

## *Seward United Methodist Church News Stream February 28th*

### *A Note from Pastor Jo Ellen*

Many thanks are extended to the folks who assisted with the “homes” for my class at Duke! It was much appreciated and a delight to incorporate your art into the larger art piece for Lent this year. This piece represents the home mission of building and growing community... and not just within our walls, but in our greater community of Seward and beyond. We live into our mission statement in so many ways with our Seward United Methodist Church family and friends. Sharing the love of God, the hope of the Holy Spirit, and the life with Jesus Christ is the call we all have... thank you for being part of this grand faith adventure with us!

We celebrate ministry this month with our Bright Beginnings Child Development Center. Part of being a church family means we spend where our heart and our mission is. Bright Beginnings CDC is a vital and needed ministry to children and families in our community. Thank you for the ways you support our giving to these folks as they grow in grace, love, and faith each day while being nurtured in active play and learning.

Pretzels with Pastor Jo Ellen and Shannon will be on Sunday, March 7th at 4:00pm. Email Jo Ellen to sign up for the special cooking and story time Zoom. Supplies will be provided a few days ahead of time and we will cook together from our own spaces.

Love and Prayers, Pastor Jo Ellen



## *Our Thoughts and Prayers*

Prayers continue for Franklin Hronik family, upon the death of his sister.

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.

From the Discipleship Ministries Facebook Page: The Rev. Junius Boyd Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, died Wednesday night after a battle with cancer. We mourn his loss yet celebrate with him the new life he now experiences in Christ. We lift in prayer the family and friends of the Rev. Junius Dotson. Junius was a clergy member from the Great Plains Annual Conference (Kansas/Nebraska) and since 2016 has held the top executive position at the United Methodist Discipleship Ministries.

## *Blood Pressure Screenings Return*

The Faith Community Nurses will be checking BP's after each service on February 28th. Please remain socially distanced and with your mask on in the pew and they will come to you! Thanks for participating!

## *New Bible Study Starts this Week*

The Thursday morning Bible study will be starting a new book, "A Faithful Heart: Daily Guide for Joyful Living" by Bishop Sally Dyck. We have ordered a dozen copies from Chapters and when they arrive the books will be available in the church office. For those who would like to help with the cost of their book, it is \$13.99, though it isn't required. Bible Study will be in person in the fellowship hall at 10:00am. All participants will wear masks. Then a virtual option will be offered on Thursday at 11:00am. on Zoom. If you do not receive the Bible study emails from Pastor Mary Kay, please let her know that you would like to receive them.

## *Music News*

The Seward United Methodist Church Handbell Choir has been hard at work, rehearsing music for worship. The Handbell Choir will be live at in-person worship on February 28th at 10:30am and March 7 at 8:00am. Also, we have returned to congregational singing of the final hymn/song at each worship gathering. Let's give praise to God through the ringing, the singing, and silence in worship!

Join this new opportunity to be a part of a worldwide video for Easter Sunday! The is "Thine Be the Glory", #308 in the United Methodist Hymnal. It's easy to participate. Visit the United Methodist Church Discipleship website for the lyrics/sheet music, accompaniment track, and recording instructions. We will use this video in worship on Easter Sunday. Recordings are due March 5th - so start today!



Look for details next week regarding how you can participate in the Seward United Methodist Church Choir for Good Friday. We will be singing "Behold the Savior of Mankind", a Samuel Wesley text adapted by Wes Cameron. If you were a part of Chancel Choir in 2019, you may remember the piece as we rehearsed it for 2020 but were unable to sing it in worship due to the pandemic. The text has been included in USA Methodist hymnals since 1786. It's currently in The United Methodist Hymnal, #293, which has this to say about the text: Written by Samuel Wesley (1662-1735), this is one of the few relics of his papers found after the fire which destroyed the Epworth rectory during the night of February 9, 1709, when his son, young John Wesley, was rescued as a "brand plucked out of the burning." It was first printed in John Wesley's hymnbook A Collection of Psalms and Hymns (Charleston, 1737), under the the title "On the Crucifixion".

More information about how to participate will be in the newsletter next week!

## *Building Improvement Committee Presentations*

There will be a called church conference on February 28, 2021 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. 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) 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. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Nancy Tomlinson will preside over this gathering.

## *Agenda for Church Conference*

Welcome and Introductions

Opening Prayer

Brief Presentation about the Project

Sharing of the Resolution

Conversation and Questions about the Resolution

Vote on the Resolution

If affirmative: Nominations from Lay Leadership for Fundraising Task Force

Benediction

Adjournment

## *Building Improvement Committee Draft Resolution*

- 1) Seward United Methodist Church approve completing the design process for a South Addition to our property working with Clark Enerson Partners for a cost of about \$64.500
- 2) When the design is complete, Seward United Methodist Church authorizes Clark Enerson to put the project out for bid
- 3) When bids are received, Seward United Methodist Church will hold another Church Conference to vote on whether to accept a bid and enter into a South Addition Building Project
- 4) Seward United Methodist Church establish a fund-raising task force/capital campaign team to begin securing the funding for this project. This task force will begin working as soon as possible.