

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream December 6th

Advent Season Reminders



Just a reminder while we are in the Red Zone, this is our plan:

- *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. When worship concludes, we will have virtual coffee fellowship.
- *Bible Study and Meetings* Thursday morning Bible Study will be on Zoom, Confirmation Classes will be on Zoom, Church team meetings will be on Zoom.
- *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 Workshop* is a special coordinated with a weekly online worship video on Facebook and YouTube. All ages/families/stages can participate!

Advent and Christmas Season Special Events

December 5th & 6th - 4:00 – 6:00pm Living Nativity



Bring the whole family and drive through Seward United Methodist Church's Living Nativity Scene Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Through open car windows, listen to Christmas music from the church carillon as you see the holy family, shepherds, and magi. All are welcome!

December 9th – 6:00pm Virtual Children's Christmas Program

The Seward United Methodist Church's WORLD PREMIERE of "*Live from Bethlehem*", our children's Christmas Pageant will be Wednesday evening, December 9th at 6:00pm. Tune in to Facebook or YouTube to watch our young ones telling the Christmas story. Pageant participants will have recorded their parts at home and sent the recordings to Wess who will put them all together creating the pageant. We thank everyone who helped make this pageant possible this year. Hope you all enjoy watching it!

All the children of Seward United Methodist Church and Bright Beginnings Child Development Center are invited to stop by the church on Wednesday, December 9th between 4:00pm and 6:00pm to pick up your "Pageant Watch Treat" bag!



December 16th – 6:00pm Blue Christmas Service

Are you struggling with the holidays? Is this time of year difficult for you? Is grief or anxiety lingering close by? Then maybe you would be interested in Seward United Methodist Church's "Blue Christmas Service." This virtual worship service is designed to acknowledge that the holidays are not happy nor festive for some folks and that's OK. Bring your tears, your sorrow, your worry, your stress and find solace in this time of worship. The virtual Blue Christmas Service will premiere on Wednesday evening, December 16th at 7:00pm.

December 20th – 5:30pm Drive-In Carol in Cars

How can we safely sing Christmas carols during a surge in the pandemic??? From the warmth and safety of our own cars!! Join us in the parking lot of Seward United Methodist Church on Sunday evening, December 20th at 5:00pm for a time of singing carols and then watching a beloved holiday classic. This *drive-in* event will use radio broadcasting to lead the carols and share the sound of the holiday classic short film. In our cars, with the windows up, we can both sing and keep our germs to ourselves. Come one, come all to this inaugural holiday event!

December 24th (TBA) Christmas Eve Worship Service

Family and friends, we wish we could provide more details about Christmas Eve at Seward United Methodist Church. At the moment your pastors and staff have at least four different plans in the works depending on a host of unknown factors. The one similarity with all the plans is there will be a virtual Christmas Eve worship option available as either a pre-recorded worship or live stream. If the risk gauge moves down into orange, we will offer in person worship with masks, social distance, and no congregational singing inside. If the risk gauge remains in red and the weather cooperates we will offer a short outdoors worship again with masks and socially distanced. We are weighing the possibility of offering a Zoom Christmas Eve service if we are still in the red zone. We hope to be able to share a firm plan for Christmas Eve by Sunday, December 20th. As always, we are grateful for your patience, flexibility, and grace!



Annual United Methodist Women's UN-Bazaar?

Seward United Methodist Women are beyond grateful for your donations to our 2020 UN-Bazaar. A total of \$3,206 has been contributed to mission ministries through this month's annual fundraiser! This month \$2000 will be distributed to five local organizations supporting Seward County families.

- Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
- Bright Beginnings Child Development Center
- Foodnet
- Seward Foster Friends
- Seward Ministerial Association

Thank you for caring,
Seward United Methodist Women



Sign Up to be a Salvation Army Bell Ringer

The Salvation Army, which helps families in Seward County over the winter months, allows us to keep 90% of funds raised in our county. All ringing is outside (bundle up) and safely distanced (6 feet away) from the kettle and cleaning supplies are available. Scott Krohn is taking care of getting/retrieving the kettle to Walmart each evening/day.

Seward United Methodist Church has committed to every Friday evening 5:00 - 9:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am - 8:00pm starting the weekend after Thanksgiving until December 27th. Folks sign up individually (general sign up link for Nebraska) so that they receive a reminder email which includes Covid information details. It is pretty easy to find Seward, Nebraska and the available sign-up times. We encourage you to share the link with your families so that all the dates/times can get filled. Thank you in advance!