

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

August 1, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.

Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pam McConnell

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Let us give thanks for our faith ancestors who established a Methodist and a United Brethren presence in Seward as far back at the middle of the 19th century.

P: **Thanks be for those faith ancestors.**

L: Let us give thanks for the 1968 union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church as a denomination, and also locally to form the United Methodist Church of Seward.

P: **Thanks be for this union.**

L: "From our past will come our future." Let us give thanks for our history which has brought us to this day.

P: **Thanks be for our history.**

¹Sowing in the morning,
Sowing seeds of kindness
Sowing in the noontide
And the dewy eve
Waiting for the harvest
And the time of reaping
We shall come rejoicing
Bringing in the sheaves

³Going forth with weeping
Sowing for the Master
Though the loss sustained
Our spirit often grieves
When our weeping's over
He will bid us welcome
We shall come rejoicing
Bringing in the sheaves

²Sowing in the sunshine
Sowing in the shadows
Fearing neither clouds
Nor winter's chilling breeze
By and by the harvest
And the labour ended
We shall come rejoicing
Bringing in the sheaves

Chorus

Bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing
Bringing in the sheaves
(REPEAT)

CCLI Song # 47220

George A. Minor | Knowles Shaw

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Common Prayer

God of Past, Present, and Future, we give thanks for the ones who established churches and passed down faith in Jesus to those of us who are the congregation of Seward United Methodist this day. May we learn from our past, may we be faithful in our present, and may we prepare with creativity for our future. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all our ministries. Amen.

Psalm 126

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

L: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy**

L: then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**P: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad. (R)**

L: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb!

**P: May those who sow in tears
reap with shout of joy!**

L: Those who go forth weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**P: shall come home with shouts of joy,
Carrying their sheaves. (R)**

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lessons

John 6: 25-34 NIV

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"
Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works that God requires?"

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir," they said, from now on give us this bread."

Hymn

All Who Hunger

TFWS 2126

¹All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from the wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

²All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest,
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

³All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

The Prayers of the People

Please share your joys or concerns at the microphone or in the comments on Facebook or by texting us at 402-810-8900.

Prayer Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707, v. 2

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

Pam McConnell

Doxology

UMH 95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

We remember and give thanks for those who came before us. We are grateful for their generosity which enables us to gather for worship this day. Holy One, help each of us to be as generous as those who have gone before that we, too, might make a difference in this congregation and community. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Pastors: Jen Davidson & JoEllen Axthelm

For Holy Communion, if at home, you may use whatever simple elements you have at hand — bread, crackers, pita, juice, water, wine. If you are at in person worship please follow the instructions given by the Pastor.

Prayers of the Great Thanksgiving (spoken responsively)

Our God is with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give our thanks to God.**

Heaven and earth sprang from your wisdom, O God, and you made us for your company.

**We turned away, and our love failed,
but you remained steadfast.**

You gave us room when we were in distress.

And so with all your people here, and all the company of heaven, we join in an unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
Hosanna in the highest!
Everything that springs from your wisdom is blessed!
Hosanna in the Highest!**

You lived among us as our teacher, held us, called us friends.

**You died and live again
to show us death is not the end.**

You took bread.

We remember.

You broke it.

We remember,

You shared it.

We ate. We remember.

You took the cup.

We remember.

You said "Drink".

We remember.

You shared it.

We drank. We remember.

And so today, we feast again; our bread and wine are you.

You live among us still, whenever we remember you.

We offer ourselves now —

In praise and thanksgiving.

We offer ourselves now —

Holy and living.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Come Holy Spirit, on us gathered here.

Be among us as we share these gifts of bread and wine.

May they become for us the bread of life and the cup of grace

that we may become Christ's love in the world.

God-incarnate, God-Spirit, and God-Source of All Beginnings,

All glory and honor are yours, now and forever. AMEN!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Hymn

Let Us Be Bread

TFWS 2260

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared,
life for the world. Let us be wine, love freely poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.

Benediction

Pastor Jen Davidson

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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