

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream February 21st

As We Begin Lent

As we begin this season of Lent, we pray you will walk alongside us either in person or online. The Lenten bags are just inside the front red doors to the building if you want to pick one up. The office is again open from 9:00 to 3:00pm daily, and the back/East doors from 7:00 to 6:00pm. Either are okay to use again as we are well into the "yellow risk dial" with very few cases in the whole county of Seward. Keep up with the masks.

Cooking pretzels and story time with Pastor Jo Ellen and Shannon!!! Sign up by e-mailing Jo Ellen for this Zoom adventure for all ages. Date TBA Time 2:00 pm. We will provide supplies during the week before to be picked up or dropped off, if needed. We can't wait.



Sunday School Returns via Zoom

Zoom Sunday School for *Preschoolers thru 4th graders*. Watch for the separate email link... times will be from 9:30-10:10am to allow for in-person or online worship folks to attend this group. Please have your "adult" nearby just in case your student needs some assistance. Older siblings/younger siblings are welcome to be near also... family friendly time!

Zoom *Fellowship time for all ages* This zoom link will come with the weekly Sunday School link each weekend. You're invited to join in fellowship from 9:30 - 10:00am... bring your coffee or favorite soda! This time frame will allow those joining in-person worship and online worship to participate... all are invited! Let's visit with our weekly hosts and enjoy time together again. Host for Fellowship on February 21st and 28th - Cindy Butzke

Adult Sunday School weekly in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 9:15 am.

Bible Study with Mary Kay, weekly on Thursday in person at 10:00 am and on Zoom at 11:00 am.



New Sermon by Phone

Although we have found many new ways to stay connected in the time of pandemic and isolation, for some, connecting with church is still hard. Seward United Methodist Church has provided worship opportunities through Facebook, YouTube, DVD recordings, and broadcast on the local access channel. Still, there are some in our community who do not have access to worship due to lack of internet, smartphones, tablets, or cable TV. In an effort to connect with everyone, we bring you Sermon by Phone!

If you know someone who is unable to worship in-person or through our digital means, please share this new opportunity with them! Using the service is easy and all you need is a phone - any phone - landline or cellular. Our number for Sermon by Phone is 402-210-2259. Simply call the number and listen! It's that simple, no buttons to press...no operator...no long distance fees...just a simple and local phone call. Those that call in will hear a brief welcome message, then the sermon from Sunday will begin. Please share this new opportunity with those you know could benefit from this new connection!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers continue for Jeri Bierbower family, upon the death of her sister Peggy Schlichtemeier. Join in praying for comfort and peace for them. Also continue to pray for Don and Norma Woolsey as they move to David City for care. Keep them close as they make the home transitions please.

Blood Pressure Screenings Return

The Faith Community Nurses look forward to resuming monthly Blood Pressure Screenings later in the month after both services. We ask that you remain in the pew, socially distanced with your mask on after the service, and the nurses will come to you. We encourage you to participate and look forward to seeing you! Watch for a date soon.

Building Improvement Committee Presentations

The Building Improvement Committee will do two additional presentations about the idea for a South Addition. The presentation is also available on [YouTube](#) and at www.sewardumc.org

Wednesday Evening, February 24th at 6:00pm

There will be a Called Church Conference on February 28 at 2:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend the called church conference on Sunday afternoon. Church conference will be in person and simultaneously on Zoom.

The purpose of this Church Conference will be to decide whether to proceed with design work for a South Addition to the church building that will include large restrooms near the sanctuary, a new front entrance with covered drop off, parking near the new entrance and to the south, an additional classroom for Bright Beginnings, an updated sacristy/choir changing room, a covered walk up entrance near the southeast corner, and new administrative spaces offering improved security and sight lines for the Office Administrator.

This church conference vote will only commit the congregation to the design phase of the project. If approved, there will be a second Called Church Conference later in the year (likely in the summer) presided over by our District Superintendent, Nancy Tomlinson to consider bids and approve the actual building of the addition. This is an open meeting that anyone may attend; however, to vote one needs to be an official member of Seward United Methodist Church. If you are uncertain as to your membership status, please contact the church office.