

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream March 7th

Building Addition Moves Forward to Next Step

Thank you! Thank you for your commitment and love of this congregation, of this church. Thank you to the more than 100 who attended (in person or on Zoom) our Church Conference on Sunday afternoon, February 28. Thank you to the Building Improvement Committee for all their hard work and time to dream a dream and develop a proposal for a South Addition to our building. Thank you all for the significant support of this idea and agreeing to complete the design for the addition and put the project out to bid. Thank you to those who agreed to serve as the core team for the Fundraising Task Force and Capital Campaign Team.

The next several months will be busy as we work with Clark & Enerson on the design plans and as the Fundraising Task Force does their initial work.

Today I invite us all to be in prayer for this project and our congregation. Pray that the project goes well. Pray that we secure the resources to make this project possible. Pray that this project will bring a sense of unity and common purpose for this congregation. Pray that all we do will be in keeping with God's will.

Grace, peace, Pastor Mary Kay

March 7th is Communion and Pretzel Sunday

For Sunday, March 7 our theme is "Disciples Pray" and we will look for inspiration from Howard Thurman, a disciple who made a difference. This is also a communion Sunday so remember to bring your communion elements with you to church or have them near at hand at home.

In addition, this is the week that we will observe "Pretzel Sunday." Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm and Shannon Robotham will have a Zoom pretzel cooking class on Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm.



Tine to Think about Summer Camp at Fontanelle

Camp is getting ready for a safe, fun year with all ages. Camps are already listed on their website. We will have camp packets available soon for you to pick up at the church building. If you complete the packet and we mail it in from the church, for Camp Fontanelle, then our local United Methodist Women provides for half of the camp fees... this is a great way to attend a wonderful camp and enjoy learning more about Jesus at our United Methodist Women Camps.

See Pastor Jo Ellen or call/email if you have questions.

Pandemic Plan as Per Administrative Council Guidance

The Seward City Council has let the local mask mandate expire. The public schools will still require masks to be worn. 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.

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 - Good Friday/Easter Choir Opportunities

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 March 7th 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!

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. Rehearsal tracks that are part-dominate and include direction have been created and posted to the Seward United Methodist Church [YouTube channel](#). There will be two virtual rehearsals for the choir on Wednesday March 17th and March 24th at 6:15 pm via Zoom. Attendance at virtual rehearsal is not required, but it is strongly encouraged that you attend at least one session to discuss the music and receive notes and direction from Wess to help the musicality of the piece.

More information will follow to those who choose to participate. Thank you for considering to share your gifts with Seward United Methodist Church this Lenten season!