

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream August 15th

Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday, August 15th will be T-shirt Sunday! Everyone is invited to wear a favorite T-shirt to church and dress comfortably! And remember, the cook out will follow the late service -- the tents are already up!

As we sit and watch Covid case numbers spike across the country and state, we wonder what to do. In the absence of the Four Corners Health Department Risk Gauge, in the absence of data and information since the health emergency expired for the state, we are left in the dark to try and figure out how to best "love our neighbor as one's self" when it comes to managing COVID risk. So, for the time being, we encourage everyone to consider what is safe, healthy, and comfortable for themselves. If you have not yet been vaccinated, we encourage you to get vaccinated. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask when you are around other people, you are welcome to wear a mask to worship and other meetings at the church. If you are vaccinated and are comfortable not wearing a mask, that's OK too. At this point we do not have any mask requirements in place. At the moment the church is in a phase of "Masks are welcome, but are not required." If this should change either by law or action of the Administrative Council of the church, we will certainly let everyone know.

Grace, peace, Mary Kay

Weekly Activities and Meetings

- August 15th – Rally Sunday, Teacher & Leader Recognition, Cookout
- August 16th - Building Improvement Update - 7:00pm
- August 17th - BBCDC Board Meeting - 6:00pm - Parlor
- August 17th - Finance/Trustee Meeting - 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- August 18th - UMW Reading Group - 5:00pm - 6:30pm - Maxine Moore's Home
- August 19th - Yoga Class - 9:00am - 10:00am - UMYF Room
- August 19th - FoodNet - 5:00pm
- August 19th - UMW Evening Circle - 7:00pm - 8:00pm - Fellowship Hall

Communion Assistants for Worship Needed

We are in need of folks to assist with preparation, service, and cleanup of communion each month at both 8:00am and 10:30am worship services. If you're willing and able to serve in this way, please contact [Megan Forbes](#).

Sunday School Starts

Sundays will find us with small groups for all ages of Sunday School. If you are ages preschool (age 3) up to 12th grades, and adults, we will have a class for you. We will begin each Sunday at 9:10am in the Sanctuary. Popcorn is prepared most weeks by the Senior High students. We will sing, pray, and head out to our classrooms for all ages.

- Preschool/Kindergarten - Room 200 downstairs.
- 1st & 2nd graders - Room 203 downstairs.
- 3rd & 4th graders - Room 205 downstairs.
- Middle School - Sanctuary for worship arts, then Room 211 downstairs.
- Senior High - Room 209 downstairs.
- Young Adults - Room 208 is available.
- Older Adults - Parlor (except on this Sunday we will be in the Fellowship Hall).

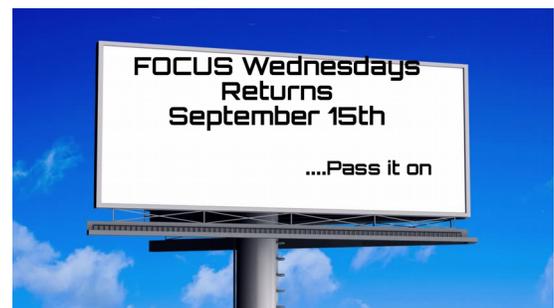
This is the week to begin again! We are so very excited and look forward to seeing y'all soon!

Acolytes Volunteers Needed

Students ages second grade and up can participate in worship as acolytes. Pastor Jo Ellen will host a brief training as part of Sunday School on August 22nd for all interested students including those who have served in the past. Watch for an email or contact Pastor Jo Ellen if you'd like to be added to this list. We look forward to having our young people back as part of worship services again!

Midweek FOCUS to Re-Start September 15th Volunteers Needed

Wednesday FOCUS, Friends of Christ Understanding Scripture, programming will begin again on September 15th including a supper meal, and many different ministry opportunities for all ages. Pastor Jo Ellen is beginning to look for those with a love for working with children. She will need several to work alongside her as we begin again.



Please consider if this is a way you can share your faith walk with others and pray about how you might respond. Watch for specific updates and more news soon!

Joys and Concerns

Please keep the families and loved ones of Opal Elaine Hagemoser in your prayers. She passed away on Tuesday, August 10. The funeral service will be this Saturday, August 14 at 10:00a.m. at the church, Seward United Methodist. Interment will be in Omaha at a date yet to be determined.



Please keep Marlin and Margie Burkey in your prayers during this time of grief following the death of their daughter-in-law, Janice.

Please keep the family and loved ones of Dick Knuth in your prayers. Dick passed away on July 19, 2021.

We continue to pray for the health and recovery of Lou Bauman, Melanie Collister-Foulk, and Bonnie McCall.

Building Improvement Committee Progress Report

The Building Improvement Committee is eager to share with you the progress being made with the Design phase of the South Addition. Please attend one of the four update sessions that are offered over the next two weeks.

- August 16th 7:00pm
- August 22nd 12:00am

Confirmation Classes Begin Wednesday, September 8th

This Fall, we will begin our confirmation journey for students. All who are in the 8th grade are in this class, and we also welcome those who may have missed the confirmation class in recent years. Please let Pastor Jo Ellen or Rev Mary Kay know if you would like to join us and you are not on the 8th grade listing we have. Pastor Jo Ellen is sending out emails to those on our lists so watch for these, please. This will be a one year journey with confirmation occurring in the spring.

We will start on September 8th at 5:45pm with a "meal and meet" gathering for all students and their loved ones (parents, guardians, etc.). We will take time to get to know one another and to discuss the upcoming year. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 5:45pm during the FOCUS time. We very much look forward to seeing you soon!

Submitting News Items for the Newsletter

It's starting to get busy around the church again. If you have an item you want published in the newsletter, please send it in an e-mail to the church, umcseward@gmail.com. It will need to be submitted by the Wednesday before the newsletter is sent out. The newsletter is sent every Friday.