

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream October 4th

Elevated Health Concern

Just when we thought fall was going well, the Four Corners Health Department Covid19 Risk Gauge moved from Yellow Moderate to Orange Elevated Risk. With the risk gauge moving into orange, the Pandemic Protocol approved by the Administrative Council at the July 19th meeting goes into effect, which means:

- Worship will be live stream only -- no in person worship this week
- Inside small group meetings and studies will need to be rescheduled or held by Zoom

Our current pandemic protocol aligns with the Four Corners Health Department's recommendations for community safety in the Orange Elevated Risk zone. We are aware that after we adopted this protocol, the Seward Public Schools adopted their protocol which continues in person learning even while in the Orange zone. We are also aware the Governor has declared that Nebraska is in Phase 4 of reopening plans.

There is no consistency between any of these and therefore it is confusing and complex to figure out what should be our best practices and faithful responses. The Administrative Council will meet in emergency session by Zoom on Monday evening to review our Pandemic Protocol and consider any revisions in light of all these diverse suggestions and guidelines. As always, we are grateful for your patience, flexibility, and grace as we navigate this stressful time.

Grace, peace,
Reverend Mary Kay

A Blessing of the Animals

Everyone is invited to a Blessing of the Animals Service on Wednesday evening, October 7 at 6:00pm. All of God's creatures are welcome: people and those with feathers, fur, fins, two feet and four feet! Following a brief order of worship, Mary Kay and Jo Ellen will offer individual prayers of blessing for each animal present. If your favorite animal would not do well around people and other creatures, you are invited to bring a picture instead. Anyone without an animal to bring may bring a stuffed animal to represent the creatures not with us. We do a Blessing of the Animals in early October to coincide with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi who would preach to the animals of the field when people would not listen to him. The words to the hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" are attributed to St. Francis.

Trunk or Treat October 31st 4:00-7:00pm 2020

We will use the recommended six feet of separation recommendation and encourage use of masks. Hand sanitizer will be available. All trunks will be outside and we will have craft goodie bags for children to take home to create with their loved ones. Candy and other favors will be shared in safe ways. We are following the Four Corner approved health plan for a fun and safe event. All are welcome! [Sign up](#) to help by providing candy, organization or a trunk for this community event.

FoodNet Reminders

Lou Bauman says "Thank you for all the wonderful support given by the church for FoodNet," Lou and Juanita Hill continue to work each week to be sure we are prepared for Thursday evening FoodNet by lining up volunteers and food items. Funds are starting to deplete and we are requesting food items again. For October, tuna and canned fruit would be helpful. Also, if you would like to volunteer to prep, pack, or serve please let the church office know.

Virtual Crop Walk 2020

This year we doing are [Virtual Crop Walk](#). Select a time to go on a walk this week and then post to our Facebook page or send it in via email to Pastor Jo Ellen. She will be sharing our personal walk pictures with Seward United Methodist Church and also on the Seward County Ministerial Association site. We are still gathering funds until October 15th for Crop Walk. Checks can be made to Church World Service and indicate Crop Walk 2020 in the memo. These can be turned in at local Seward banks this week or into the church locked drop box by the red doors. Thanks for walking and supporting this effort!

Restarting the Parenting Group

Do you love your kids to pieces, yet find parenting very challenging at times? You are not alone! Connect with other parents at Seward United Methodist Church. Our goal is to sharpen and support each other in faith-based parenting. Email Matt and [Lindsay Hastings](#) or Cameron and [Melissa Soester](#) for more information.

Faithful and Inclusive Bible Study

This six-session resource for Sunday Schools and small groups will be offered two nights a week beginning on Sunday, October 4th at 6:30pm (Online) and Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30pm (In-Person). Merlyn Nielsen will lead the Sunday session, Amy Miller will lead the Tuesday session. Please call the church office (402 643-4156) to sign up.

Quick Hitters...

[World Communion Sunday](#) is this Sunday, October 4th. Have your communion elements ready for our online worship as we continue our series on Grace Abounds... We can't wait to hear the story sermon this week!

We will NOT be having the United Methodist Women Day Group Meeting on Wednesday, October 7th.

UMYF will begin on Wednesday October 7th. Watch for details from our great youth leaders!

Jo Ellen's suggestion for this week's virtual children's [Sunday School Lesson Link](#).

10 Ways to Build Relationships with Kids

- 1** Talk to them about non-school related subjects.
- 2** Let them teach you about their interests.
- 3** Remember things about their lives.
- 4** Share about your own life.
- 5** Engage in activities with them.
- 6** Tell hilarious (and even embarrassing) stories.
- 7** Share inspirational stories from your life.
- 8** Do crazy things.
- 9** Use their interests in your lessons and activities.
- 10** Apologize when you mess up.