

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream August 22nd

Make a Joyful Noise - Music Ministry Opportunities

Seward United Methodist Church is preparing our Fall programs. There are many ways that you can get involved to help 'make a joyful noise to God this year'. All ages and abilities are welcome!

Chancel Choir - sing sacred, spiritual, and contemporary anthems. The choir typically performs twice per month during Sunday worship services and at special worship services throughout the year. The choir sings in three to four-part harmonies, develops vocal techniques and reflects upon the text of the anthems. There is a one-hour, weekly rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:45pm in the sanctuary.

Handbell Choir - performs special music offerings, introits and hymns for Sunday worship once per month and at special services throughout the year. The choir participants work on music notation reading, proper ringing technique and musicality. There is a one-hour, weekly rehearsal on Wednesdays at 5:45pm in the sanctuary.

Preschool Praise and God's Squad - Preschool Praise is available to all preschool children age 3 and up; God's Squad is available to all children in elementary school through middle-school,. These groups work on rhythm, pitch, and singing together occasionally performing songs during worship services throughout the year. They also participate in a Christmas program usually in mid-December. Rehearsals are 20-30 minutes begin on Wednesday, September 15th and are a part of Midweek FOCUS programming. More information will follow!

Praise Team - leads 10:30am Sunday worship service and routinely perform special musical numbers. They also perform at special events throughout the year, such as leading worship for the Seward community on the Fourth of July. The praise team provides opportunities for a variety of musicians including vocalists, percussionists, guitarist, pianists, etc. There is a one-hour, weekly, evening rehearsal that will be scheduled based upon the availability of those interested in joining the team.

Please [contact Wess Robatham](#) if you would like to be involved!

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth Psalms 66:1

Weekly Activities and Meetings

- August 22nd – Havranek Baptism
- August 22nd - Building Improvement Update - 12:00pm
- August 26th - Yoga Class - 9:00am - 10:00am - UMYF Room
- August 26th - FoodNet - 5:00pm
- August 28th - Emily Hemphill & Layne Dahlquist Wedding

September 11th -- Service of Remembrance

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Seward United Methodist Church will hold a Service of Remembrance on Saturday morning at 9:00am. You are welcome to invite family and friends to attend. We will gather in the sanctuary.

Fall Sunday School Schedule

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).

We pray you will select a group to be an active part of, either in leadership or in attendance, to grow your faith. Faith Development is something one must plan for or it won't happen. Worship is just one way we grow in faith. Missions are another way. Watch for the many ways you can find your spot with this Church family and our friends!

Childcare during the hour from 9:10, will be in Room 101 upstairs during Sunday School (and downstairs in Room 200 during the 10:30 worship).

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate the baptism of Daylin Joy, daughter of Lindsey (Placke) and Austin Havranek, this Sunday, August 22nd at the 10:30am worship time. We look forward to watching you grow in faith and grace over the coming years.

We would like to thank our church family and Pastor Mary Kay for your expressions of sympathy, prayers, kind words, cards, and food, in the loss of our daughter in law, Janice Burkey. Marlin and Margie Burkey

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 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!

UMW World Thank Offering

On September 12th, United Methodist Women will be sponsoring the annual World Thank Offering. This offering supports the Program of Mission and Advocacy of the United Methodist Church. I encourage you to find a jar from your recycling bin and designate it for collecting your coins (and dollars) as you reflect upon your blessings. On Sunday, September 12th, we will make our “thankful” contributions. Let’s fill the giant jar and make a difference!!

Register for Mid-week FOCUS September 15th Volunteers Needed

We plan to begin again on Wednesdays, midweek, for our FOCUS times together. This will begin on Wednesday, September 15th. Please [go ahead and register](#) children, youth, and adults of all ages and stages of life.

There are options from 4:00 - 8:00pm for Bible Study, music, meals, choirs, confirmation, youth UMYF, and preschool/children’s after-school options. You can also register to volunteer, attend a Bible Study, etc. Each person will need their own registration and the forms are fairly easy to complete using the link. If you need assistance in this process, please [contact the church office](#) or ask for help. We are delighted to be in FOCUS again!

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](#).

Bright Beginnings Child Development Center is hiring Full-time Teachers!

We need applicants for teachers in our Older Infant, Toddler, and Preschool classrooms. We use the Creative Curriculum and have Concordia students who assist in many rooms as well as credentialed teachers and staff in other areas. Most classrooms have two leaders while some have one; to help us stay in healthy and safe ratios.

Our ideal candidate would have an associates degree or bachelors degree in Early Childhood or a related field. Equivalent experience would also be acceptable. Start times are soon and we look forward to hearing from you! Spread the word!

All applicants must show they find joy in working with and leading young children.

Please send resumes or questions to the [BBCDC](#).

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.