January 3, 2020 with articles due **before** December 30, 2019. For your information: Charge Conference now January 12, 2020.

Church Closing-On the event a church event is cancelled due to inclement weather, please check

Local TV-WDIO News 10/13

Radio Station WEVE

Facebook, website

Please use your own judgement when it comes to traveling in winter weather.

There are many spokes in a wheel. As a newcomer to your church every one of you has a niche (spoke) that completes the wheel, it takes all of you. Thank you all for your kindnesses; I am wishing all of you a Blessed, safe Christmas and New Year.

Joan (pronounced JoAnne) Schriber

Administrative Assistant

PORCH

December Menus-Milk, coffee, or water

December 4, 2019-Potato bar and fixins, jello salad, and brownies

December 11, 2019-Sloppy joes, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, and assorted deserts

December 18, 2019-Burgers with or without cheese, 7-layer salad, chips and dip, and ice cream

PORCH ACTIVITIES

Dec. 4th Discussion on a Stress Free Holiday Season

Come join us as we share ideas on how to make this a most peaceful holiday season. It's a great time to breathe and enjoy!

Dec. 11th Discussion Mindful Giving

Our culture has made Christmas all about us. We think only of what we plan to buy others and what we hope to get. Maybe the question we should be asking is "What does Jesus want for his birthday?" Let's talk about it.

Dec. 18th We are going to have a Carol Sing! Come join us as we listen to holiday music and stories. Then we will be choosing our favorite carols out of the hymnal. Lois Lackner will be providing the accompaniment. It will be a wonderful time! Come join the fun!

Dec. 25th No PORCH see you at PORCH next year!

Jan. 1st No PORCH -PORCH will return on January 8th

POTICAS

Signup sheets in library for bakers (December 2 and 3@ 10:00 am), ordering, and ingredient donations.

8"-\$12.00

13"-\$20.00

SERENITY CIRCLE

Serenity Circle will be meeting four times yearly from now on. Our months will be in September, December, April and June. The decision to cut back on meetings was voted on by members at our October 10, 2019 meeting. We will no longer hold our annual Christmas Cookie sale voted on by members at our October 10, 2019 meeting also. Callers will continue to notify members of our meeting dates, time and location. Our next meeting will be held on December 12, 2019, 11:30 AM at Park Place. This is our Christmas potluck gathering.

Thank you.

Val Wier, Secretary

STEWARDSHIP

A special thank you to all of you who pledged their support of this church this year. We are doing great work here and your trust in God and your grateful response will help us to continue to seek new ways to spread the Gospel message. Pastor Mickey

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Greetings from the UMC Sunday School staff. Along with learning our Bible lessons each Sunday, the children have been getting ready for their Christmas program. The program will be held on December 15 during church service. The children will share Christmas songs and the history behind some of these songs. Parents, please help your children attend each Sunday so they are well practiced for the big day.

We are also participating in a class offering each Sunday. This is truly an example of children helping children. Our Sunday School classes will donate the money they collect each Sunday to UMCORE school backpack kits. Parents, please send any amount that you'd like to help our children collect and donate to this worthy cause.

The Sunday School teachers and children would like to wish everyone a safe, fun, and Christ-filled holiday season. Please remember that there is no Sunday School on December 29.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat 2019 was a successful event. There were 11 cars in the parking lot handing out treats, including one car from Gethsemane Lutheran and two from Hope Community Presbyterian. Inside, Chris Johnson as Madame Pashmina had a table set up with treats, including non-candy treats for those with food restrictions. The fellowship hall had a steady stream of people happy to come in and enjoy a hot dog, chips, hot chocolate, or coffee and there was a fire pit in the parking lot for people to enjoy.

Thank you to all who generously donated candy for the event. We also had a large donation of candy from the Covenant Church. When Connie Rabideaux delivered quilts to area residences, she also took some bags of candy which they were happy to receive.

We are already looking forward to Halloween 2020 and hopefully a warmer day.

WORSHIP

For anyone wishing to bring poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service, there will be a sign-up sheet in the library. Please bring them to the church library on Sunday, December 22nd as we will be setting them up after worship. You will be able to take them home after the Christmas Eve service.

YOUTH FOYER

We will again be having our Youth Foyer outreach this Christmas. Our church has always been so generous, and the Youth Foyer residents so appreciative. We have a tree in the lobby, where you can select a tag. There will also be a box for small gifts, such as gift cards, personal care items, etc., if you prefer. Gifts will need to be returned to church by Sunday, December 15. It's a great way to get all of us involved in sharing the Christmas spirit.

The Outreach Ministry committee is always looking for new members. Come check us out at our next meeting on December 9 at one pm in the library.