

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream March 14th

Warning of Impersonators and Fraudulent Communication

There is a scam making the rounds in the area. It targets pastors and church members. Someone impersonating the pastor, using the pastor's name, sends a text or email asking for an immediate response and in the follow-up, asks for the person to buy gift cards, scratch off the ID code and send a photo of the cards. This is a scam. Our pastors — Mary Kay and Jo Ellen will never text or email you asking you to buy gift cards on their behalf. If you receive a suspicious email or text, check the email address and/or the text phone number, compare it with the email and phone numbers the church lists for Pastor Mary Kay and Pastor Jo Ellen. Please report these suspicious contacts to the church office.

In addition, please pray for the people who stoop to such unscrupulous and unethical behavior, that God might transform their hearts and minds and lead them away from such harmful behaviors.

Daylight Savings Begins Sunday, March 14, 2021. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour.

Seward United Methodist Church

United Methodist Denomination in the News

The United Methodist Church is receiving some media attention with the recent announcement that a group working to break away from the denomination has a name for a new Methodist denomination. Pastor Mary Kay shared some insights about what is happening in her [March 11th mid-week devotion](#) (also on [Facebook](#)). Please contact Pastor Mary Kay (by phone or email) for more information.

Linger on the Lawn Fellowship

As the weather improves and more of us join in worship in person, we invite you to Linger on the Lawn and fellowship following worship. This is a nice time to visit again. As it warms, we will provide some water/snacks again on the front table by the red doors. You are welcome to bring a chair or coffee, etc.



March 14th is UMCOR Sunday

This week is UMCOR Sunday, one of six special offerings in United Methodist Church that supports ministries shared by all churches in the denomination. UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. When we give to specific advance projects, 100% of our gifts are directed to the designated response.

UMCOR and Global Ministries responded to the global COVID-19 crisis through the “Sheltering in Love” campaign. From the Philippines to Pennsylvania, Brazil to Burundi, UMCOR worked to meet people’s daily needs such as health care, food, hygiene and job security. UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to respond to those left most vulnerable during this challenging time.

And UMCOR doesn’t just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR cultivates relationships and helps communities rebuild, often for years after the disaster.

UMCOR can do this because the funds we receive today join with those of millions of United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes.

Go directly to [UMCOR](#) or you can give by designating UMCOR on your donation for this special offering on March 14th. Please give generously.

Faith Community Nurses Blood Pressure Checks

The Faith Community Nurses will be checking blood pressure’s after each service Sunday, March 14th. Please remain physically distanced, with your mask on in the pew and they will come to you! Thank you for participating.

Food Net Continues to Serve

We continue to serve around thirty family units weekly, feeding around 80-120 folks. We continue to appreciate our many volunteers who pick up food, donate food, sort and bag food, greet and deliver food to vehicles, and more. We thank both Lou Bauman and Juanita Hill for their continued organization and oversight of this important community wide ministry. This month’s requested item is baby wipes.

Prayer Request

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.

Schedule for Holy Week

- March 26th, 7:30pm. -- *Easter Egg Hunt and Drive-In Movie (Hop)*. This twilight Egg Hunt and family friendly movie will be fun for kids of all ages.
- March 28th, 8:00am & 10:30am -- *Palm Sunday Worship*. Each service will start outside with a parade of palms.
- April 1st, 7:00pm -- *Maundy Thursday Worship*. The service will include the Celebration of Holy Communion (elements provided). People will come forward for a small cup and piece of bread, return to their seats, then at the same time we will all eat the bread, then drinking the cup.
- April 2nd, 7:00pm -- *Good Friday Tenebrae Service*. A solemn service in remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus.
- April 4th, 6:30am -- *Easter Sunrise Worship at Junto Winery*. The service will include the Easter sermon, a Love Feast, and Easter music.
- April 4th 8:00am -- *Easter Worship*. The service will include Holy Communion, Easter music, confirmand recognition and "Lingering on the Lawn" fellowship following worship (weather permitting).
- April 4th 10:30am -- *Easter Worship/Confirmation Sunday*. The service will include Holy Communion, Easter music, confirmand recognition and "Lingering on the Lawn" fellowship following worship (weather permitting).

April 4th is Easter and Confirmation Sunday

Easter Sunday is Confirmation Sunday this year. Confirmands and their families are asked to spread out across the three service options so that there will be room for all who wish to attend in person. Members wanting to attend in person are asked to choose one of the three services to attend. The sermon will be the same at sunrise, 8:00am, and 10:30am. Both the 8:00am and 10:30am. services will be live streamed for those who choose to participate virtually. "Lingering on the Lawn" fellowship following worship (weather permitting) will offer an opportunity to greet the new church members.

Seward United Methodist Church Foundation Annual Report

On Sunday, March 7th, the Seward United Methodist Church Foundation provided an update for the congregation. The Foundation [2021 Annual Report](#) is available on the [SUMC Foundation](#) page at sewardumc.org. We are grateful for the Foundation and all the ways the members oversee faithful stewardship of the financial endowments we have received. We are also grateful for financial grants from the Foundation that support various ministry needs.

2020 Stewardship Report

As everyone knows 2020 was a challenging year. As we began 2021 we carried forward approximately \$72,600 from 2020 to our General Operating Fund. This was possible with generous giving by the congregation the last 2 months of 2020 and assistance of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) grant that enabled the church and Bright Beginnings to cover payroll cost during the last half of 2020.

For January and February giving was \$43,880.00 with expenses of approximately \$40,000.00 (February Report Pending) leaving us with our carryover from the beginning of 2021. While this has been encouraging considering the weather conditions and the ongoing pandemic concerns for January and February, we need to continue our giving throughout the year to meet our monthly budgetary needs and to continue our missions and outreach to the local and worldwide communities.

Please continue to give on a weekly or monthly basis via our available options of attendance, US Postal Service or dropping an envelope in the secure mail box at the front door, electronic bank transfer (EFT) or Pay Pal.

Thank you for your giving no matter how small or large.

Randy Halder, Finance Chair

Thanks for God and Me Volunteers



We thank Jack and Lynette Broderick for helping us to pray the pretzel prayer and about praying for and with friends. We also thank Jill Eberspacher for reading and sharing about Corrie ten Boom and the importance of helping others. We appreciate you!

Laundry Love Outreach needs Volunteers

Beginning in May, Laundry Love (started by our friends at St. Andrew's) will be the first and third Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00pm at the local Seward laundry. Folks can wash/dry up to three loads, greeters assist with the cost and quarters. Pastor Pam Williams has requested we add "helpers" with the greeters/quarters for the rotation each month. If you would like to assist on the new rotation of volunteers, please let Pastor Jo Ellen know and she will share with Pastor Pam (or you can contact Pastor Pam directly). What a great way to share your time and serve in our community! This is open to all ages of people, as long as one volunteer is an adult.

Good Friday Choir Updates

There is still time to join the Good Friday Choir! Music can be picked up at the church on the piano in the Fellowship Hall. You may also contact Wess if you need a copy of the music delivered to you. Videos of the piano accompaniment and part-dominate tracks with Wess conducting are available on our [Good Friday Virtual Choir](#) YouTube Channel. You may even see a special guest appearance at the upright piano. ;-)

With the Four Corners Risk Dial continuing to remain in the yellow zone and with approval from the Faith Community Nurses, our Good Friday Choir rehearsals will now be in-person! Choir rehearsals will take place socially distanced in the sanctuary with face coverings. The choir will meet on Wednesdays from 6:15 - 6:45pm on March 17th, March 24th, and March 31st. We will record the choir as a group at our final rehearsal and use the recording in worship on Good Friday, April 2nd. This should also eliminate the technology barrier for some who were not able to participate in our Christmas Choirs. Stay connected as plans could change.

Covid Protocols to Loosen per Four Corners Risk Dial

The Pandemic Protocol adopted by the church council calls for those attending worship or other events at Seward United Methodist Church to wear masks while we are in yellow, orange, or red risk zones on the Four Corners Risk Gauge. We are committed to keeping the church as safe as possible for as many of our members as possible. Thank you for your continued understanding, grace, and flexibility.

If Covid-19 cases numbers continue to trend downward, we will include more congregational singing in worship beginning March 28th. We will continue wearing masks and social distancing while we are in the "Yellow Zone" on the risk gauge. Folks will be invited to sing "gently" with our masks.

Jason and Macy (Perdue) Bosak Wedding



Seward United Methodist Church celebrates with Macy (Perdue) and Jason Bosak who were married in our sanctuary on this past Saturday, March 6th 2021. We send our love and prayers as we wish them a wonderful marriage and a great first year together

Nebraska Trumpet Ensemble Special Concert

Join us in a special collaboration with Hastings College facilitated by Professor of Trumpet at Hastings College and member of the Nebraska Trumpet Ensemble, Dr. Louie Eckhardt. This special concert will be streaming live from Hastings College Sunday, March 21, at 3:00pm. They will be featuring Debbie Bouffard, Louie Eckhardt, Dean Haist, L.J. McCormick, and Barb Schmit. The program will highlight works by Telemann, Amy Beach, Britten, Pierre Max Dubois, Claude le Jeune, and more.

This free event will be live streamed from our Seward United Methodist Facebook page Sunday, March 21st at 3:00pm. A personal Facebook account is not needed to view the event.

