



# The Cross & Flame

Volume 29 Issue 6

June 2021

**June 2021**

## **Summer Fun**

When I think of summer fun many things come to my mind. We often think of summer as a time to kick-back and relax. Maybe we spend time at the beach or at the cabin. Some of us spend more time outdoors in the garden or just sitting on the porch. Summer brings with it activities not available to us during other times of the year.

Here at the church this summer is busy with more change. We are changing as we get back into a “new normal” of how we offer worship opportunities. For the past many months worship has been delivered through the US mail, weekly email blasts, Facebook prerecorded and later YouTube prerecorded services. As we transition to whatever is the “new normal” is we will be making some changes to the way worship opportunities are offered. This will be a work in progress!

Effective with the June 6<sup>th</sup> worship service we will discontinue prerecording and transition to a “live stream” service. Live stream means the service will be taped as it happens. Live streaming is when the streamed video is sent over the Internet in real time, without first being recorded and stored. As I write this Colleen, our office admin, and Rod our tech guru, are working out the details and we will communicate additional details as they are finalized.

We are blessed at the Mora church to have a group of people that have made sure both churches were online during the last 15 months. Hours and hours of work have gone into providing this ministry. All the changes we have experienced have not been

easy, but we did it. Now we are changing again as we work out the details to the “new normal.”

Hang in there with us! We will get it all figured out. While we work on it, we ask for your

prayers and your understanding as we continue to tweak our way forward. Do know that while we work on technology the doors are open and we are worshipping together. We will welcome you whenever you feel comfortable coming back in the building.

Enjoy your summer fun!

Pastor Deb



*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.*

# *Congratulations Graduates of Mora & Ogilvie UMC*



**Tess Elizabeth  
Houglum**  
Mora High School

Will be pursuing a degree in nursing this fall at Concordia St. Paul, while also running cross country and track for the Golden Bears.

BBQ Celebration at the Houglum Home on Sat., June 26 from 4-7pm., 2000 226th Ave., Mora



**Dane Halverson**  
Mora High School

Planning on going to University Mn Duluth

**Magdalena Asha  
Venhuizen**

Mora High School

Maggie plans to attend Minneapolis Community and Technical College to complete her two year degree then on to an art school for graphic design.

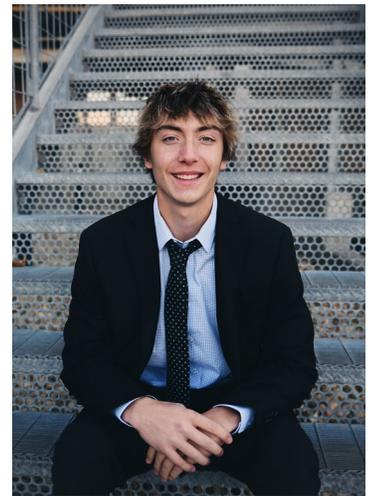


**Zander Gravning**

Mora High School

Air Force

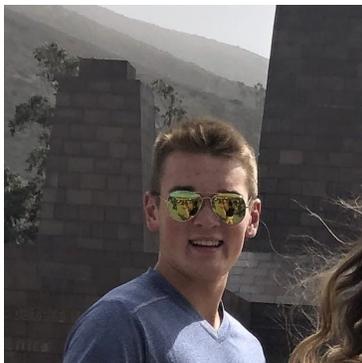
Open House Information - June 4 5-8 at Springbrook Country Club



**Derrick Kohlgraf**

Mora High School

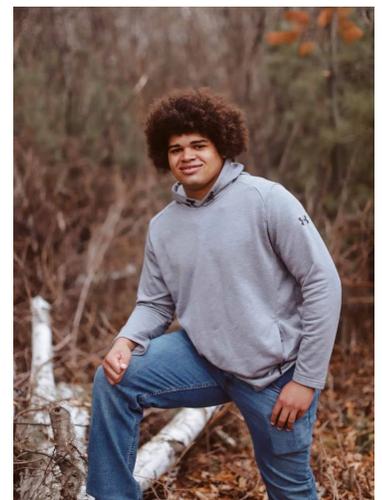
Also recognizing Derrick for his dedication to Mora UMC's music program and providing music for our services.



**Gavin McClevis**

Ogilvie High School

Still deciding on future plans.



## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School hosted by Mora Area Churches, including Mora United Methodist Church, is happening June 7-11 from 9-11:30 am. Due to COVID-19, our 2021 program will be offered outdoors as much as possible, with a take-home option for those families who wish to work on their own.

Registration is based on the grade your child will enter next fall.

Preschool-Kindergarten will be hosted by Grace Lutheran,  
grades 1-2 will be at St. Mary's Catholic,  
grades 3-4 will be at Calvary Lutheran,  
grades 5-6 will be at Grace Lutheran.

All children should be dropped off and picked up at the locations listed above.

For more information and to register check out the following on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272013477258977/>

If you wish to register on paper call Pastor Deb to get a form. Pastor Deb will be working with the 5-6 grade at Grace Lutheran.

## **Annual Conference**

The **2021 Annual Conference** is scheduled to take place **June 22-24, 2021** with June 22 and 24 being entirely virtual and June 23 being in small in-person groups at various sites across the state. The theme of our 167th Annual Conference is "Jesus. Waymaker."

## **2021 Love Offering**

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The Love Offering provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus. Bishop David Bard invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as a generous expression of God's wild and extravagant love. Funds from this year's offering will go to: The Methodist Border Friendship Commission (50 percent), host churches of Ruby's Pantry (20 percent), the Matthew 25 food distribution (20 percent), and Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 percent).

Your love offering may be sent to the church office or added to your weekly giving designated as 2021 Love Offering.

## **Sermon Series for June**

Just before he ascends into heaven, Jesus gathers his disciples together one last time to give them his final instructions. He leaves them with the directive to "go and make disciples of all nations. Our sermon series in June titled Road Trip, will explore the adventures of being a follower of Jesus. Are you ready to go?

### **June 6: Hit the Road | Matthew 28:16-20**

Jesus send out his apostles to make disciples of all the world. We have been sent to do the same. How do we prepare for this lifelong journey of faith?

### **June 13: Worth Stopping For | Act 2: 1-4**

When taking a road trip, the journey matters as much as the arrival at your destination. Every road trip should include a can't miss stop along the route. It is just as important in our faith journeys not to miss the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### **June 20: U-Turn | Acts 9:1-6**

Have you ever thought you were headed in the right direction, only to discover you are way off course? This week we will examine the story of the Apostle Paul's u-turn in life. Paul's life takes a radical turn when he hears Jesus. How does Jesus direct us to turn around?

### **June 27: Road Less Traveled | Luke 10:25-37**

When Jesus sends us out, sometimes the road difficult and even dangerous. We can avoid the Jericho roads of life, or we can take them in order to serve Jesus. We are invited to travel the Jericho Roads in our communities with eyes open and offer our service to another in need.

## **Sermon Series Weekly Study**

Each Friday prior to the June Road Trip weekly sermon we will gather to study the scripture for the coming Sunday. We will meet at church from 1:30 – 2:30 on Fridays June 4, 11, 18, 25.

## **April 2021 Finance Report**

Assets include designated funds in our bank account of \$45,491 (this total includes \$-8,584 in our general fund which compares to \$-3,383 in March). We have no liabilities as our apportionments are paid in full year to date. Giving was down 29% from budget in March and expenses were 11% over budget. Year to date giving is down 19% from budget compared to down 13% last month and expenses are over .01% of budget compared to under 3% last month.

Total assets in the Permanent Endowment Fund remain \$105,717. This money is invested in 5 separate CD's with varied renewal dates and rates. Recently one of the CD's totaling \$34,813.38 came due and was renewed as a 30 month step up CD with a rate of .45%. No further CD's will come due this year. The PEF committee will continue to monitor rates but do not expect that interest rates will rise enough this next year to warrant stepping up any of the 3 CDs that are set up for 30 months renewal period with option to step up interest rate. One CD is currently at 1.31% with the remaining CD rates 2-2.75%. Interest from these CD's are disbursed at the end of the year to missions, property funds, or general endowment funds to meet special needs and ministries.

## **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

## **June Birthdays & Anniversaries\***

### **Ogilvie UMC**

14 Chad & Lori Schoumaker  
15 Gavin McLevis  
18 Bob & Sharon Knoll  
22 David Carda  
22 Sharon Knoll  
28 Bea Covel

### **Mora UMC**

01 Maggie Madison  
01 Rich & Jackie Nordstrom  
05 Gene Anderson  
07 Al & Phyllis Roseberry  
09 Roy Ammerman  
12 Aubrey Bumann  
12 Janell Anderson  
13 Cailyn Smith  
14 Tom Junnila  
15 Lily Holzer  
17 Dale Nelson  
17 Brandi Wellnitz  
20 Joseph Zins  
21 Johnathan Priebe  
23 Kate Larison  
24 Rachel Slocumb  
24 Heather Hanson

*\*Bold indicates anniversary*

## **Keeping our church gardens lovely**

Many of us love working in the garden in the summer - such a good time for prayer, reflection and to see something being accomplished! But everyone knows it takes time and energy.

We are looking for some volunteers willing to donate just a few hours this summer to the Memorial Garden and the garden facing Highway 65. We will put together a weekly schedule for weeding and watering. If we get enough volunteers, we can limit everyone to once a month. Most of the time, it will take less than an hour. We will also schedule spring and fall clean-up events which will take a little longer. After we have a volunteer list, we'll develop a schedule. Remember - the more who volunteer, the less we all have to commit. People from teenagers through adults are encouraged to help, including families or grandparents and grandkids.

Please call or email the church office to sign up.

APPROVED MINUTES – April 8, 2021 Church Council meeting.

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

Those in attendance meeting were Pastor Deb, Phyllis, Alan, Rhonda, Lori, Carmel, Janell, Valerie, Steve

Pastor's Time: We are still at this time in the orange COVID color, nothing as changed since last month regarding that. The AED is up and there will be some training available provided by Jackie Voight. The AED is user friendly and training isn't needed to use it but it may make some more comfortable with it with this opportunity. Pastor and Rod are in the vacation planning stage. The 4week worship/sermon series has been fun to work with and to write. Friday afternoon classes are still going. Our Missionaries are retiring, he is now – she is in September. The Hanson adoption is coming the end of April!!

The Secretary's report was approved M/S/C Carmel/Steve

Financial Secretary's report was approved M/S/C Carmel/Al

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

Finance Committee: The committee is finding it hard to get through all the needed things in 30 minutes and would like to expand their meeting to 60 minutes. Janell made a motion that starting in May the Finance meeting will meet from 6-7 pm and Church Council will meet from 7- 8 ish pm. Rhonda second, motion carried. Phyllis will investigate the Shepherd's Staff finance options, and any additional costs for that support.

Trustees: They got the TV mounted, curtains up in A & B. The sump pump is fixed. Lawn spraying will be done 4 times this year.

SPPRC: nothing new

Christian Education: Confirmation is May 16<sup>th</sup> – there are 3 confirmands.

Worship: nothing to report, only two people there.

WICS: Brought food to the vaccination clinic last week – Subway and bananas and chips.

Missions: nothing to report

Memorials: nothing to report

Technology: They still have the goal of having worship live streamed on YouTube. .

Men's Club: Is not meeting.

There was discussion on how the flow was going with in person worship. There were 40 for Palm Sunday and 46 for Easter with 28 online for each Sunday. Ideas were to have directions on leaving on the screen at the end of the service. Lets try some informal ushering out the East stain glass doors as well as out the back, trying not to bunch up. Leaving out the closet outside doors and visiting outside. Ushers could use some additional training.

Flower and usher sign ups will be put up, hoping for volunteers as we don't know who is comfortable attending in person at this point. Heather is no longer going to lead the Acolyte group, a person is needed for that.

The church's Facebook still had no change.

Goals for 2021: Rhonda and Carmel spoke and they will begin making phone calls to people in the directory asking their thoughts and goals/focus for the church.

Is our Mission Statement still relevant for us? With a mission statement everything we plan and do meets that mission.

Highway cleanup is April 18<sup>th</sup> after the church service.

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

Next meeting Thursday May 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janell Anderson, Council Secretary

# 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](mailto:debraschaffran@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.*

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship  
10:30 a.m. Worship available on YouTube

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

Find us on Facebook: United Methodist Church of Mora

# 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. In-Person Worship  
10:30 a.m. Worship available on YouTube

**Visit us online:**  
[moraumc.org/ogilvie-united-methodist-church](http://moraumc.org/ogilvie-united-methodist-church)



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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