



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

May 2020

Church Office

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Phone: 218-741-7739
Web: www.peaceumc.us
Facebook: Peace United Methodist Church
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:

Psalm 18:2

The LORD is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer. My God is my rock— I take refuge in him!— he's my shield, my salvation's strength, my place of safety.



Well this has been one of the most interesting experiences of my life. In my ten years as a pastor I have had many interesting and challenging experiences but this tops them all. The whole thing is disconcerting. The worries about getting the virus and possibly dying from it. The worries about family and friends. The worries about the economy and about those most threatened by a loss of income. Worry about the church and its survival.

Then there is the strangeness of preaching in an empty sanctuary. The inability to visit those who are sick, hospitalized or dying. The prohibition on gathering and hugging people. No coffee-an in which to visit.

There is also the anxiety of going to the grocery store. Will they have what I need? Is everyone wearing a mask? Is the checkout sick? There are new rules to follow, barriers between you and staff, and just a general feeling of unease in this formerly comfortable place.

The worst is not knowing how serious is the risk? When will things get back to normal or will they ever? What changes will we have to adapt to long term?

The recent notice from the Bishop was that we will not have public worship at least until early June. Sadly, it probably won't mean that all of us can be in worship together. There are many dynamics to work out before we can all be together again.

The 23rd Psalm is in our lectionary for this first week of May and perhaps it speaks deeply to this situation. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with me. God is with us in this and in every aspect of our life. We can trust in that when all is in an uproar. God walks through it with us and no matter how long the valley, we will come to the end at some point. This is what keeps me going, keeps me hopeful, and fills me when I feel empty.

This will be lasting much longer than we planned or hoped. Many things will be different. As Easter people we know that God has the last word and that word is hope.

Wild Blessings,

~Pastor Mickey

PASTORAL CARE

Please Pastor Mickey if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization, surgery or emergency.

Pastoral Calls: 218-343-6849

E-mail: pastor@peaceumc.us

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 4-Jack Haugen

May 4-Betty Thayer

May4-Diane Wallert

May 5-Cassie Dahl

May 5-Pat Sklors

May 8-John Bratt

May 13-James Hopper

May 14-Barry Johnson

May 15-Cindy Harrison

May 15-Bill Oliver

May 17-Janet Cook

May 18-Beverly Mickelson

May 23-Val Wier

May 25-Ann Voss

May 30-Joe Kralich

OFFICE NOTES

BOOKS: With the local libraries closings remember the “Free Little Library” outside the church.

CAMP MINNESOTA-2020: The office and table in narthex have brochures for this or check out their website www.campminnesota.org

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you would like to change from hard copy mailings of “The Messenger” to email contact the office. I try to maintain a few hard copies on narthex table. Also, if you have dropped your land line phone please contact the office with an updated phone number.

ERRAND ASSISTANCE: Three people have volunteered to assist with picking up groceries for the home bound. Contact Pastor Mickey should you need this service.

UPDATES: With the rapidly changing circumstances the” Peaceumc.us” web site, Peace United Methodist Facebook page, and the outdoor sign will have the most up to date information.

UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS STATUS

Thank you all for your faithful stewardship to the church. I am in awe at your generosity and trust in God through your giving to the church.

The Bishop has asked us to remain closed for church worship and activities until the first week of June. I know this is difficult for everyone as we honor the recommendations so that all may be healthy and safe. When we do return it may be very different in how we worship together. The Ad-council will be meeting to help develop plans for the future. Please pray for your church, your pastor and your leaders as we face these very difficult challenges.

Pastor Mickey and Joan will be in the office on Friday mornings. You may call us then. Pastor Mickey will be taping worship from 11-12 on Fridays so will be unable to take phone calls at that time. Please do not leave messages on the church phone as we are not in the office to hear them. You may call Pastor Mickey’s cell 218-343-6849 . Please leave a message if I don’t answer and I will return your call.. I am also checking emails daily at pastor@peaceumc.us. Thanks.

I know many of you have been watching worship on television or through the website. If you do not have that ability please let us know.

Pastor Mickey

JUST A REMINDER

FROM FINANCE- In these trying and challenging times, please do not forget your financial commitment to the church. Checks can be mailed to the church.