



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

## September 2020

### Church Office

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
**Phone:** 218-741-7739 or 218-741-7738  
**Web:** [www.peaceumc.us](http://www.peaceumc.us)  
**Facebook:** Peace United Methodist Church  
**E-Mail:** [pastor@peaceumc.us](mailto:pastor@peaceumc.us)  
[office@peaceumc.us](mailto:office@peaceumc.us)

### Worship Schedule

**10:00 AM** Peace UMC  
303 South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Virginia, MN 55792

**Note:** Communion is the  
1<sup>st</sup> 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:

1 Chronicles 16:10

Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts of  
all those seeking the LORD rejoice.



## From the Pastor

Next weekend is Labor Day weekend which is the unofficial ending to summer and while we will have many nice fall days, we know that the temperature will cool, going barefoot, swimming, and going without jackets will end. I am having a difficult time wearing shoes again. I love going barefoot. I realize that many of the things I love doing, I have had to do

without this year. It has been a challenging time to say the least.

I was reminded recently that in the face of fear and stress we have three responses; fight, flight or freeze. This adrenalin response is only sustainable for a very short time. We have been living this for months. It wears us down, makes us cranky, and unable to handle smaller everyday stresses. Add to this the civil unrest, a contentious election, and lack of the usual human connections we are missing and we feel like the ground beneath us is unstable and we don't know how to cope. For these reasons I am glad that we will be resuming worship this month. It will be helpful for our mental and emotional well-being to be together, even if it is not the same as we like it.

I hope you will come and worship but understand if you cannot. I will be back in my regular schedule of office presence and invite you to come and talk. We can both mask and I have moved chairs in my office to give us space. It will be nice to see you again.

I am so grateful for your continued commitment to the financial wellbeing of the church and for the notes and calls of support. This church is strong and vibrant and with our reliance on God we will continue to survive, thrive, and serve the world in Jesus name.

Though it makes me sad to see summer end, I will welcome the fall and the beauty of creation in this season. I will put my shoes on, walk forward everyday, adapt, and seek the many ways God is at work in and through this church and the faithful members of this congregation. We have much to be thankful for.

Wild Blessings,

~Pastor Mickey

### PASTORAL CARE

Please call 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](mailto:pastor@peaceumc.us)

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 4-Byrl Norlander	September 5- Kevin Rice	September 6- Holly Bachschneider
September 6- Paul Hultman	September 7- Carter Hagen	September 10-Tristan Lackner
September 11- Paul Bachschneider	September 14- Diane Hansen	September 15-Miranda Beise
September 18 -Marshall Bergerson	September 19- Maxine Morris	September 20-Gary Norton
September 21-Gary Picek	September 23-Mary Jo Bradach	September 25-Dale Ekmark
September 25-Ellie Teasck	September 26-Sandy Bennett	September 26-Anneka Lundgren
September 28-Mark Smith	September 29-Roberta Johnson	September 29-Carrie Woods
September 30-Laurel Roen		

### FROM THE OFFICE

**LABOR DAY:** Office will be closed Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day.

**TELEPHONES:** Thank you all for your patience with the telephone issues recently, the office phones are working properly again.

**RADA CUTLERY SALE:** Check out radakitchenstore.com and email Chris Johnson [diff9108@yahoo.com](mailto:diff9108@yahoo.com) with any orders before September 30<sup>th</sup>. There are many new items for yourself or gifts. Ordered items will be picked up and paid with check at the church office when they come in. All proceeds will be donated to the Salvation Army.

## IN-CHURCH WORSHIP

Well dear ones, we will be starting in person worship the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. I am excited to be back together. In researching the Covid numbers for our area, they have been very low and we will follow all guidelines for meeting together. Here are the details:

- We will have worship on Friday morning at 11:00. We will be taping this worship and it will follow the format we have been using for television broadcast and website access. This allows us to edit and post so that the weekly worship is on Sunday morning for those who cannot come to in person worship.
- We will also have Sunday morning worship at 10:00.
- Please try to divide between the two as we will only allow 50 at a time.
- The ushers will help you socially distance and some pews may be taped off. You may sit with your family without distancing.
- We understand if you choose to not come for in person worship.
- Everyone will wear a mask. This is not negotiable. Please bring your own. We will have a limited number of masks available should you forget.
- There will be no singing or responses. (you may hum or move your body to the music)
- The worship will be shorter than pre -Covid. The longer people gather in a space the more aerosols are spread.
- There will be no coffee time and please exit the building after the worship. If you wish to visit please do so outside and socially distance.
- If at all possible try not to use the restrooms. If you must, (sometimes you just have to) please follow handwashing guidelines and disinfect surfaces.
- If you are sick, with any symptoms even if not Covid, please stay home. If you are exposed to Covid, please self- quarantine. Please let us know if you test positive and have been in the building at any time.
- Should the virus numbers increase dramatically in our area we will cancel in person worship and shut down the building.
- We will continue to keep the church doors locked during office hours but you may come in and hold meetings with the same guidelines regarding masks and distancing.
- It is difficult to cover every eventuality and this list may change.
- When the virus abates the leadership of the church will reassess and we will slowly reopen completely.

## WORSHIP MEETING

The Worship Committee will meet on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:30 p.m.  
Lois

## LOVE OFFERING

Enclosed with your Messenger is an envelope for **Love Offering** which is collected each year within Minnesota United Methodist churches. This year's funds will go to four projects: Simpson Housing Services, Emma Norton Services, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, and the Committee on Native American Ministry Diaper Drive.

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

A special thank you to those who have donated both with their gifts and their time to help with feeding those in need this summer. In an earlier newsletter, we suggested you could send monetary gifts that would be used for either the United Way Buddy Backpack program or for donations to Bill's House, our area homeless shelter. People with food needs will often stop at Bill's House, and our donations will help them as they try to meet their needs. The United Way program also works to meet community hunger through a program called Meet Up & Chow Down, an offshoot of the Buddy Backpack program. Barb Porter, Chris and Craig Johnson, Connie Rabideaux, Terry Hilar, Carol Thomas, and Ann Voss all volunteered to distribute lunches each Wednesday at Olcott Park. Lunches were served at a number of area locations every Monday through Thursday all summer long. What a wonderful community outreach! As school restarts, the Backpack program will take over. Through these volunteers and an amazing \$2,400.00 donated by a number of parishioners, we have been able to provide the gift of food, love, and caring to our community. God is working through us. Let us continue to find ways to help during the many difficulties of this pandemic and resulting job losses.

On a different subject, we are requesting you discontinue bringing items for our white elephant sale until we are able to determine if and when we will be able to have a sale. Our life will need to return to some sort of normalcy before we can make any plans, and as we all see, there is no clear idea of when that will be. Follow the safety guidelines and stay well. We will update you as we are able to make plans.

## BIBLE STUDY

In these troubling times there are many who say this is the apocalypse or the end times. Some mine the book of Revelation for prophecy to support their viewpoint. Join me for a Bible Study on the book of Revelation to understand what it means and how to interpret Biblical prophecy. We will begin on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Please bring your Bible. There may be different versions so we will discuss the differences and use the Common English Bible for most of our work. There are copies for you to take in the library. Begin reading Revelation before we start. We will meet where we can socially distance the best and please wear a mask. Looking forward to our learning and discussion. If there are enough requests for an evening study I will consider a Thursday evening study. Please e-mail or call the office with your request. Pastor Mickey

## CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS OCTOBER 4TH

Your Sunday School teachers look forward to seeing you when Sunday School begins on OCTOBER 4th (tentatively). Get ready for a special year ahead with interesting Bible stories and fun activities. Save the date, and plan to join us on the first Sunday in October. Hope to see all of our students there!