

Seward United Methodist News Stream June 28th

Special Transition Sunday Worship Service

On June 28th, we will have a Special Transition Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am in the Seward United Methodist parking lot. We will have our District Superintendent Reverend Dr. Nancy Tomlinson here with us to share the message and transition the "mantle" with the Seward United Methodist Church special stole from Pastor Robert Perry to Pastor Mary Kay Totty. We will share in a liturgy of thanks, share gifts and honk the horns with those present this week in the parking lot and online.

Zoom Games with Church Family and Friends



Join us for *KAHOOT* on Sunday, June 28th from 5:00 - 6:20pm. All ages and stages are invited to play. Please [email Wess](#) to sign up each person in your group. He will be sending out instructions for this evening together. Cindy Butzke will be our game host and we are sure to have much fun!!!

Utica Lions Club Peaches and Pears For Sale

Utica Lions Club is selling 20lbs of peaches and 36lbs of pears for \$40.00 each. Call 402-534-2330, 402 534-4791, 402 534-2281 or 402 641-1151 before July 28th. Delivery to the Seward United Methodist Church parking lot is expected mid-August or early September. Proceeds support community projects.

This week at Seward United Methodist Church

- Sunday, June 28th: 5-6:20pm Kahoot Game Zoom Night with our very own host Cindy Butzke! See sign-up instructions above.
- Tuesday, June 30th: 10a.m. United Methodist Women Leadership gathering outside at Maxine Moore's. Bring your own chair please.
- Thursday, July 2nd Food Net continues weekly from 5:00-6:00pm.
- Thursday, July 2nd Mission, Outreach, and Witness team will gather outside on the East Lawn (physically distanced and in the shade). Please join us at 6:30pm for our time together!
- July Worship Volunteers were sent out... please check for this information from Martie.

Other opportunities for ministry and worship...

- We invite you to midweek FOCUS worship July 1st as Pastor Mary Kay's official first day with us! Please join us in the parking lot/chairs in the shade (safely distanced) at 6:00pm as we will share the theme of *LOVE All the People*, to finish out our June worship!
- More *Cocoa and Coffee Fellowship* times will be scheduled soon to allow for people to meet/zoom and get to know Pastor Mary Kay. Watch for more details and dates soon!
- *MUSIC MONDAYS* continue weekly and are so wonderful. Tune in at noon for a real treat on our Seward United Methodist Church YouTube channel or Facebook page.
- *DEVOTION WEDNESDAYS*: continue weekly and are posted near noon each Wednesday.
- *GOD AND ME* children's time ministry continue over the summer and are posted on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Many thanks to Lynette, Cindy, and Sue for your help in making these for the summer months!
- *Pastor Jo Ellen's Art Room* also continues periodically over the summer months. Children are encouraged to watch when they can or watch later. Children's time at worship is also available online.

We thank our awesome worship and tech team for all they have done these past few months to host worship and other times online and in the parking lot! We especially thank Wess, Shannon, Jamie, Ander, Luke, Jay, Sarah, Deb, Megan, Alex, and Alexa for assisting wherever needed these past few months.. If I have missed someone, please forgive me... you are most appreciated!!!

Pastor Jo Ellen

Reminder... Church Building Re-Opens to the Public in July

The Seward United Methodist Church building will have a soft re-opening starting in July. The front doors will be unlocked only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am - 3:00pm when you can access the office area. Please call ahead to be sure the building is open. The black mailbox has a locked area where you can leave notes/checks/etc. if you find the building inaccessible.

Reminder... Return to In-Person Worship in July

Starting on July 5th, we will gather inside the sanctuary for Sunday ONE Worship. The front/West red doors on 5th Street will be where all Seward United Methodist Church family and friends will enter and exit. The back/East doors are exclusively for Bright Beginnings Child Development Center and Food Net.

Wednesday FOCUS Worship will also gather inside the sanctuary starting July 8th although we may decide to meet outside if the weather is favorable. Any last minute changes will be set out via One-Call phone call and/or email/text.

Starting Sunday July 5th, the front doors will open at 10:10am to facilitate getting everyone settled for worship at 10:30am. Initially, we will be limited to approximately seventy people in the sanctuary. We will add back in the 8:15am worship service as we have need to expand but until then, we will provide *overflow* seating in the Fellowship Hall.

Special Instructions for Sunday and Wednesday In-Person Worship

- A Welcome Team member will help direct flow into the sanctuary each worship gathering.
- If you or anyone in your household is sick, or if you are at high risk of contracting the virus, you are encouraged to stay home and continue to worship with us online until further notice. Please monitor your health symptoms to help you make the best decision about attendance. Please do not attend if you have a temperature or are sick.
- In order to follow the state-distancing guidelines, we have determined that we can seat 60 or so people into units/bubbles or groups who live/stay together. We have two areas reserved for those with young children, at the back, in the event you need space to spread out a bit more or your unit/bubble group will feel more secure behind the glass at the back of the sanctuary.
- Please maintain six-foot distancing as you enter. You will be ushered to a seating location so that the sanctuary is filled from the front to the back. Please stay seated until it is time to exit, unless you have an emergency/restroom need.
- ***You are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times.*** Pastors, musicians, and readers are excluded for their parts of the service, as they will be more than 12-20 feet

away from the pews where folks are sitting. Shields will be used as they are able to be used. Please bring your own masks. The Seward United Methodist Church team will provide you with a cloth mask if you do not have one. We will have a few available each week. This will be for you to keep and bring with you to future services.

- Pews will not have any books, etc. in them. Bring your own bibles/bulletins which are posted online ahead of time. The screen will be used also for sharing of the bulletins/words to read. Singing is discouraged at this time. Our worship team will lead in singing, and we encourage soft clapping, snapping, or moving of hands to the music. Listen deeply to the words at this time.
- Offerings will be gathered at the door when you leave the sanctuary. There will be a box or basket for you to place these. As always, you can mail in items or drop them in the front black locked box for offerings. Please note on your envelope/check what they are for. Many thanks!
- Physical distancing is to be maintained at all times. Children will stay in pews during the Children's Time. There will be no children's bags. Feel free to bring your own items for children to use. Be sure to have some conversation with your children/young people about the "changes" they will see, hear, and be asked to do. Help to prepare them ahead of time for this to ease any anxiety they may have and to answer the questions they have. Children need this added time, before we meet in person. Thank you!!!
- If a child needs to leave the sanctuary to use the bathroom, a parent/guardian is to accompany them. Please use restrooms for emergency use only. We ask that you spray/clean things you might touch inside the restrooms.
- Holy Communion is to be brought by you for your unit/bubble. Bring juice/water in a closed container and bread/crackers in a Ziplock bag. Elements will be blessed during worship. Those participating in worship online will gather items for home usage also.
- After our worship gathering you will be dismissed in an orderly manner out the building, as directed by our Welcome Team.
- After worship, please go directly outside and maintain physical distancing on the lawn/parking lot areas as folks are leaving.
- Overflow seating will be provided in the Fellowship Hall. You would be directed to pick out your own chair and place it in your unit/bubble spread six feet apart. Afterwards, you return the chair as directed and then they will be cleaned. All of the pews/chairs are disinfected after worship by Campbell's Cleaning.
- A [Checklist](#) has been developed by the Great Plains Conference and is available on the front page of the sewardumc.org Website.

Many thanks for assisting with these efforts to find our new normal in these times. Thank you for reading and following these procedural guidelines. Your Pastors and Church Staff appreciate your continued support and grace in these times!