

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream June 6th

Summer Arrives

Greetings from Baton Rouge where Steve and I are for a very quick visit so I can officiate a wedding for the child of a dear friend I've known since elementary school. We return to Nebraska Saturday so I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Summer is upon us. Temperatures are climbing, humidity is building, school is out, and the pool is open. After the long stretch of the pandemic, I am guessing there will be a LOT of travel happening this summer. Here's wishing everyone happy travels and may our roadways, railways, waterways, and airways be safe throughout the summer.

While you are away, remember you can still connect with the church through our livestream worship services and weekly videos. Links are available on our church website: SewardUMC.org and Facebook page. We invite you to share photos of your travels on the church Facebook page. We will enjoy seeing where you've been. And as always, thank you for remembering to support the church & our ministries through your regular offering — via the offering plate, the offering box, dropping by the church, or giving online! Thank you so much for all you do to support the ministries of Seward United Methodist Church.

Grace, peace, Mary Kay

Weekly Activities and Meetings

- June 10th - 10:00 - 11:00am - Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
- June 10th – 5:00 - 6:00pm - FoodNet

Methodist on the Move Survey

In order for Faith Community Nursing/Methodists On the Move to gauge our church family's physical and emotional wellness, please complete the [online survey](#). Your responses are valued and appreciated.

Calling all Middle & High School Youth!

This year, the Great Plains Conference is hosting a re-imagined [ONEevent](#), September 3rd - 5th, 2021. Youth will participate across Nebraska and Kansas at the five Great Plains camps. The event includes worship, workshops, and activities unique to camp - such as campfire worship. Youth from churches across the conference will come together to participate in these activities, share the love of God through service to local communities, and grow deeper in their faith.

If you or a youth you know is interested in participating in this meaningful experience, please contact the church office or Wess Robotham. Early bird registration deadline is July 1 - so we hope to hear from you soon!



2021 Great Plains Annual Conference

The eighth Great Plains Annual Conference session, and its second in a distanced format forced by the Coronavirus Pandemic, took place Friday-Saturday, May 28-29. Pastor Mary Kay and Lay Delegates to Annual Conference, Wess Robotham and Lynette Broderick, were seated at their laptops(!) for this virtual conference.



“This is another way of meeting together,” Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. said at the opening of the session, from a production studio at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. Most of the reports necessary by the Book of Discipline were presented in recorded videos. Voting took place entirely through the V-Voter system.

For those of you who are interested in a full review of the conference, [read a recap](#) here. Videos of individual reports from the conference should be available at greatplainsumc.org by June 11. On Sunday, June 20, Pastor Mary Kay, Wess, and Lynette will give a full report to the congregation at both services.

2021 Great Plains Conference Retirements

Pastors Lee Johnson and Nancy Lambert Announce Retirements

During Annual Conference, the retirements of Lee Johnson and Nancy Lambert were officially announced, effective July 1. SUMC thanks them for their pastoral leadership and wishes them well.

Lee was appointed to SUMC, 2007-2010. Lee is retiring from Asbury UMC in Kansas City, KS. Cards may be sent to 400 W. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO 64113. Nancy was often in our midst when Pastor Dale was appointed to SUMC, 2013-16. Following several years of parish ministry, Nancy is retiring from her position as Assistant to the Bishop. Cards may be sent to 2500 SW Staffordshire Rd., Topeka, KS 66614.

Seward FoodNet May Report

This month we served 115 family units that impacted 311 individuals. We thank Lou and Marv Bauman and LaQuita and Don McKibbin for continuing to be such good resources for us all! Thank you to our amazing team of volunteers this month—Juanita Hill, Randy Halder, Jane Pallat, Linda Eberspacher, Jeff Sugden, Jody Palen, Lori Shriner, Sherry Menze, Deb Snell, Carol Lavelle, Sue Imig, Carla Schwahn, Franklin Hronik, Lyra Walsh and Pastor Jen.

We continue to welcome additional volunteers, especially those that can lift 10 pounds or more! Thanks to individuals, organizations, and business for generous donations. All donations are always welcome, due to limited refrigerator space if your donation is perishable, please contact us for coordinating those deliveries. Thank you--We could not continue this ministry without all your support!

E.V. and Susan Walsh

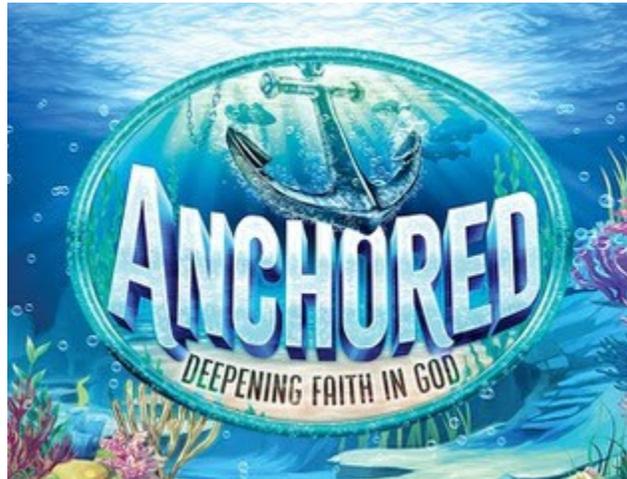
Summer at Bright Beginnings

School is out and Bright Beginnings would like to welcome this group of kids for the summer!



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 or [register online!](#)
Bright Beginnings