



The Cross & Flame

Volume 29 Issue 3

March 2021

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Hello friends,
Well here we are in March. March is not my favorite month because it seems too long and often so dirty. But none the less I am planning for spring and summer. Planning is important so we can be ready for what comes.

Jesus often used parables to teach a lesson. Today we study parables asking ourselves what is this parable saying to us? Parables can sometimes be hard. Some parables are a call to preparation. I see the parable of the five [bridesmaids](#) who had prepared appropriately, brought a significant quantity of oil with them were prepared for the delay in the bridegroom's arrival. The five "foolish" bridesmaids did not prepare, and when the bridegroom arrived later than planned, they were out covering for their error.

We cannot know the future - we cannot know the timing of events, so we need to prepare and have resources ready. Likewise, as a church we cannot know what might come, but if we have planned and placed the church on a sound footing, we will be able to face whatever happens. Being prepared helps us serve others in mission and ministry in the name of Christ! Let us earn, save, and give all we can to be prepared for where we are called.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Deb

Official Notice

Mora United Methodist Church Annual Meeting
You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Mora UMC March 6, at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, and members may vote for the election of 2021 officers, passage of 2021 budget,

endowment interest proceeds distribution. We will also receive ministry reports as they are available.

Worship options

You have the option of continuing to worship by following the link to our YouTube channel on Facebook. You may also go directly to our YouTube channel.

It is our hope that we will be able to attend in-person worship by or before Easter. The Council will meet again March 11 and the re-open opportunity will again be discussed. We continue to follow closely the recommendations of the Minnesota Annual Conference and the Minnesota Department of Health for safety.

Sympathy

Please lift in prayer the following families:

Mike & Naomi Schultz
Vi Tatro
Richard Roesler
Vic & Valerie Vanacek
Phyllis Visser
Jane St. George



Pastor Deb Schaffran is available for home visits and counseling when requested, as well as hospital visits when informed. Remember that the hospital does not inform us of your admission. Pastor Deb can be reached at 952-240-3836.

Camp Registration

The Dakotas-Minnesota Camp and Retreat Ministry team is ready for camp this summer and preparing to keep campers safe while giving them an opportunity to experience Christ, creation, and community. Among the safety protocols, Northern Pines Camp Director Leslie Hobson noted that most meals will be eaten outdoors (as weather permits). Campers will be screened; masks, social distancing and other health protocols will be followed. Registration has begun and ALL information for the 2021 camping season is online at <https://www.campminnesota.org>.

The early bird incentive, bring-a-friend discount, and camperships are all still available.

“Space may be limited this season, so sign up soon!” advises Keith Shew, director of Dakotas-Minnesota Camps and Retreats.

This year’s camp theme, “This Is our Prayer,” helps children and youth grow closer to God. Campers will explore scripture, experience a wide range of activities that help campers live out Bible teachings in Christian community, and express joy and commitment to live in the Spirit through worship and song.

March is Minnesota Food Share Month!

Although we donate all year to the Ogilvie and Mora food shelves, March is dedicated to Minnesota Food share Month.

We most often think of donating money or food and these are always welcome, but remember all the great non-food stuff you can buy at the grocery store? Cleaning supplies, toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, tissue, hygiene items, etc.? These items are needed and requested every day. The various items noted are not available from the various sources the food shelves get food, so they rely on us, the donors.

The office door at the Mora church is open Wednesday – Friday from 10-2. You may also call ahead, and we will make sure a door will open for your drop off.

Directory

Please contact the church office with any address or phone number updates.

Youth activity

We are planning to gather early in March along with the youth from Calvary Lutheran and Grace Lutheran Churches. Our hope is, weather permitting, to warm the hearts of those living in care centers. Parents please watch for mails related to this activity.

Commitment Cards

A brochure and a commitment card were recently mailed to you. In 2020 almost 40 families returned their commitment card. To date 12 have returned their card so if you have not done so please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

Easter Flowers for the Altar

The Altar Committee is planning on purchasing flowers/plants to decorate the altar for Easter Sunday. You are welcome to bring in your own (just before Easter) to share if you wish, or if you would like to contribute towards the cost of the flowers that would be appreciated. We hope to be inside to enjoy them. Thank you.

Remembering our friends of Mora UMC Lorraine Kobberdahl

Eastwood Senior Living
170 Valhalla Circle, Mora, MN 55051

Avis Pixley

Hallett Cottages
350 4th Street NE, Crosby, MN 56441

Remembering our friends of Ogilvie UMC Dorothy Carroll

St. Clare Living Community of Mora
110 7th St, Apt. 13
Mora, MN 55051

Ruth Kaufert

646 Old Main St. N.
Cambridge, MN 55008

APPROVED MINUTES – January 21, 2021
Church Council meeting.

Valerie called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Those in attendance were Pastor Deb, Valerie, Mike, Phyllis, Alan, Ruth, Peggy, Carmel, Janell

Pastor's Time: Pastor had a wonderful week's vacation of nothing! Thank you. There really isn't anything out of the ordinary of the new normal. The 2020 Inactive/unresponsive membership was presented. M/S/C Janell/Carmel accept the list of one year inactive/unresponsive persons as written M/S/C Ruth/Phyllis to accept the list of two years inactive/unresponsive person as written.

The Secretary's report was approved M/S/C Phyllis/Peggy

Financial Secretary's report was approved M/S/C Janell/Phyllis

Treasurer's report were approved as presented M/S/C Carmel/Alan

Finance Committee: M/S/C Ruth/Peggy, to approve the 2021 Budget with changes made during discussion. Phyllis presented the brochure and basic mailing for the 2021 pledge, it has a step up in giving theme. It will be done in February. Phyllis also gave us a video demonstration of how the new Vanco online giving works. A letter will be going out about this, too.

Trustees: The duct cleaning and the carpet cleaning has been done.

SPPRC: The person that showed interest in the youth and child director position was contacted and that person took another position closer to home.

Christian Education: Confirmation continues.

Worship: There are still some lighting issues for streaming the service live. It is still being worked on. The decorative lights outside will stay on until Vasaloppet Sunday. Ash Wednesday is February 17, Palm Sunday March 28, April 4 is Easter. The thought now is that we might be back for worship for Easter, with outside worship starting as early as May.

Memorials: Haven't met recently

Missions: Haven't met recently

Technology: Still working the kinks out of streaming the worship service.... Lighting mostly.

WICS: no puzzle contest

Men's Club: Is not meeting.

Other business: The Facebook page is back up and running. We need to think about starting Safe Sanctuary training updating.

Worship in person, this will be assessed on a month by month basis. The goal is to be in person on Easter, but only if it can be done safely.

M/S/C Carmel/Ruth to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

Next meeting Thursday February 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janell Anderson, Council Secretary

New On-Line Giving Option!

We have contracted with Vanco eGiving service to provide an opportunity for church members to donate to the church and to our mission. It allows us to log in at any time to set up a recurring donation plan, change donation plan or make one-time donations. This tool will be used along with our current giving methods of sending a check to the church office by mail or by setting up an Electronic Fund Transfer from your checking or savings account. With Vanco eGiving donations can be made securely by credit card or by electronic transfer from either checking or savings account. You will be prompted to set up an account where banking or credit card information can be saved, and you will be able to view transaction history. To get started:

go to our church website, <https://moraumc.org> and click on the "Give" button or

go directly to our on-line giving site at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YH5G> or download the Vanco Mobile app and use invite code: YB9BMT .

Any questions can be directed at the Vanco committee that includes Phyllis Roseberry Finance Chair, Jan Anderson Finance Secretary and Carmel Gorham Council Representative.

Mailing Ministry

The coronavirus has had an unexpected impact on the office budget. In addition to the weekly email and virtual worship service, weekly transcripts are sent to the homes of 40 Mora and Ogilvie United Methodist members. This mailing increases the postage by \$22.00 each week, \$22 that isn't budgeted. It is important to keep this mailing ministry going. If you can please help us off-set some of the extra costs. Just add a note to your check stating postage. Thank you!

January 2021 Finance Report

Assets including designated funds in our bank account of \$51,392 (this total includes \$3,069 in our general fund which compares to \$237 in December). We have no liabilities as our apportionments are paid in full for the year. Giving was up 32% from budget in January and expenses were 12% over budget. This is a positive start to the new year. Stewardship brochures were mailed the first week of February. Thanks to those that have returned their Estimate of Giving Card. If you have not returned your card, please mail or drop off at the church office as soon as possible.

Total assets in the Permanent Endowment Fund remain \$105,717. Permanent Endowment interest earned this past year was \$2,024.75. The PEF committee recommends the interest be disbursed as follows: 25% for our Missionaries the Graner's, 25% for Food for Friends, and 50% towards a designated fund to use towards future expenses related to replacing the Church Parking Lot. A detailed accounts balance report is available by request in the Church Office.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Ogilvie UMC

06 Heather Krahmer
23 Megan Torgeson

Mora UMC

01 Virginia Nordenstrom
02 Mark Place

04 Larry Brettingen & Sharon Lidstrom

05 Janice Schulz
05 Jackie Madison

05 Greg & Geanell Holzer

06 Adam & Kelli Peterson

08 Amy Zins
10 Skyler Smith
12 Karl Schultz
13 Jackie Nordstrom

18 Edith Sederberg

19 Tom & Phyllis Junnila

22 Christian Paulsen
28 Natalie Sigstad

31 Laura Schultz

***Bold indicates anniversary**



Saint Patrick's Day

March 17

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

BLARNEY
CHARM
CLOVER
DANCE
DUBLIN
EMERALD

GOLD
GREEN
IRELAND
ISLE
LEPRECHAUN
LIMERICK

LUCK
MARCH
PARADE
RAINBOW
SHAMROCK



Mora United Methodist Church

“Living for Christ, Sharing His Love”

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

Pastor Debra Schaffran

952-240-3836 ~ debraschaffran@gmail.com

Office Administrator Colleen R. Hendershot
moraogilvie.umcs@gmail.com

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

10:30 a.m. Worship available on YouTube

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

10:30 a.m. Worship available on YouTube

Visit us online:

moraumc.org/ogilvie-united-methodist-church



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mora United Methodist Church
500 Clark Street
Mora, Minnesota 55051-1804
320-679-2713

