

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream November 15th

November Worship in the Red Zone

The Four Corners Health Department Risk Gauge for Covid19 is now in the Severe Risk Red Zone; therefore, we will implement the protocol adopted by our administrative council. The ministries of our congregation will move on-line and outside, until the gauge goes down. Here's what this will look like:

- *Sunday Worship 8:00am* will be a pre-recorded video available on Facebook and YouTube beginning Sunday mornings at 8:00am Mary Kay, Jo Ellen, and Wess will be part of the *Watch Party* on Facebook at 8:00am to interact with others who choose to watch then.
- *Sunday Worship 10:30am* will be Zoom Worship! Live! Interactive! This shorter worship service will include live delivery of the sermon, children's sermon, and interactive joys and concerns. We will also have some prerecorded items, like music. We encourage folks to try Zoom worship -- it will give you the opportunity to at least see each other's faces. When worship concludes, we will have virtual coffee fellowship. Attendees will be randomly placed in break out rooms for about 10 minutes of visiting. We will do the breakout rooms twice each week.
- *Thursday morning Bible Study* will be on Zoom, Confirmation Classes will be on Zoom, Church team meetings will be on Zoom.
- *Community Thanksgiving Service* will be virtual and available on Tuesday evening, November 24.
- *Food Net* will continue to provide groceries with a drive thru pick up
- *Bright Beginnings* is deemed an essential business and the Health Department has requested they stay open.
- *Advent at Home* bags will be available for pick up on Sunday afternoon, November 22 in the church parking lot. The bags will contain items for Advent worship at home to coordinate with the online worship each week.
- *Advent Workshop* kits will be available soon... watch for details soon! This is our creative keepsakes handmade for the advent season and for use with your worship bags items. All ages/families/stages will want a kit for home!
- Church staff will mainly work from home and be available by phone, text, email, zoom.
- Church staff will continue to work to provide ministries all through the weeks. Yes, things are different. And we will get through this most unusual holiday season together.



Advent and Christmas Season Coming Up

A full list of Advent and Christmas dates and opportunities, both digital and outside, will be listed in the news and updates next time. We hope you will know we have a place for you this season, though it will look a bit different this year. We are working well to plan, pray, and prepare for a meaningful, connected Advent which will prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Festival of Trees – Make an Angel

Pastor Jo Ellen needs your help as we prepare for the annual Christmas festival in Seward, by decorating a tree for the "Festival of Trees" at the civic center. Seward United Methodist Church Family and Friends will have a tree this year. This week I am inviting you to create angels of any kind (tat, knit, lace, paper, dough, wood, etc.) or locate an angel or two you are willing to loan out the entire season for this project.

I have a huge, fluffy tree and some angels already, but would love some more! Mark your name on them or somehow label them for their return in the new year! Pastor Jo Ellen will also love to have these to the church building no later than Sunday, November 22nd. You can drop them off at your own timing... between 6am and 6pm in the tote just inside the back/east door by the basketball hoop. Bright Beginnings Child Development Center knows folks will be dropping these off next week and you can slip inside to just quickly drop them into the tote box.



Be sure to plan to stop by the nicely spaced out and safe to visit Festival of Trees, from the Friday following Thanksgiving all the way to the New Year! Wear a mask and enjoy! They have hand sanitizer right inside the front door. Thank you in advance!!!

Love and prayers, Pastor Jo Ellen

Charge Conference

As a follow up to the actions the Administrative Council took on Oct 18 to review and approve charge conference reports, our District Superintendent, Pastor Nancy Tomlinson requests that members of Administrative Council attend a Zoom meeting on Sunday evening, November 15, at 5:30p.m. This will be a network meeting with other churches in our network. During this meeting, Pastor Nancy Tomlinson will ask Administrative Council members to affirm the votes and work we did on Oct 18. The link to the Zoom gathering will be sent to the Administrative Council members when it becomes available.

Thank you for adding this to your calendar!

Annual United Methodist Women's UN-Bazaar?

Our Methodist Church has hosted a Four-Seasons Fall Bazaar for 67 years and skipping this year was not an option. This year's event is an [Envelope Challenge Fundraiser](#). The 2020

UN-Bazaar! opens on November 1st and closes on November 15th. The United Methodist Women are very excited about this envelope fundraiser. Participants of all ages are invited to consider the many gifts God has given to them and then express their gratitude as they in turn become a blessing to others. There are three ways you can participate:

1. You can [signup](#) to give online, then mail your check to the church office.
2. You can step inside the front doors of the church to find the Grateful Giving Display (see picture above) with instructions and a selection of colorful donation envelopes from which to choose.
3. Contact the church office to have the 2020 UN-Bazaar information mailed to you.

Thank you for caring,
Seward United Methodist Women



Nebraska Brass Online Concert

Live! in Lincoln: Thursday Night Music Series proudly presents a free live-stream event featuring Nebraska's premiere brass quintet, Nebraska Brass. This will be live-streamed from Chez Sodo on the Live! in Lincoln: Thursday Night Music Series's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/) on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 PM. Live-streaming events allows music to stay alive in Lincoln while also keeping musicians and the audience safe during the pandemic.



Office Administrator Shelley Lorenz Leaving

It is with a mixture of celebration and sadness, that we share with you the news that our Office Administrator, Shelley Lorenz, will be leaving us. We celebrate that she has accepted a position at Southeast Community College in their payroll department which offers a better salary and some great benefits that are important for Shelley and her family. The additional plus for Shelley is it is only five minutes from her home.

While we celebrate for Shelley, we are also sad. Shelley has been such an important part of our staff and such a wonderful presence in the front office of the church. We will truly miss her! Shelley's last day with us will be Wednesday, November 25th. However, she will help us evenings and weekends until a replacement can be found. The Staff Parish Relations Committee has met and is already working on our search process. Please pray for Shelley during this transition. Please pray that we can find a wonderful replacement.

Prayers and Sympathy

For all of our church family and friends, who are finding Covid-19 to be difficult for health, family, work, and wellness, we lift you up in prayers.

For all of our church family and friends, who are struggling with health issues and have had surgeries, we lift you up in prayers.

For all our church family and friends, who have joys and celebrations they wish they could share, we lift you up in prayers.

For all of our church family, who have suffered loss, death, and grief, we lift you up in prayers.

For the family and friends of Tony Vrana we continue to lift you in love and prayers. Please know your church family and friends are praying alongside you as you walk this season of grief. A family graveside will be shared on Saturday, November 14th and will be posted to the Zabka-Perdue site.