



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

February 2021

Church Office

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Phone: 218-741-7739 or 218-741-7738

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: 1st Sunday of each month is
Communion Sunday

Our Staff

Pastor
Youth Coordinator
PORCH Director
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Choir Accompanist
Custodians

Rev. Mickey Olson
McKenzie Fossell
Rachel Bodas
Joan Schriber
Jeanene Hagberg
Char Cremers
Jerry Anderson

Thought for the month: James 1:2-3

²My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy³ After all, you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let this endurance complete its work so that you may be fully mature, complete, and lacking in nothing. ...



Patience. What an apt word for this time of waiting. Be patient. I am impatiently awaiting my coronavirus vaccine and it is taking o-so-long. The website and phone systems were overwhelmed as so many people were trying to be the first in line for the vaccine. I am choosing to wait and be patient. Patience is one of the gifts of the Spirit. As Christians I think we should take a patient attitude. “Me first” is not how Christians behave. Eventually we will all get the vaccine. I know we all want this to be over, I know we anxiously await the ability to go to church, to go to a restaurant, to not be nervous in the grocery store, to be with friends and family face to face. I want those things too. It has been especially difficult this winter. I confess to having days where it was hard to be joyful. We can wait a few more weeks. We can be patient. Crashing the website or tying up the phones is not helpful for anyone. One of the important things we learned in kindergarten was to wait your turn.

The gifts of the Spirit are: Love, joy peace, patience , kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Perhaps our Lenten discipline this year(Yes Lent starts already on the 17th) Is to reflect on the gifts of the Spirit and to try to live them each day. Lent is five weeks and there are nine gifts. Perhaps we can work on one each week and then keep going after Easter. Nine weeks of living the gifts the Spirit offers to us. Perhaps they will sustain us through the waning days of the pandemic and help us to wait for in person worship.

I hope to have the sanctuary open to in person worship by March. I was praying we could be open by Ash Wednesday but decided to wait until we were sure the numbers were low after the lowering of restrictions and the new more contagious variant of the virus. Again, the need to be patient. I miss you all so terribly and will try to be patient until we meet again.

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.

Pastoral Calls: 218-343-6849

E-mail: pastor@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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1– Preston Gunderson	2 – Sierra Murray	3 – Jim Kellner
3 – Mary Jo Smith	6 – Judy Venaas	7-Susan Carle
10 – Drew Roen	13-Shannon Gunderson	13-Jane Ouke
13-Mike Voss	15-Mary Bratt	15-John Malovrh
18-James Murray	19-Ellen Hedlund	19-Celia Roen
21-Marilyn Nelson	25-Chris Johnson	

If your or a family member's birthday is not listed or is incorrect, Please let the Office know
(219-741-7739)

LENT

This Lent I thought we would do a sermon series on the fruits of the Spirit. Each week I will preach on the aspect for the week. I invite you to journal with the word each week. Answer these four questions as you contemplate the word. I will use patience as an example. Start your day with prayer and include the word of the week in your prayer.

1. How have I been patient this week?
2. When was I not patient?
3. What was going on that I found it hard to be patient?
4. Did my morning prayer help me to be patient?
5. Where did I see God in the situations I found myself in this week?

Sermon series for Lent - Fruits of the Spirit

February 7 th	Patience
14 th	Love
21 st	Kindness
28 th	Gentleness
March 7 th	Self-control
14 th	Goodness
21 st	Faithfulness
28 th	Peace
April 4 th	Joy

February 17th Ash Wednesday Services- the Minnesota Conference will be posting an Ash Wednesday service. Watch Facebook and Peace United Methodist web site home page for a link.

OUTREACH –MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MONTH

Giving in March is a truly wonderful opportunity, as all donations are matched. Items may be placed on the pew in Narthex by Thursday, March 26th.

Should you wish to make a monetary donation, you may write a check to Peace UMC with a notation in your comment line that it is for the Quad City Food shelf, or you may put cash in an envelope addressed as Food Shelf. You may put these in with the Sunday offerings.

Thank you for helping feed our community friends and neighbors in need.

OFFICE NOTES

The office will be open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in February from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. We are going to try leaving the door unlocked, but will have to resume locking if conditions warrant.

I was fortunate to attend our youngest son's retirement ceremony from the Marine Corps the first week of January. Kyle retired with twenty years of service. I was concerned traveling but the Lord looked upon us and we returned safely and healthy. Joan

RELIEF FUND

I have been worried for people whose financial health has been impacted by Covid. Most of us will be receiving relief money from the government and many of us don't need it. I would like to start a relief fund through our church and we can find ways to help. Perhaps it will be a utility payment, a food or gas card, or help with rent or mortgage payments. If you feel called to help those in our community who are struggling, indicate **relief** on your check. We can be a light of hope and care this winter.

Pastor Mickey

Here is an inspirational poem kept on my refrigerator, I don't know the author. Joan

ALWAYS A WAY

There's always a way, but we have to try, though life is a gift to you and I, we can't expect to merely sit, with never an effort to merit it.

There's always a way, though the going's tough, and only our best is good enough, we haven't the time to count each loss, If the bridge is out we swim across.

There's always a way, life's not in vain, though joy may be the twin of pain, whichever way we chance to go, the master walked it first, you know.

He simply wouldn't put us here, and then withdraw His tender care, whatever His dear Love may ask, He makes us equal to the task.

For it is true He walks beside us through each dawn and eventide, though bones may bend and sight grow dim, no thing's impossible for Him, and so whenever walls may rise, to block the sunlight from our eyes, that is the time for us to say, "Dear Lord, please help me find the way."