

## *Seward United Methodist Church News Stream January 24th*

### *Upcoming Worship Plans*

These Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday are part of "ordinary time" for the church year. In January, we have remembered the visit of the Magi, our baptism, and the witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. We will round out January with Pastor Jo Ellen preaching on January 24th and 31st. For February 7th, we will look at the story of Jeremiah buying the field at Anathoth. February 14th is Valentine's Day and our theme will be love. We are working on plans for Lenten Worship which will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Watch your newsletters the next couple of weeks for more details!

Hopefully by now, you have received the mailing from the church about a building project idea from the Building Improvement Committee. If you have not received the mailing, please be in touch with the church office to make sure we have your correct address. Members of the building improvement committee are available and willing to talk to folks one on one by telephone. We look forward to sharing this exciting idea with all of you!

Peace, Mary Kay

### *Building Improvement Committee Presentations*

The Building Improvement Committee will be hosting a series of presentations about the proposed "South Addition" to the church. Everyone is invited to attend one or more of these presentations to hear about the idea, offer feedback and suggestions, ask questions, provide thoughts and opinions. See below for the schedule of meetings. The in person ones will be held in the sanctuary to provide for social distancing. The links for the two Zoom meetings will be sent out emails the day of the meeting.

#### In-Person Presentations

1. Sunday, January 24th 12:00pm
2. Monday, January 25th 7:00pm
3. Thursday, January 28th 3:30pm
4. Sunday, January 31st 12:00
5. Wednesday, February 3rd 1:30pm
6. Thursday, February 4th 10:30pm

#### Zoom Presentations

1. Sunday, January 24th 6:30pm via Zoom
2. Sunday, January 31st 6:30pm via Zoom

## *Our Bright Beginnings Child Development Ministry*

The children are enjoying discovering, through play, with many of our new curriculum materials. We received a lovely donation for new curriculum and materials for our "Nature Area" outside and also for inside additions. We are trying some of them out inside while the weather is still a bit wintery and will move them to the nature area as it warms up. The Jim and Jane Gardner memorial has assisted with the larger pieces of the new outside space (still under progress in the back lawn space) with a musical pebble harp and two sided art structure.



Our latest donation helped us to purchase materials to use with building (several types of blocks, nature items and manipulative), science, mud kitchen, and a new Little Free Library for our literacy corner. The new Bible Characters sets will be used in the classrooms with our child size altar areas for worship and exploration in our classrooms. These altar tables were made a good while back by Lee Doehring and continue to be a favorite spot in the rooms.

We are extremely blessed to have amazing teachers, leaders, supporters, a fabulous board, and exceptional children in this ministry!!!

Love and prayers,

Pastor Jo Ellen

## *Confirmation Class/Godparents for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Graders*

We have 13-14 students in our group and are working towards Confirmation on Easter Sunday. Their Godparents are Megan and Brian Forbes, Jamie Axthelm and Clay Shepherd. These leaders have been making preparations and will begin meeting on Sunday evenings soon. Pastors Jo Ellen and Mary Kay continue to enjoy learning with this group in our class.

We have been participating in *acts of service* during the advent season and continuing into the new year. This Sunday we prepared items for Lent and packed backpacks with the Kiwanis for school children on Wednesday.



## *Card Shower for Ellie Stark's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

Ellie Stark is having her 90th birthday on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and her family is requesting the "treat" of a Card Shower! Please send birthday greetings to Ellie at 2925 Old Mill Road, Seward. Thank you for being so sweet!

## *Our Thoughts and Prayers*

We extend our deepest sympathy, love, and prayers to families walking a grief journey. We continue to pray for those struggling with health issues and Covid. We continue to pray for our country and state as we navigate this tenuous year.

Amy and Gus Miller family following the death of Amy's Mother, Randy Halder and Lori Shriner family following the death of Randy's Mother, and Dorothy Bennett family following the death of her son.

Please pray alongside us for comfort, healing, and wholeness in the coming days and weeks for each of these families.

## *Vaccine Information*

If you are *over 65* and have a local care provider, you should be receiving a call soon to sign up for a vaccination if you desire one. If you are in the *18-64 age group* with underlying health issues, you are also now eligible.

Anyone can go to the [Four Corners Health Department Website](#) to sign up and you will be contacted when your group is ready. If you have questions about the vaccine, signing up or need help please let one of our Faith Community Nurses know. You can contact the church office (please leave a message) or you can contact Susan Walsh as well.