



# The Cross & Flame

Volume 28 Issue 7

July 2020

## July 2020

So, I am wondering what should be included in a newsletter article from a pastor when the news isn't all good. In addition to the news not being all good neither is the mood of the pastor. Well, I will start with prayer.

Oh God, I don't have the words today. Please give me the words needed. The weight of the world sometimes feels like more than I can hold and then I remind myself that you Lord carry that weight of the world so I don't have to. I need strength today Lord, strength to do the writing, strength to do the planning, strength to listen and strength to bear the pain. I know that with you Lord all things are possible and so I carry on. Today is yours Lord and I long to serve you as best I can. Amen

So you might be wondering what has me so loaded down. For starters I am concerned about what the COVID-19 impact will be on our church, our community and on my family and friends. I have had three friends that have had the virus, two of these friends, both in their 80's, had no symptoms and until tested had no idea that they had the virus. They are now doing fine. My friend Thuan has not been so lucky. He is in his 50's with three teenagers at home. Thuan was on a ventilator for so long that he eventually had to have a tracheotomy, he is now out of the hospital and in a rehabilitation center and will be there for three months or more. His life will never be the same. Please pray for my friend Thuan.

The second topic that is weighing me down is the systemic racism in our society. Racism is not just an issue in the Cities but also in and around us. Last week a woman came to the church in need of assistance. One of her issues was that she had fallen and with the aid of a stranger an ambulance was

called. Instead of the arrival of an ambulance four, yes four, law enforcement officers arrived. The ambulance was not called until this woman of color was questioned and searched. Once the officers determined it was ok the ambulance was called and she was brought to the Mora hospital. I believe the color of her skin determined how she was dealt with, but WHY? Please pray for the challenges we face related to the color of another's skin.



A pandemic and racism are what have me down and so I pray. I pray for you and I pray for me. I pray for our country and for our world. Please spend time in prayer. God is always with us and always ready to listen.

Peace Be with You,  
Pastor Deb

### **Pastoral Coverage During Pastor Deb's Vacation**

Pastor Deb and Rod are on vacation June 29 and returning July 14. In the pastor's absence please call the contacts noted below should you have a need for pastoral assistance.

Mora – Valerie Prax at 612-205-1099

Ogilvie – Betty Segelstrom at 320-496-5898

Valerie and Betty have the contact information for the United Methodist Pastor that is providing the pastoral care during Pastor Deb's vacation.

### ***Certificate of Appreciation***

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church awards Certificate of Appreciation to Ogilvie United Methodist Church in recognition of 100% payment of apportionments in 2019. Apportionments are used to: Develop Missional Leaders; Equip Missional Congregations; Extend Missional Impact; General Missional Resources; Align Our Work—Leadership of the Annual Conference; Align Our Work—Support of the Annual Conference; Provide the Uncollectible Contingency. Presented April 1, 2020, Susan Nienaber, Big Water District Superintendent.

### ***Certificate of Appreciation***

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### ***Service Updates from Mora Senior Dining!***

Meals on Wheels delivery increases to twice a week. Hot meals are available Mondays and Wednesdays, and up to 5 frozen meals can be included for the rest of the week. Please call us at 320-679-4029 to reserve your Meals on Wheels delivery!

Diners who regularly joined us for congregational dining can participate in “Grab & Go” frozen meals at the dining site on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Please call ahead so your meals are bagged and ready for your pick up.

The monthly food shelf meal distribution continues, on the first Tuesday each month. The next distribution is Tuesday, July 7, from noon—1 p.m. outside the Mora Food Shelf.

If you are not yet registered for any of the above senior nutrition programs, please call us at the Mora Senior dining site 320-679-4029. We can complete the registration on the phone so no face-to-face interview is required.

### **May Finance Report**

Assets including designated funds in bank account \$43,422 (this total includes \$6,830 in our general fund which compares to -\$3,545 in March). The \$12,500 loan we received from the Payroll Protection Program is included in the total bank account. This loan was granted to help cover payroll expenses for the first 8 weeks that church service was impacted by COVID-19. We are currently gathering information needed to apply for loan forgiveness. Our ability to demonstrate that payroll costs remained steady puts us in good position for loan forgiveness. We have no liabilities as our apportionments are paid in full year to date. Giving was down 35% from budget this last month and year to date is down 16% of budget compared to down 2% for March. Expenses were 1% over budget and year to date are 3% over budget compared to 8% 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 anticipate online worship will continue for at least another 6 weeks and once we do open for service the option to participate online will continue. As we look at giving over the last 3 months, we remain strong with our pledged giving but are down 70% for our non-pledged giving. This is a direct result of not having regular church services where offering is passed. 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. Your gift can also be sent to the church office at 500 S Clark St. Mora, MN 55051. The easiest option by far is applying for Electronic Fund Transfer where the gift you designate is withdrawn from your bank account each month and changes in the amount can be made with just a few days notice.

## Children and Youth Ministry Update



Ben Ziegler

To adapt a quote from a popular news podcast, things may have changed by the time you read this. In our state's response to COVID-19, restrictions are starting to loosen up. With that comes the opportunity for small in person gatherings. Youth group resumed on

Wednesday, June 24. For as long as the weather holds, we will be meeting outdoors between the church and the parsonage, but we will move into the Fellowship Hall if needed.

Our Saturday Mora Kids events will continue to be postponed until at least the next phase of "re-gathering." This doesn't mean that there is nothing available for kids though. Content is posted weekly on our webpage. We are also participating in a community VBS. This includes a weekly delivery of lessons for five weeks. There will also be small groups over Zoom and this will end with backyard small group gatherings. VBS officially starts on July 12.

Also new to our youth ministry is a blog. Topics vary, but posts are primarily about ways that I encounter God. My hope is that as I share what my spiritual journey looks like, you will also be encouraged in your own walk. Perhaps you will see ways that the Spirit can manifest itself in our lives or you may be affirmed in your own experiences and memories.

Finally, as a church we have been incredibly blessed with a grant specifically designated for expanding our ministry to children and youth. As a part of this church family, would you give serious consideration to advising the use of this generous gift?

## 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

## Role Models

Recently I was reading to Nadia from *A Light in the Attic* by Shell Silverstein, we came across a poem called "Never." In this poem the narrator laments the things he's never done. As the poem goes on, you get the sense that this character's measure of worth is based entirely on adventure stories. This character is a caricature of who we are when we misplace or misinterpret our role models.

Paul writes about role models in Phil. 3:17-21. He warns the Philippians against the self-centered and legalistic role models of the "circumcision party" and urges them to follow his example and the example of the apostles. Paul understood that discipleship was not just teachings and stories, but was providing a trustworthy example that demonstrates those Christ's love lived out.

There is no question that the spiritual disciplines are an important and healthy part of a thriving faith. Sometimes we (this includes me) need something a little more responsive and physically present. This doesn't mean that a spiritual role model is flawless, and I don't think Paul would claim to be.

Do you have someone like this in your own life? Do you remember having someone like this when you were younger? Perhaps you did, and that person is what made a difference. That mentor came through in a tough time, or lived out a consistent example, that led you into a deeper faith. Perhaps without that person you wouldn't be part of a church today.

Who is that person in the life of your child or grandchild? As a children and youth leader, I can do many things in developing programs and setting an environment to encourage spiritual growth, but this is not enough. We need relationships. Relationships that are present throughout the week, not just for a couple hours on Sunday or Wednesday. We need relationships that last too. One day my path will take me away from Mora. In all likelihood the next children and youth leader will also be on a limited basis. The kids of this church need consistent leadership in their lives.

Are you up to this challenge? Leading children and youth is not for everyone. There needs to be some level of commitment. You need to be there. You need to take your faith seriously, not just as a hobby or duty, but as the priority. So what do you say, are you in?

APPROVED MINUTES –  
May 14, 2020 Church Council meeting.

Valerie called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. and Pastor Deb 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 Jan Anderson and Janell Anderson.

Pastor's Time: Pastor will be on vacation the end of June through July 13<sup>th</sup>. Valerie and Ben will be filling in. Pastor Deb emphasized that this time of change is an opportunity to reach people we have never reached before through the online services. There is an excitement about this new and different time and we need to be ready for whatever comes our way.

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

Financial Secretary Report was presented. The report was approved Janell/Phyllis M/S/A.

Treasurer Report was approved Jan/Phyllis M/S/A. Janell asked if the PPP loan should be put in the general fund or a special account. After some discussion a general consensus was to put it in the general fund.

Finance Committee: Finance approved the catching up of Apportionments. In April we only paid a tithe (about half) this month it will be about 1 ½ months. The Permanent Endowment Committee met by email and the decision was made that the CD that was due would be rolled over to a 30 month step up at 1.3 % . We received the Paycheck Protection Program Loan for \$12,500.00. Phyllis has been 'attending' webinars regarding the loan and has emailed the information to Janell. There are 56 days to use this money, so April 17 – June 11, 2020

Trustees: Yard cleanup was done a couple weeks ago. Steve and Rod checked out taking the lectern out and moving the screen on the stand to the lectern area. The TV still needs to be higher, another stand will be purchased. Aesthetics committee (Ginny, Phyllis J, and Jani) have compiled a long list in order of what needs to be done first. Painting the narthex, moving the TV, completing the new conference room, blinds for the fellowship hall...

SPPRC: Is in the process of organizing an official meeting. Ogilvie needs to be contacted on who will fill their spot on SPPRC.

Christian Education: Nothing really new – there are struggles with participation online - ideas on how to engage are being tossed around.

Ben: The attendance is bleak for the youth and children Zoom meetings. All UM camps are closed, and the Conference is advising not to do any mission trips. VBS is postponed or possibly virtual. We would have access to a free virtual VBS from Cokesbury.

Worship: We need to be inventive to stay in touch with the new people that have joined the online services. There are 2 graduates this year, Joe Zins and Luke Nordstrom. Much gratitude to Rod for the hours of work he has put in to get the worship online. The baptismal font and the altar area wooden stands need to be refreshed. Ideas for innovative outdoor worship could be a polka service or a bonfire worship... other ideas are welcome.

Missions & Memorials: Nothing to report

Technology: Steve and Rod moved the TV, meeting again maybe Monday. Working on the sound board, moving the TV, dealing with the hum (wiring – high priority) How to keep an online presence; replicating equipment, the Conference has ideas/helps.. In the future how to do face-to-face again, outside face-to-face we will need to explore a sound system fix. Technology, Worship and Trustees need to work together. Steve is continuing to look into using Midco instead of Century Link for phone and internet.

We had discussion on paying our regular organist/pianist during this time. Janell and Phyllis will work on this.

WICS: Their meeting is coming up next week – it will be a Zoom meeting – maybe in person or outside.

Al/Jan M/S/C to adjourn at 7:30 pm.  
Next meeting Thursday June 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted,  
Janell Anderson, Council Secretary

## **Upper Room Devotions Available**

If you are interested in receiving an Upper Room Meditation for July and August contact the church office (320-679-2713). The devotional will be delivered or mailed to you. We have extra large print for July and August.

### **Worship Planning**

Mora and Ogilvie United Methodist Church will not offer in-person worship until we can do so safely, adhering to federal and state recommendations, and the guidance of the Minnesota Annual Conference. As we continue to navigate this challenging season, let us remember that God is with us.

### **Leadership Meetings**

The leadership team (Council and Worship) from the Mora UMC is meeting July 15 at 6:30 p.m. and the leadership team from the Ogilvie UMC is meeting July 16 at 6 p.m. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the status and position of the MN UMC Conference as it relates to the position taken for in-person worship.

### **BWCA Trip**

Pastor Deb is leading a group to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). This is an intergenerational trip meaning all ages are welcome. Children under 13 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. See the information below and let Pastor Deb know if you are interested.

Dates: leaving the afternoon of August 9 and returning the afternoon of August 14

What do you need: the only things you need to bring are your clothes and toiletries. Everything else is provided by an outfitter from Ely.

Physical requirements: you must be able to carry roughly a 25-pound backpack and portage over some hills and rocks.

Cost: \$415 per person and scholarships are available. \$25 will hold your spot.

## **COVID did not stop Ogilvie UMC**

### **from serving**

During this time of Covid 19 precautions, the Ogilvie United Methodist Church has continued to serve in ways that are possible. Among the ways are the prayer garden is available outside for individuals to sit quietly and pray, March, April and May Food for the Soul outdoor pick up meals provided, freezers have been made available for Ogilvie Food Shelf to use for much needed temporary storage of frozen food shelf items, Senior Dining frozen meals temporarily held in freezer for later delivery, and prayers have been said for those in need. Most important of all, much love has been shared by members and God's love is ever present.

### **Ogilvie UMC Birthdays/Anniversaries\***

05 Bryan Fredrick  
06 Kyle Leske  
21 Chad Schoumaker  
28 Hayden Schoumaker

### **Mora UMC Birthdays/Anniversaries\***

#### **01 Steve & Janice Peterson**

04 Valerie Prax  
04 Missy Hanson  
06 Steve Sigstad  
06 Nicholas Madison  
06 Sawyer Smith  
07 Patricia Larson  
11 Alayna Sundet  
**11 Richard & Peg Roesler**  
18 Jaylah Printon  
20 Robert Halverson  
21 Brody Halverson  
21 Alan Roseberry  
25 Patti Miller  
27 Hope Weidendorf  
28 Blake Spann  
29 Parker Mitchell  
30 Christina Markley  
30 Aric Stegeman

\* **Bold indicates anniversary**

# 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](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

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# 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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