

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream May 16th

Updates from the CDC

As of May 13th, the CDC has issued new guidelines for masks. For folks who have been vaccinated, there is no need to wear a mask for outdoor and most indoor activities -- including attending a full capacity worship service. This is hopeful and good news. In light of these updates, Seward United Methodist Church will not require folks to wear masks while at church. If you have been vaccinated you do not need to wear a mask. We will, however, respect anyone who chooses to continue wearing a mask while at church. If you have not yet been vaccinated, we encourage you to get a vaccine soon for your own safety and well-being.

Grace, peace, Mary Kay

Weekly Activities and Meetings

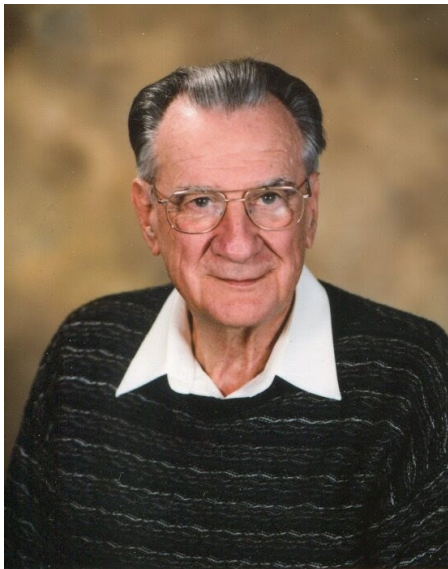
- May 16th - 8:00 a.m. - Graduation Recognition
- May 16th - 7:00 p.m. - Gather and Grow Task Force Meeting - Zoom
- May 18th - 6:00 p.m. - BBCDC Board Meeting - Parlor
- May 18th - 7:00 p.m. - Finance/Trustees Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- May 19th - 5:00 p.m. - UMW Reading Group - Maxine Moore's Home
- May 20th - 5:00 p.m. - FoodNet
- May 20th - 7:00 p.m. - UMW Evening Circle - Sanctuary

Fellowship Returns and Volunteers are Needed

Fellowships are resuming again. We will have coffee and snacks after the 9:00am and 10:30am services. We need hosts to sign up for each service. There are sign up sheets just inside the red doors on the table, or you may contact the church office with dates that you are willing to serve.



Prayers for the Bejot Family



Dr. Dennis Bejot passed away on May 8th. Please hold Janet Bejot, Mark Bejot, David Bejot, and all the family in your prayers during this tender time.

Congratulating the 2021 Graduates

May 16th will be Seward High School's Graduation. On this day during the 8:00am service, we will recognize the seven graduates from our congregation: Ander Axthelm, Hunter Novacek, Jaci Opfer, Sydney Parra, Breanna Placke, Samantha Rojewski, and Alex Sick. The United Methodist Women will provide a reception on the lawn immediately following the worship service. As you make your worship plans for May 16th, be aware that the early service will have more attendees than usual and make your decisions accordingly.

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off May 22nd

On Saturday May 22nd, 5th Street and the parking lot will be blocked off so that Seward Memorial Library can host the 2021 summer program family kick-off party. Weather permitting, activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. Staff has invited a variety of organizations to join in the morning event. There will be music and games as well as bounce activities provided by NE Bounce. Enjoy food, fun, and entertainment during the 3 hour come-and-go party. Call the Library ahead of time if you are concerned about the weather conditions or have any other questions. Information about the "Tails and Tales" summer reading club will be available at the party. Registration for the summer program begins on Monday, May 24th.

News from the New Leadership of Foodnet



Seward FoodNet continues to serve individuals and families in need every week. Between January and April of 2021, FoodNet provided curbside pick-up for 529 vehicles feeding 1,376 people. This work was completed by 517 volunteer hours. FoodNet is in need of food donations throughout the year. Donations of non-perishable items (cans of soup, vegetables, fruits, tuna, and packaged items of pancake mix, mac & cheese, stuffing mix, cereal, packaged pasta, spaghetti sauce, crackers, rice, peanut butter) are always welcome and appreciated. Donations of perishable items are equally appreciated (fresh produce, meats, milk, eggs, cheeses), but it is helpful to coordinate your donation with our coordinators to ensure adequate storage. Volunteers are always welcome! FoodNet's biggest need is for volunteers that are available on call to help with food pick-up, sorting, and delivery (mostly on Wednesdays and Thursdays for 1-2 hours at a time).

Please contact E.V. and Susan Walsh (402-430-2539) to volunteer or coordinate drop-off of donations. The success of FoodNet is thanks to all of your generosity and help—Thank you!

May Finance Minutes

Ah, Spring is in the air. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, rabbits and squirrels are chasing each other in the yard and farmers in the field planting their crops. Soon it will be Summer, softball, baseball, soccer games, swim meets to go to and vacations to plan after a year off due to the pandemic. As our lives get back to normal please remember that some things have not changed and continue to function. With the coming of Summer worship attendance and contributions tend to go down, but our church still has people working in the building, the lights are on, water is used, the lawn needs to be mowed and other operational things go on around the building.

During the warm months ahead PLEASE remember your church home. While you are away on Sunday morning you can still contribute to your home church via Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank, Pay Pal, the US Mail or dropping your contribution off at the church office Monday thru Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00PM or in the secure black mailbox by the front doors. This past week quarterly contributions reports to the church were email out for everyone to review what they have given from January 1st, 2021 thru March 31st, 2021. Please report any errors or discrepancies to Karen Yelden via email for her review of the records.

Also remember that if you cannot be at a Sunday service, you can still attend via Facebook Live and YouTube live stream. Finally if you have an interest in serving the church and understanding the financial business of the church, we do have openings on the Finance Committee to review and deal with the operational needs of our church. If interested, you can contact Pastor Mary Kay to express your interest and receive information about our committee.

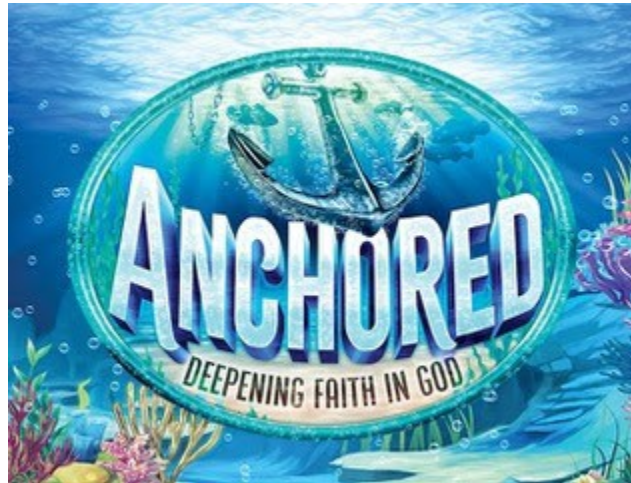
United Methodist Women Host Suicide Prevention Seminar

United Methodist Women will host Christine Blanke from Four Corners Health Department to talk about suicide prevention on Thursday May 20th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come and learn what resources are available locally and statewide to help someone get the support they need. Also, learn how one can support people who are grieving the loss of a loved one who died by suicide.



Vacation Bible School Will be the Week of July 26-30th

We are so excited to be planning and preparing for Vacation Bible School this summer! This year, we have an underwater theme, encouraging all who participate to deepen their faith in God. Our main Bible point this year: God is faithful. "Give thanks to God, for God is good! God's faithful love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34). The curriculum is prepared for all ages, preschool - pre-teen.



VBS is hosted in coordination with Seward United Methodist Church, Faith Lutheran Church, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and will take place the week of July 26-30, 2021 in the evenings. A meal will be provided for all children/families that choose to participate before each night's activities begin. Children will experience God's faithful love through Music & More, Deep Bible Adventures, Sea Crafts, Anchors Away Play, and Coral Reef Closings.

As we continue to prepare, we are in need of volunteers! There are numerous ways in which volunteers make VBS a success. We need shoppers, decorators, meal prep chefs, station leaders, and crew leaders. If you are available, willing to help, and have a heart for children, please contact Wess Robotham to volunteer!