

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream July 26th

Thanks from Pastor Mary Kay

Thank you! Thank you for the kind ways you have welcomed me. Thank you to the congregation for the "Chamber Bucks" for local businesses. Thank you to the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the beautiful plant. Thank you to the staff for lovely gifts and gift certificate to Chapter's Books. Thank you for the encouraging cards. Thank you for your patience as I am learning names and faces (y'all look different with a mask than without a mask!!).



Thank you for being you!! I am grateful, honored, and delighted to serve as lead pastor of Seward United Methodist Church.

Grace, Peace,

Pastor Mary Kay

Please [sign up](#) for Cocoa and Coffee Fellowship times with Pastor Mary Kay in the month of July. More times will be offered in August and September as well.

Music and Worship Arts Week Starts July 27th

Music and Worship Arts Week is Monday to Thursday, July 27th - 30th, 6:00-8:00pm. We will be outside, inside and via Zoom as necessary. Bring a water bottle/snack, and wear your mask. We will gather first in the sanctuary each evening . Activities include

- creative movement and interpretive dance
- visual art
- musical instruments
- writing/poetry (this one will be via zoom)

There is still time to [sign-up online now!](#)

Kevin and Heidi Cheng Piano/Violin Duet Concert

Please help us welcome back [Kevin & Heidi Cheng](#) of Central City, Nebraska. The concert will conclude our Music & Worship Arts Week and will include sacred, popular, Irish, blue grass gospel, patriotic, ragtime, and world-class classical music. Kevin and Heidi will also share their personal testimony during the performance. Join us on Thursday, July 30th at 6:45pm (concert starts at 7:00pm) to feel the spirit, share in the offering of creative gifts, and feel the music! A love offering will be collected to support Kevin and Heidi's ministry.



Back to School Backpack Blessings

We pray for educators. We pray for students of all ages. We pray for those who plan, lead, and teach... for those who support, care, and love... we pray for those in their first classroom... we pray for those in their last classroom... we pray for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, Pre-K, kindergartners, elementary students, middle school students, high school students, college students, and graduate students... we pray.

Join us on Sunday, August 9th at the 10:30am worship, bring your backpack either in person or pull up to your screens and we will pray over each of you. All ages and stages of education!

Blessing the Graduates



At the 10:30am worship on Sunday, August 2nd we will celebrate the High School Graduation of our members

- Abbie Christensen
- Sydney Christensen
- Taylor Fitzke
- Adam Galusha
- Meghan Meyer
- Trevor Reeves

We celebrate all of our friends who have graduated this summer as well! Best wishes to all as they head off to school, work, and life! May you know you are covered in thoughts and prayers for the year ahead of you and the adventures you will enjoy.

Love and prayers, from all of us at Seward United Methodist Church

Prayers of Joy and Concern

We continue to lift up those who need healing or wholeness.

We continue to celebrate new life and new little ones.

We continue to lift us those who have experienced grief, especially the family of Mike and Laura Shriver upon the death of his mother.

We continue to celebrate the new adventures and joys of our graduates this week.

For all others who have shared during worship, we continue to pray alongside you in both your joys and in your concerns.

Seward United Methodist Church Covid-19 Pandemic Protocol

4Corners Health Department has created a Risk Gauge for the area, including Seward. We will tailor congregational activities based on the risk level as indicated with the 4Corners Gauge. When risk levels are lowered, we will wait for consecutive two weeks of lower risk before shifting to the more relaxed measures. When risk levels are raised we will immediately shift to the more cautious measures for member and staff safety and well-being.

Green *Low Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

When the risk level has been at green for two consecutive weeks, we will resume regular church activities with 6 foot distancing. Worship will continue to be live streamed as an ongoing ministry. Wednesday evening FOCUS activities will resume. Church office will be open more days of the week.

Yellow *Moderate Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

Risk reduction measures will be in place — masks for those attending worship, maintaining social distance, outside activities/meetings when possible, encouragement of Zoom gatherings. Worship will be in person and live streamed. No congregational singing. Office open Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Orange *Elevated Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

When this level is reached, these items immediately go into effect. Worship will be only live streamed. Only staff will be in the office except for essential activities, committees will meet via Zoom, pastoral care will be by phone and zoom.

Red *Severe Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

When this level is reached, these items will go into effect immediately. The church building will be closed. Staff will work from home except for occasional trips to the church to handle mail and any other essential activity. Worship components will be individually taped and spliced together for worship to be streamed on Sunday mornings. Individual worship leaders may go to church to tape their part of worship. No more than 3 people at a time in the sanctuary (including the balcony).