



# The Cross & Flame

Volume 28 Issue 5

May 2020

May 2020 Newsletter

There is an advertisement on WCCO TV that shows many of the anchors and reporters making comments or asking questions related to the current COVID-19 experience we find ourselves in. One of the reporters asks a question that has stayed with me. I don't remember the reporter's name, but I remember the question. In a gentle kind voice, that somehow touches me, the reporter looks at me (the camera) and asks, "how are you?"

How are you my friends? Different days I have different answers to this question. The first week of the quarantine I cried almost all week. Identifying the reason for the crying was a challenge because just about anything, or nothing, would set me off. Eventually I worked my way through it by setting a limit on media consumption, including social media, local and national news. I expect I will go through a variety of emotions as this continues and I need to be prepared.

A great piece of scripture to go to as you journey through this time of pandemic is Psalm 46: 1-3.

God is our refuge and strength,  
a help always near in times of great trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> That's why we won't be afraid when the world  
falls apart,  
when the mountains crumble into the center of  
the sea,  
<sup>3</sup> when its waters roar and rage,  
when the mountains shake because of its  
surging waves.

We can take comfort in knowing that God is our refuge and strength and is always with us.

I recently saw a Facebook post that list what they call Daily Quarantine Questions.

What am I  
**grateful** for  
today?

Who am I  
**checking in**  
on or  
**connecting**  
with today?

What expectations  
of "normal:  
and I **letting**  
go of today?

How am I **getting outside** today?

How am I **moving my body** today?

What **beauty** and I either creating, cultivating or  
inviting into my life today?



I encourage you to daily meditate on Psalm 46 and try to focus on each of the six suggestions noted above. Let me know how this goes for you and what difference this makes in your life as you journey through this time.

Do know I am praying for you and please pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Deb

## **Worship together**

Let's worship together Sunday mornings at 10:30.  
If the time is not convenient for you the post remains active indefinitely.

Mora's page:

<https://www.facebook.com/moraunitedmethodistchurch>

Ogilvie's page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ogilvieunitedmethodistchurch/>

## **Newsletter Changes for the month of May**

Because of uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, there is no monthly calendar for May. When are we going to be able to worship together again? "As I have said before, I believe those of us in the faith community should be the first responders when it comes to the spiritual, physical, and mental health of all of God's people," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough. "Therefore, **I am asking every Minnesota congregation to continue to suspend in-person worship through May 30 and to spend that time carefully and prayerfully developing a plan for how to return to in-person worship in a gradual manner** while continuing to strictly adhere to federal and state recommendations."

## **Grateful for your generosity**

We are so thankful for the continued generosity of our churches! Although giving in March was down significantly, April is on par to meet the budgeted expenses. Mora and Ogilvie are so fortunate to have such generous congregations. Remember, you can enroll in electronic transfer of funds or you can mail in your donation. Again, we are humbled by your continued giving during these difficult times.

## **Multiple events at Mora and Ogilvie UMC churches cancelled**

This pandemic is evolving and affects all aspects of church life. Until further notice, our churches are hosting NO gatherings. As the situation changes you will be notified through email, via phone call to those without email or US Postal Service. If you do not receive notices by email and would like to, please notify the church office.

## **Mask drive**

Welia clinic and hospital is doing a mask drive. If people would be willing to sew masks and bring them to the Pine City or Mora site, they can be dropped off in the bins labeled "Mask Drive" inside the first doors, before you get completely into either building. There are two templates for sewing these masks on WELIA's website. [www.welia.org](http://www.welia.org)  
The masks will be used by people coming to the clinic/hosp. and be given out to patients as they go home to use while out in the community.

## **Bible Puzzle**

Can you find 29 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?

I once remarked about hidden Bible books. It was a lulu: kept people looking so hard for facts. Some made a quick exodus, others were in a jam, especially on some books. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers- it is a most exciting test! Can a humdinger job like this be solved? You don't have to be a bibliophile, monk, or rabbi, or be from Israel or Judea to know these. Yes, there will be a need for divine revelation as some are easy but others require judges for help. Those are good ways but I will admit it usually takes a pro- verbs and nouns hide the words, and there is loud lamentations when one is found. Don't feel like an old hag. Gain confidence however you can. One lady says she brews a cup of tea and eats a frosted long john to relax or does it after she naps. Alms-giving, prayer, or fasting won't help them. At the worst you may feel like Joe Loser but don't try to be a hero- man's goals are best if they just try to compete. Relax! Enjoy these brain testing chronicles!

Helpful Hints: Some words stand alone, but others are within a longer word. Some are parts of two (or more!) words, not necessarily in the same sentence. There are books from both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. When you find all 29 books, contact the church and we will recognize the best puzzle solvers in the next newsletter!

## **Thank You Mora UMC**

Thank you Mora UMC for your donation of \$520.76 and 166 lbs. of food to the Mora Food Pantry Jan. - March 2020. And the additional \$50.

## **Remembering our friends**

**Dorothy Carroll, Lorraine Kobberdahl  
Florence Wahl**  
Eastwood Senior Living  
170 Valhalla Circle  
Mora, MN 55051

**Avis Pixley**  
Hallett Cottages  
350 4th Street  
Crosby, MN 56441

## Children and Youth Happenings



### Cabin Fever

Is anyone out there getting cabin fever yet? While we are still free to get outside or run essential errands and do essential work, things may feel a little confining. As I'm sure you have heard time and again, we are in a time of waiting and uncertainty. I know I get tired of hearing and talking about it.

And, as you may well know, we are not the first people to experience such a time as this.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, a group of men and women were fearfully huddled together in home in Jerusalem. These were the first Christians, the disciples and Jesus' closest followers. Their story is recounted in Luke 24:36-49. They were fearful for their very lives. When Jesus shows up in this passage, they are all the more scared. It took much convincing for them to accept that He is alive.

In that hour, Jesus did not offer immediate relief. Instead, He gave them hope. He reminded them of their identity. They were witnesses to the good news. They watched it unfold before their very eyes. They didn't know what it all meant, until Jesus explained it to them.

You may find yourself in a similar place. Maybe you are fearful of the pandemic, or the economy, or a personal crisis that evades the headlines. Like the disciples, you may be shocked when Jesus shows up. Take time to look for Him in this waiting, and like the disciples, rejoice in His good news.

Their waiting ended several weeks later, on the day of Pentecost. I encourage you to read about it in Acts. Our story does not end with Easter but grows from there and spreads around the world. Who knows when things will settle down here, but do not forget the joy of Christ that is in you.

Ben Ziegler  
Ben.moraumc@gmail.com

## Mora UMC Missions

No May Food Shelf Sunday potluck. Hoping to resume in June!

*Vi Tatro, Missions Chair*

### Thank You Mora UMC

Enclosed is \$8 for February 2020 and \$6 for March 2020 for volunteer hours of Lori Engblom. One More Time Retail Store approved this donation.

### Thank You

Thank you Mora UMC for your gift March 24, 2020 of \$1121.58 to UMCOR, Global Ministries.

### March Finance Report

Assets including designated funds in bank account \$30,803.69 (this total includes -\$6,319 in our general fund which compares to -\$3,750 in February). No liabilities as our March apportionments were paid in full. Giving was down 40% from budget this last month and year to date is down 13% of budget compared to even for February. Expenses were .06% over budget and year to date are 11% over budget compared to 13% over budget for February. Detailed accounts balance report is available by request in the Church Office.

Total assets in the Permanent Endowment Fund are \$105,717. This fund was established to provide opportunities to make charitable gifts to MUMC that are a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial. It is not a part of the church's established programs which are funded through the annual operating budget of the church and the regular giving of our members. Endowment money is invested locally in CD's. Interest from these CDs are distributed annually as recommended by the Endowment committee and approved by Church Conference.

Efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 continue to change how we worship. We appreciate the gifts and Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) forms we have received and ask if you have not already returned your EFT form to consider doing so. The Finance committee and Administrative Council are exploring the Cares Act loan that along with your gifts will keep our ministry alive.

APPROVED MINUTES – March 12, 2020 Church Council meeting.

Valerie called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm. and Pastor opened with a prayer

Those in attendance were Pastor Deb, Phyllis, Al, Bob, Jan, Steve, Valerie and Janell.

Pastor's Time: Looking forward to leadership training in 2020. Ideas for a retreat location were discussed. We talked about teaching team building, maybe in the fall or the first of 2021. A mini half day retreat(s) or a longer overnight are being considered. Valerie and Pastor Deb will start brain storming ideas and an outline for the event. Phyllis is planning on attending Annual Conference in June.

February minutes were reviewed and with two minor corrections were approved.

Financial Secretary Report was approved Janell/Steve M/S/A.

Treasurer Reports was approved Jan/Steve M/S/A

Finance Committee: Bob Halverson completed the audit and everything looked good. Offering will be done differently during COVID-19, the offering plates will not be passed. They will be held by the doors while leaving the church, or some other suitable arrangement.

Trustees: The esthetics committee will be comprised of Jani S, Phyllis J, and Ginny N. The first thing they will look at is the Narthex, new blinds and the phone/ answering machine issue. The revised plan for an arm for the TV will be on a rolling cart in the lectern area. There will be a fire rated window, like the one in the office, will be installed in the youth group room. Other items on the list are carpet cleaning and pew pad cleaning.

SPPRC: Employee appreciation meal at the Zins home March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Christian Education: They meet after this meeting. We are planning on joining the community VBS this year. We are trying to get youth and younger children go to camp. Plans are being made to go to the mission trip, Wildfire, again this summer in July. A multigenerational BWCAW trip is being planned for

August. The Saturday programming will continue through the summer.

Ben: Presented by Pastor Deb – The Saturday programming has been going well. A new family came to the last event. 9-10 kiddos have been attending. The curriculum is great. The Youth Group meeting attendance ebbs and flows with extracurricular activities. Safe Sanctuary curriculum is now on line and Ben will be the go to person for this. He will help get everyone that needs to, to go through this information.

Worship: Worship still has no chair. They talked through changes in communion and passing the offering plate during COVID-19. The next meeting they will talk about Maundy Thursday which will be at the Mora church. Ben and Pastor Deb are participating in the Good Friday service at Grace Lutheran church. For Palm Sunday we will have a more casual service in the Fellowship Hall as we did last year. The WICS group will be arranging for the pies.

Mission: nothing new

Memorials: A CD player has been ordered. There are a few things that are coming that will be paid for out of that special account.

Technology: Valerie will contact Dave Smith and Rich Nordstrom who want to learn the sound booth and the clicker.

WICS: They meet next week and will continue to organize for pie bakers for Pies and Palms.

Men's Club: There were four and Jan at the last meeting. They ate, talked and had a great social time.

Additional items were discussed regarding COVID-19..disinfective cleaning of door knobs, table tops etc.

Jan/Janell M/S/C to adjourn at 7:25 pm.

Next meeting Thursday April 9, 2020

Respectfully submitted,  
Janell Anderson, Council Secretary

**Ogilvie UMC Birthdays/  
Anniversaries\***

**01 Bryan & Pat Fredrick**

- 21 Patricia Fredrick
- 21 Vern Kaufert
- 26 Stanley Visser
- 30 Robbie Krahmer

**Mora UMC Birthdays/  
Anniversaries\***

- 01 Dane Halverson
- 03 Kaden Halverson
- 03 Sharon Lidstrom
- 04 Nikcole Sundet
- 05 Allen & Judy Welton**
- 05 Brittaney Peterson
- 06 Joanne Gross
- 07 Ginger Madison
- 07 Jody Anderson
- 07 Tom Anderman
- 07 Bert & Karen Watson**
- 08 Matt & Dana Anderson**
- 11 Ruth Johnson
- 12 Patrick Gorham
- 13 Delores Akkerman
- 13 Steven Peterson
- 16 Marvin Trogstad
- 16 Daryl Gravning
- 17 Daryl & Trisha Gravning**
- 18 Frances Anderson
- 22 Marc & Marilee Jensen**
- 24 Alison Holland
- 24 Hailey Peterson
- 25 Gayle Bergloff
- 25 Emmalee Sundet
- 26 Jim Scharber
- 29 Lacey Jensen
- 29 Aric & Jesse Stegeman**

\* *Bold indicates anniversary*



Spring



N G V S L C T J E D F P Z O R L B  
 E T O I P H R A S B I J E D M V G  
 L Z R M T A O C N I A R G T Y Q N  
 I P E J S N Y K F W H S L A I F I  
 A Y B E G M D E P T E Q E W C K R  
 D S O K R E N T Y L W H J B U I P  
 M U P H T B I L D E N O C Z A F S  
 K N T C D A W D G P L D B G P L M  
 F S E I R Z U N O S A E S N U B L  
 W H Z N A P R S M Y T L F M I W S  
 P I F C L E A N I N G E B H K A V  
 T N U I B M V R Z O F R C A W H R  
 M E D P H C R A M B E K L N S T G  
 X L F J Y A S N G L S H O W E R S  
 H B R E A K O P L V C Z U F Y D K  
 C F T X M U B A S I L W D H G N E  
 W I H P E D L J R Y Q B S A O X R

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|-----------|------------|------------|
| • APRIL   | • BASEBALL | • BREAK    |
| • BREEZE  | • CLEANING | • CLOUDS   |
| • JACKET  | • KITE     | • MARCH    |
| • MAY     | • PICNIC   | • PUDDLES  |
| • RAINBOW | • RAINCOAT | • SEASON   |
| • SHOWERS | • SPRING   | • SUNSHINE |
| • THAW    | • UMBRELLA | • WINDY    |



**Tree Valley Academy**

# Mora United Methodist Church

*“Living for Christ, Sharing His Love”*

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**Pastor Debra Schaffran**

952-240-3836 ~ [debraschaffran@gmail.com](mailto:debraschaffran@gmail.com)

**Ben Ziegler, Child & Youth Director**

608-790-5566 ~ [ben.moraumc@gmail.com](mailto:ben.moraumc@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator** Colleen R. Hendershot

[moraogilvie.umcs@gmail.com](mailto:moraogilvie.umcs@gmail.com)

*Office Administrator Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wed. – Fri.*

9:30 a.m. Fellowship ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship

Wed. 6:30 p.m. Youth ZOOM call

**LIKE US on Facebook:**

[facebook.com/moraunitedmethodistchurch](https://facebook.com/moraunitedmethodistchurch)

**Visit us online:** [moraumc.org](http://moraumc.org)

# Ogilvie United Methodist Church

*“To know Jesus Christ as our risen Lord  
and serve Him throughout the world”*

201 West Bragg Street, PO Box 267, Ogilvie, MN 56358  
320-272-4255 ~ Handicapped Accessible

**Pastor Debra Schaffran**

952-240-3836 ~ [debraschaffran@gmail.com](mailto:debraschaffran@gmail.com)

9 a.m. Worship

10 a.m. Children’s Sunday Library & Fellowship

Tues. 9:30 a.m. Book Study

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**Visit us online:**

[moraumc.org/ogilvie-united-methodist-church](http://moraumc.org/ogilvie-united-methodist-church)



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