

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

August 8, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.



From
Our Past...

Summer 2021 Worship Series
"Fruit of the Vineyard"



...Will Come
Our Future

Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

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.**

Hymn

Lord We Come to Ask Your Blessing

TFWS 2230

(sung to tune THE SERVANT SONG)

1 Lord, we come to ask your blessing
on the love that makes us one;
here, as Christians, to acknowledge
you are Lord, and you alone.

2 God of love, unless you bless us
how can we each other bless?
Only as you live within us
is there depth of happiness.

3 May our loving be a sharing
of the gifts we each possess;
may no failure of forbearance
turn our love to bitterness.

4 Lord, we come to ask your blessing
in the presence of our friends:
Grant us joy that blesses others,
grant us love that never ends

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.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Blessing of the Backpacks

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;

they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
²³ They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;^[c]
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

John 15: 1-5, 8-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

⁸ God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God’s commandments and abide in God’s love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Hymn

Build My Life

Build My Life

Build My Life

Verse 1

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Chorus

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

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Sermon

Fruit of the Vineyard

Rev Mary Kay Totty

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

Alex Sommerfeld

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.

Prayer Hymn

Forever

Forever

Forever

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

CCLI Song # 3148428

Chris Tomlin

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Benediction

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Alex Sommerfeld

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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