



The Cross & Flame

Volume 28 Issue 6

June 2020

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Welcome to Summer!

Technically summer hasn't arrived yet but in Minnesota we all know that Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial beginning. Even though we are still hearing guidance to stay close to home the Hwy. 65 and 23 traffic was steady Friday night and Saturday morning and I assume will be the same on Monday.

Do you wonder what summer will bring, I do? The pandemic will change some things, but we will still have warm weather, hot weather, humid weather, some rain, and the lazy hazy days of summer. There might be less camping, but we can still have a backyard fire. The pool is closed but the sprinkler works. I'll have less baseball to follow but I can get out the gloves and a ball and play catch with Rod. Yes there will be many changes, but I vow to look for the good in each change.

There has been much in the news this last week about churches. I think some people have forgotten that the church is us. As Jesus' disciples we are called to be the church. We are called to be the church in all that we think, do, and say.

We will eventually gather again in our buildings but only when it is deemed safe for all. In the meantime we will gather online and through mailings. Eventually we might gather in our cars, like a drive-in movie, or we might gather in the yard, socially distanced of course. Maybe we will gather around an evening campfire. Really the options are endless. No matter when or how we gather it will be in a safe manner.

Jesus said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20. Jesus didn't say we had to gather in a building, and

we will be creative, and we will eventually be together in person. For now we continue to follow the Governor and Bishop Ough's guidelines.

We are the church and let be known to all.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Deb



Bible puzzle

We didn't have a winner among the folks working on finding 29 hidden books of the Bible as published in the May newsletter.

Here are their answers: Acts, Amos, Chronicles, Esther, Exodus, Haggai, Hebrews, Hosea, James, Job, Joel, John, Jude, Judges, Kings, Lamentations, Luke, Mark, Matthew, Nahum, Numbers, Peter, Philemon, Proverbs, Psalms, Revelation, Romans, Ruth and Titus

POSTPONED UNTIL 2021: General Conference 2020: Minneapolis Convention Center. The new prospective dates are Aug. 31-Sept. 10, 2021. General Conference organizers still need to confirm the dates before they will be official.

POSTPONED: UMC North Central Jurisdiction Conference 2020: July 15-18, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

April Finance Report

Assets including designated funds in bank account \$34,155. (this total includes -\$3,545 in our general fund which compares to -\$6,319 in March). No liabilities as our April apportionments will be paid in full. Giving was up 2% from budget this last month and year to date is down 10% of budget compared to down 13% for March. Expenses were 2% under budget and year to date are 8% over budget compared to 11% over budget for March. 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. We obtained a \$12,500 loan from the Payroll Protection Program which is part of the Cares Act. The Finance committee plans to apply for loan forgiveness of this loan. By continuing online services and not laying off staff we are in good position. The goal would be for 100% forgiveness, but any amount would be a gift that will enhance our ministry.

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

Learning Opportunity

Opportunity to learn more about yourself and grow spiritually.

WHEN

Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

This event recurs Weekly on Thursday from Thursday, June 4, 2020 to Thursday, June 25, 2020

WHERE

Connection information will be sent with confirmation letter.

Are you wondering...

What are my strengths, values, and passions?

What brings meaning and purpose to my life?

How can I continue to grow spiritually?

How can I make a difference?

What are the ways I can connect to ministry across the Minnesota Annual Conference?

All laity are welcome and encouraged to participate in this virtual series to explore those questions and to find purpose and connection in ministry!

Series details:

Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, and 25

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Led by Jody Thone, director of leadership development, and lay leaders Tammy Gallagher, Eric Kreiner, and Derek Emery.

Cost:

\$0: Purchase your own StrengthsFinder 2.0 or Strengths Based Leadership book and receive a digital download of your workbook and materials.

\$10: Purchase your own StrengthsFinder 2.0 or Strengths Based Leadership book and have our workbook and class materials sent directly to you.

Graduates Honored

The June 7 online worship service will include honoring the 2020 graduates. Please join the service as we recognize the accomplishments of Luke Nordstrom and Joe Zins.

APPROVED MINUTES – Extra meeting CARES Act; April 11, 2020 Church Council/Finance meeting.

Valerie called the ZOOM meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Those in attendance were Pastor Deb Schaffran, Phyllis Roseberry, Al Roseberry, Jan Anderson, Steve Sigstad, Peggy Smith, Valerie Prax, Mike Prax and Janell Anderson.

The Finance committee brought to the Church Council information regarding the CARES act. (Financial help for businesses during the COVID-19 crisis). After discussion Steve made the motion to apply for the loan through Neighborhood National Bank, Jan second motion was approved.

Janell will gather the information together Saturday and leave at church for Valerie and Steve to look over and sign. Early next week Phyllis will contact Garrett D'Aigle and submit the application for request of the loan.

Respectfully submitted,
Janell Anderson, Council Secretary

APPROVED MINUTES – April 16, 2020 Church Council meeting.

Valerie called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. and Ben opened with a prayer

Those in attendance at our online meeting were Phyllis Roseberry, Al Roseberry, Bob Hanson, Ben Zeigler, Valerie Prax, Steve Sigstad, Ruth Smith and Janell Anderson.

Pastor's Time: Pastor isn't feeling well and our thoughts and prayers are with her at this time.

March minutes were reviewed M/S/A Steve/Bob

Financial Secretary Report was presented by Phyllis, she brought up that income was down 40% from budget. The report was approved Janell/Bob M/S/A.

Treasurer Report was approved Phyllis/Steve M/S/A

Finance Committee: After the Council and Finance meeting on April 11, Phyllis scanned and sent the application and back up documents for the CARES

Covid -19 loan to loan officer Garrett, at Neighbor National Bank.

After discussion about the loan, Phyllis made a motion that the Mora United Methodist Church Administrative Council grants to Council Chair Valerie Prax, signing rights for the CARES loan application. Seconded by Steve and approved by all.

Phyllis made a motion to also apply to the City of Mora for the \$500.00 grant that they are offering during the COVID-19 crisis. Second by Bob and approved by all.

Trustees: Anyone available Tuesday the 21st at 4:00 for yard clean up. Steve will contact Colleen to send out an email blast regarding the work night. The trustees also approved of Al and Phyllis' offer to purchase a lawn mower for the church yard, it will be stored at the church and Phyllis and Al will also do the mowing. Many thanks given to Phyllis and Al for this offer.

SPPRC: Al is the ad hoc chair of this committee. Jackie and Amy are off. They need to schedule a meeting.

Ben: There has not been any on-line attendance for youth or the children as yet. There are ruff pages for each group on the Mora UMC website under the Children and Youth tab and then under that, Youth / Mora Kids.

Worship: Ben was asked to bring up to the Council meeting that they thought that Rod should be paid for all the time he has put into the production of the Sunday on-line worship. After some discussion, a motion was made by Steve and second by Phyllis, that it would be paid as a \$75.00 stipend weekly, (two weeks in March and probably 3 weeks in April) at least until we meet again in person.

Farmers Market update. The vendors will open on Saturday May 2. Farmers Markets fall into the same category as grocery stores and other essential businesses. They will be following the COVID distancing guidelines.

Janell /Steve M/S/C to adjourn at 7:06 pm.

Next meeting Thursday May 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Janell Anderson, Council Secretary



2020 MN Annual Conference

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Dakotas and Minnesota Cabinets and respective Sessions Teams have made the decision to **cancel the joint Dakotas-Minnesota Annual Conference**, scheduled for June 10-12, 2020 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Instead, the Minnesota Conference will have a one-day virtual session, with Clergy Session the day before. Please save these dates:

- **Clergy Session:** Afternoon of Friday, Aug. 28
 - **Virtual Annual Conference:** Saturday, Aug. 29
- The theme of our 166th Annual Conference is "Be the Light: Live Hope!" and centers around our gospel imperative to heal a broken world.

Acts of Kindness in These Changing Times

Weeks of isolation and social distancing have increased the need to connect with the lost and lonely. Acts of kindness and connecting with our neighbors in new ways are needed now more than ever.

Consider:

- Parades of celebration for birthdays, graduations, and other milestones.
- Card and phone campaigns; no one goes unconnected when they receive a call or card.
- Protecting the vulnerable in your church and/or community by running errands, delivering a meal, or providing another vital service.

Develop a creative connection activity like a virtual contest or scavenger hunt.

Ogilvie UMC Birthdays/Anniversaries*

14 Chad & Lori Schoumaker

15 Gavin McLevis

18 Bob & Sharon Knoll

22 David Carda

22 Sharon Knoll

28 Bea Covell

Mora UMC Birthdays/Anniversaries*

01 Maggie Madison

01 Rich & Jackie Nordstrom

05 Gene Anderson

07 Al & Phyllis Roseberry

09 Roy Ammerman

12 Aubrey Bumann

12 Janell Anderson

13 Melissa Ziegler

13 Cailyn Smith

14 Tom Junnila

15 Lily Holzer

17 Brandi Wellnitz

20 Joseph Zins

21 Johnathan Priebe

23 Kate Larison

24 Rachel Slocumb

24 Heather Hanson

*** Bold indicates anniversary**

Children and Youth Happenings



Ben Ziegler

Ecclesia

If you're reading this, then chances are you are wondering when things will open up again, particularly the church. This may be a greater concern if you have difficulty with online worship. I know for my family this has proven to be a challenge. At least our family has been finding this transition difficult, and seemingly impossible to get our girls to

think of it as church.

All this has made me wonder what we mean by church. One way we commonly think of church is as the Body of Christ. In this way we are part of the church whether we are together in one place or dispersed across the community. We continue to "be the church" no matter what the public policy is. Yet there is something in this definition which does not capture our common conception of church, that is the idea of Sunday mornings.

I think we (or at least I) regard Sunday worship services in two ways: worship and gathering. Worship is our response to a gracious God. In reality, all of our lives should be an act of worship. This doesn't mean singing hymns constantly, though that is a good way to worship. We worship through prayers (both verbal and silent), the way we work, the way we treat others, and by what we set our minds on. We see this expressed in Phil. 4:4-9.

Gathering is also an essential part of what we mean by church. This is reflected in the New Testament Greek, where the word we often translate as church comes from *ecclesia* meaning a gathering or a congregation. We see this when churches are referred to in the way that we would refer to Mora UMC or Ogilvie UMC.

This idea of gathering and the church is also expressed in the word *synago*, meaning "to gather" or "to meet." The writer of Hebrews urges his audience in Heb. 10:25 by saying, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." Sundays are that special day of the week when we gather together to build up each other up and to worship together.

So how do we do this in a time of pandemic? In one sense we gather online to worship at the same time. This continues what we were doing before by spending Sunday morning worshipping at the same time as Christians throughout the world do. In this way we are worshipping as a community. Another way think about this is how we serve those our brothers and sisters in Christ during this time. Whether we are spending time together with family in one room or calling friends and family, we can check in on their faith and encouragement.

As we prepare for another week of online worship, spend time worshipping throughout the week. When Sunday comes, call or message someone and ask, "How is your spirit today?" So, brothers and sisters, how is your spirit today?



How you can help, feeding neighbors

It is estimated that one in eight children and one in 11 households in Minnesota experience food insecurity, and there has been an increase of food deserts—places where people live without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to reach people who are hungry is growing and complex.

How might you meet this real and present need in your community? Consider one of these ideas:

- Continue your church's existing food ministry in a safe manner; be creative in continuing to serve families while maintaining stay-at-home orders and social distancing guidelines.
- Contact your local food pantry and see if you can donate, volunteer to deliver, or distribute food in a safe manner.
- Partner with a nearby church that has a food pantry or ministry; given the recent high demand, see how you can help meet needs through another church's existing channels.
- Start a take-out meal effort to support local businesses and feed the hungry.
Start an emergency food pantry that delivers.

Message from the Trustee Committee

What is the mission of our church and all Methodist churches? 'To make Disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.' That's a lofty mission and we at the Mora United Methodist Church strive to work towards that goal. We do this in a variety of ways but in this article, I want to talk about the need to update our physical facility.

Visitors often decide within ten to fifteen minutes of entering a church (and sometimes less) whether they will return. We should always work towards growing our church family and one component is to make sure our church building is inviting, welcoming, warm, and a safe place for worship. We want to strive to grow our church family so let us start sprucing up our church.

Many people have already assisted by painting some rooms and changing the carpet but there is much to be done. To continue the updating of the church, an Esthetics Committee (EC) has been organized. The EC has preliminary plans in the works with the first project being the Narthex. It will be lightened up with paint, new light fixtures and signage; maybe there will be a welcome area and coffee station. The EC is also looking at updating the nursery and signage throughout the church. Other areas will be addressed but this will all take time.

As the updating of our church begins it is very important that our church family know that all the work done in the past, any items that have been donated, etc. were very much appreciated and the church was thankful to have received them. But as we are all aware items do wear out, need to be updated, or outlast their usefulness. If the committee decides to remove donated items, please know that making these changes in absolutely no way diminishes the appreciativeness in which the gift was received. The EC is also requesting that if you have an item to donate or have an idea to make a change, that you first contact the Trustee Chair.

It also probably goes without saying that we will need to rely on our church family to assist with some of the upgrading and we pray that you will be able to assist as called upon.

Updating our church is a huge undertaking and the EC will welcome anyone that wants to join. If you have an interest in being on EC or Trustees, please contact Pastor Deb.

We want visitors as well as our church family to really enjoy the church facility as a warm, welcoming space to worship and meet friends. Let's all work together to make our physical church very welcoming as people enter our doors!

Steven Sigstad, Trustee Chairman



**This could be
you,
can you help?**

Mental Health Resources Kanabec County

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911.

Crisis Text Line -this serves anyone, in any type of crisis, providing access to free, 24/7 support and information via text messages. You can access this by texting “MN” to 741 741 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – this serves anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Call toll free, 24/7, 1-800-273-8255.

Wellness in the Woods Warm/Peer Call Line - a peer-to-peer approach to mental health recovery, support and wellness. Calls are answered by our team of professionally trained Certified Peer Specialists, who have firsthand experience living with a mental health condition. The Warmline provides a safe, anonymous and confidential environment to connect with people who are here to listen... here to help. *Monday – Saturday 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm Ph. 877-404-3190 Text “Support” to 85511 East Central Crisis & Referral Line 1-800-523-3333. This is a mobile crisis response for residents of Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs Counties.

Other local resources include:

Welia Health 301 Hwy 65 Mora, MN 55051 (320) 679-1212

Legacy Counseling Services 820 Howe Avenue Suite 108 Mora, MN 55051 (320) 679-2468

Love the Journey Counseling 23 North Pine Street Mora, MN 55051 (320) 679-6964

Kanabec County Mental Health Resources (3/2020) | Northern Pines Counseling 221 South Union Street Mora, MN 55051 (763) 234-0204

Recovering Hope Treatment Center Outpatient Counseling Services 2031 Rowland Road Mora, MN 55051 1-844-314-4673

Lighthouse Child and Family Services (School-Linked Mental Health Services in Mora & Ogilvie Schools) 160 3rd Avenue NW Milaca, MN (320) 983-2335 Family Based Therapy Associates 237 2nd Avenue SW #117 Cambridge, MN 55008 (763) 689-9407

Nystrom & Associates 817 North Main Street NE Cambridge, MN 55008 (763) 325-0300

Therapeutic Services Agency 220 Railroad Street SE Pine City, MN 55063 (320) 629-7600

Mora United Methodist Church

“Living for Christ, Sharing His Love”

Parish Office: 500 Clark Street, Mora, MN 55051-1804
320-679-2713 ~ Handicapped Accessible

Pastor Debra Schaffran

952-240-3836 ~ debraschaffran@gmail.com

Ben Ziegler, Child & Youth Director

608-790-5566 ~ ben.moraumc@gmail.com

Office Administrator Colleen R. Hendershot

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

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Visit us online: 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

9 a.m. Worship

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

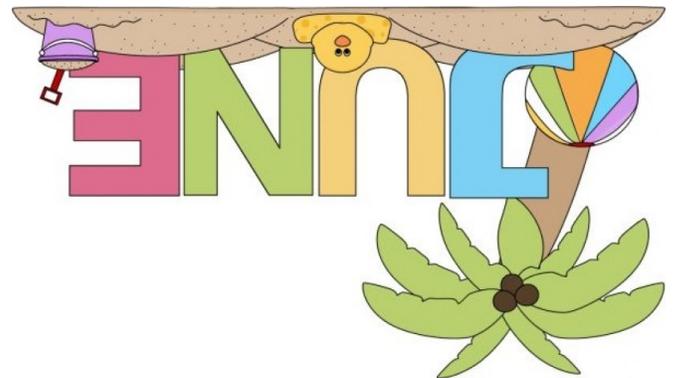
Tues. 9:30 a.m. Book Study

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Mora/Ogilvie United Methodist Churches
Parish Office: 500 Clark Street
Mora, Minnesota 55051-1804
320-679-2713
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

