



The Cross & Flame

Volume 29 Issue 12

December 2021

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Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of the Christ born among us!

Advent - what a joyous time this is as we anticipate the coming of the Messiah. It is also a time of preparation for the second coming of our King. The season of Advent is a reminder that we live between the days of the first coming and the second coming of Jesus.

This year has been different in so many ways. How do we find normalcy when so much has changed? How do we find a sense of calmness when we do not know what the next change will be? How do we look ahead when we long for the past? The answer my friends is Jesus.

Look for Jesus in everything you do. We first found him in a manger, and I promise you he is with you in every moment of your life.

Even in this ever-changing world of the pandemic Jesus is with you and he never changes.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Deb

Pastor Deb and Rod will be on vacation starting the afternoon of December 26 and will return January 5th.



Please note that Communion will be held on January 9th instead of January 2nd..



Adopt A Family Christmas Program

We have the opportunity this holiday season to help a family in need. Gayle Bergloff contacted Family Pathways on our behalf and they have provided information for gift ideas for the following:

Male Adult –Pants size 60X32

Shirt Size 5XL

Shoe Size 13W

Gift Idea—gift cards, blankets

16 yo Male—Pants size 38X32

Shirt size 2X

Shoe size 9.5-10

Gift ideas—Xbox gift cards/games

14 yo Female-Pants size Womens 8-10

Shirt Size Women's 8-10 (Med)

Shoe Size 7

Gift Card - Make Up gift card



We plan on decorating the Sanctuary with Poinsettias this Advent season. Donations to cover the cost of the plants are appreciated. We typically have a variety of sized plants—suggested donation is \$12-\$20 and can be placed in the offering, mailed to the church or submitted via Vanco Online giving. Plants can also be brought in. Plants will be displayed from Dec.19-Jan 2nd and will be available for pickup on Jan. 2nd.

Food Shelf Drive For Advent

In the spirit of giving this Advent Season, Mora United Methodist Church will be doing a huge Food Shelf drive, which we hope everyone will join in doing with us. Here is a suggested list to help you get going, but of course you can change it up as you wish. Items can be dropped off at the church on Wednesdays from 2-6 pm. If you are unable to drop items off and need them picked up, please call the church office. Watch your mail or UMC web page for more Advent worship opportunities.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



APPROVED MINUTES –October, 2021 Church Council meeting.

Pastor Deb called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. and opened with a prayer.

Those in attendance meeting were Phyllis Roseberry, Alan Roseberry, Janell Anderson, Rhonda Stegeman, Pastor Deb.

Pastor's Time: Numbers in church for worship on and on line down. Challenges are great during COVID. Colleen is gone. There are volunteers (thank you Phyllis and Rod) stepping up to fill in the for her until someone else is found. Riley is also putting in time to do the digital print part of the worship service. Pastor is meeting with a Lectionary group on Wednesdays via Zoom, and on Thursdays with a couple other women pastors.

There is a new computer being purchased for the Administrative Office.

Nominations help will be asked for from the Church Council leadership.

The Secretary's report was approved M/S/C Rhonda/Alan

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

Treasurer's report was approved as presented M/S/C Alan/Rhonda

Finance Committee: Sending 10% of general fund giving to apportionments. Stewardship brochures were sent out. The theme followed the sermon series that Pastor had for the month of October. Consecration Sunday will be the 31st. The budget will be worked on this coming month. The Financial Secretary and

Auditor positions need to be filled. Phyllis will be performing the Financial Secretary's duties until someone is found for that position.

SPPRC: There will be a zoom meeting in November with the District Superintendent. The Administrative Assistant position is still open as is the Financial Secretary's position. At this time the thought is to combine the two positions. Right now the two openings are being covered by Phyllis, Riley and Pastor Deb.

Worship: No one was available to come to the meeting scheduled earlier this week. Would attendance change with no online worship?

Trustees: Two members met last night. Fall cleanup scheduled for Thursday October 20.

Christian Education: Met Tuesday the 12, there is a loose plan for November 'Turkey Olympics'.

WICS: Meeting next Wednesday.

Missions: nothing to report

Memorials: nothing to report.

Technology: Nothing new to report.

Men's Club: Possibly meeting November 18th.

New business: The need to find and/or update the payment schedules for funerals and building use. Phyllis will look when she is in the office again to see if there is something in the files, physical or digital.

M/S/C Janell/Rhonda to adjourn at 7:48 pm

Happy Holidays

The holidays can be a joy-filled season, but they can also be highly stressful, and especially challenging for those impacted by mental illness. For many people, the holiday season is not always the most wonderful time of the year it can be a lonely or stressful time, filled with anxiety and/or depression. Here are some suggestions for how

you can reduce stress and maintain good mental health during the holiday season:

- Accept your needs. Be kind to yourself! Put your own mental and physical well-being first.
- Manage your time and don't try to do too much. Just because you're invited doesn't mean you have to go.
- Be realistic. Even pre-pandemic, the happy lives of the people shown in those holiday commercials are fictional.
- Don't forget to soak up some sun! Vitamin D is super important for your body and mental health.
- Write a gratitude list and offer thanks. As we near the end of the year, it's a good time to reflect back on what you are grateful for, then thank those who have supported you.
- Set aside time for yourself and prioritize self-care. Schedule time for activities that make YOU feel good and happy.. Seek help when needed.

(NAMI, 2020)

October 2021 Finance Report

Assets include designated funds in our bank account of \$41,899 (this total includes \$-15,968 in our general fund) which compares to \$-12,504 in September. Motion was made and accepted to pay \$628 (a tithe of our October revenue), towards this month's apportionments. Giving was down 38% from budget and expenses are 1% under budget for October. Year to date (YTD) giving is down 21% compared to 19% in September and YTD expenses are 3% under compared to 3% under in September.

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. 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. The Permanent Endowment Fund Committee will meet in December to determine distribution of 2021 interest.

October Worship You Tube Views:

- Total Views 93
- Minutes Watched 1130

Holidays and gatherings-Tips from the MN Dept of Health

There are several ways to enjoy holiday traditions and protect your health. We encourage Minnesotans to take the following steps to make your holiday gatherings safer.

- **Get vaccinated.** The best way to keep your family and friends safe is to get vaccinated if you are eligible.
 - **Lay low before you go.** Minimize activities that present a high risk of exposure (attending crowded indoor public events, etc.) a couple of weeks before holiday gatherings or travel so you don't get COVID-19 and spread it at a holiday event.
 - **Get tested.** Take advantage of [COVID-19 testing](#) options so you can know before you go. You can go to a testing site or use the at-home testing program. It is especially important to get tested if you have symptoms or were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
 - Some locations may be closed on or around holidays. Check hours before you go.
 - **Stay home if you are sick.** If you have symptoms or test positive, stay home and away from others. Do not attend or host a gathering.
 - **Wear well-fitting masks** over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated, and even if you are fully vaccinated in communities experiencing substantial or high levels of COVID-19 transmission—that includes all of Minnesota.
 - Masks are required on public transportation, including buses and airplanes.
 - **Gather outdoors or in an area with good ventilation.** If indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors if possible. Learn more about how to improve airflow, ventilation, circulation, and more at [Indoor Air Considerations: COVID-19](#).
 - **Avoid crowded settings.** Gather in a place where people can keep space between each other.
- Travel safer.** Refer to the [traveling](#) section below.

Additional guidance can be found on [CDC: Holiday Celebrations](#).

December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Ogilvie UMC

10 Angel Spooner

Mora UMC

01 Travis Nelson

04 Luke Nordstrom

08 Roberta Thompson

18 Grayson Spann

19 Megan Hanson

20 Jack Sigstad

27 Naomi Schultz

29 Matthew Anderson

29 Desmond & BrieAnne Merkwan

****Bold indicates anniversary***

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

Eastwood Senior Living

170 Valhalla Circle

Mora, MN 55051

Ruth Kaufert

646 Old Main St. N.

Cambridge, MN 55008

Saluting those in the military:

AB Gravning, Zander J

323 TRS/Dorm 3C2 FLT 821

1320 Truemper St Unite 369563

JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-6408

Thank You:

One More Time thanks Mora UMC for time donated by Cindy Peterson and enclosed a check for \$33.50 for hours donated to the Mora Food Shelf for the month of September.

Thank You:

Meals on Wheels thanks Sharon Lidstrom for her service providing meals on 15 dates in 2021. "You make such a difference in what our church does, and we appreciate it!"

Thank You:

The Mora Food Shelf thanks Mora UMC for its donation of 162 pounds of food to the pantry for 242 pounds of food for July - September.2021

Thank You from the Graner's:

Thanks you for your loving support and prayers for our family over the past 8 years. Our lives are turning a corner after 32 years of missionary service as Gordon and I will both be retired by February 1st, 2022. This will be our last newsletter to you. Life brings changes but relationships, love and God's mission continue as Jesus calls us to give and to serve. God's peace in this blessed holiday season.

Ardell & Gordy

A Letter from Leadership of Ogilvie UMC to Ogilvie Congregation:

Dear People of the Ogilvie United Methodist Church Family,

On January 1st, 2022, Ogilvie UMC will no longer be financially connected to Mora UMC. There will always be a friend in Christ connection.

Pastor Deb Schaffran, as a hired supply pastor has agreed to do the service on Communion Sundays until June when she will know what her summer schedule will be. Communion Sundays will be the first Sunday of the month unless something comes up that would make it impossible for Pastor Deb to lead the service on the Sunday. Communion Service will then be the following Sunday. Pastor Deb may or may not decide to continue to have the same schedule after June 1.

Other Sundays will either be online on screen in our church sanctuary at the same time we have now, or there will be a visiting pastor when available to provide us with the Sunday Service. At this time Kaye has been told her brother-in-law who is a retired United Methodist Church pastor is willing to do the Easter Service at our church provided there are no new covid situations.

Once again, the Sunday worship services will continue to be held at the 9a.m. time every Sunday.

Please come and join for Spiritual growth.

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

Interim Office Administrator-Phyllis Roseberry

moraogilvie.umcs@gmail.com

Office Administrator hours varied

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship

10:30 a.m. Worship available on YouTube

Visit us online: 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

10:30 a.m. Worship available on YouTube

Visit us online:

moraumc.org/ogilvie-united-methodist-church



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