

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 22, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

**Pam McConnell**

**Passing the Peace**

**Call to Worship**

L: As we gather this day, we are invited to open our minds, to seek understanding and wisdom.

**P: We are eager to learn, eager to grow in understanding.**

L: Bring your questions, bring your wonderings, all are welcome here.

**P: We seek truth and a deeper understanding of how our faith can shape our everyday lives.**

**Hymn**

**O Lord, May Church and Home Combine**

**UMH 695**

1 O Lord, may church and home combine  
to teach thy perfect way,  
with gentleness and love like thine,  
that none shall ever stray.

2 Let all unworthy aims depart,  
imbue us with thy grace;  
within the home let every heart  
become thy dwelling place.

3 Shine, Light divine; reveal thy face  
where darkness else might be.  
Grant, Love divine, in every place  
glad fellowship with thee.

4 May steadfast faith and earnest prayer  
keep sacred vows secure;  
build thou a hallowed dwelling where  
true joy and peace endure.

**Common Prayer** (by Michael Turnbull in "600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World")

God the Creator permeate my mind  
God the Son enlighten my search for truth  
God the Spirit kindle my desire for discovery  
God the Holy Trinity bless my curiosity and my concentration this day and always.  
Amen.

**Children's Time**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

**Faith Leaders Recognition**

**Scriptures**

**Proverbs 2:1-11**

1 My child, if you accept my words  
and treasure up my commandments within you,  
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding,  
3 if you indeed cry out for insight  
and raise your voice for understanding,  
4 if you seek it like silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasures—  
5 then you will understand the fear of God  
and find the knowledge of God.  
6 For God gives wisdom;  
from God's mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
7 God stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
God is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,  
8 guarding the paths of justice  
and preserving the way of faithful ones.  
9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path,  
10 for wisdom will come into your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;  
11 prudence will watch over you,  
and understanding will guard you.

**Joel 2:28-32**

28 Then afterward  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.  
29 Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

30 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. 32 Then everyone who calls on the name of God shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and

in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as God has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom God calls.

**Hymn**

**Praise the Source of Faith and Learning**

**TFWS 2004**

Praise the source of faith and learning

God of wisdom we acknowledge

that has sparked and stoked the mind  
with a passion for discerning  
how the world has been designed.

that our science and our art  
and the breadth of human knowledge  
only partial truth impart.

Let the sense of wonder flowing  
from the wonders we survey  
keep our faith forever growing  
and renew our need to pray.

Far beyond our calculation  
lies a depth we cannot sound  
where your purpose for creation  
and the pulse of life are found.

3. May our faith redeem the blunder  
of believing that our thought  
has displaced the grounds for wonder  
which the ancient prophets taught.  
May our learning curb the error  
which unthinking faith can breed  
lest we justify some terror  
with an antiquated creed.

4. As two currents in a river  
fight each other's undertow,  
till converging they deliver  
one coherent steady flow,  
blend, O God, our faith and learning  
till they carve a single course,  
till they join as one, returning  
praise and thanks to you, the Source.

**Sermon**

**To Blend Our Faith and Learning**

**Rev. Dr. 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**

**Open My Eyes, That I May See**

**UMH 454**

1. Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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

**Offertory**

**Pam McConnell**

**Doxology**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**UMH 94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

Put these gifts, and our time and talents, to work in the world for your purposes, O God. Grant to us the capacity to move beyond good intentions to give ourselves completely to making a difference in your name. Amen.

**Mission Team Sending Forth**

**Hymn**

**God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens**

**UMH 150**

1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,  
we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

2 Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings, row on row;  
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,  
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,  
lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.

3 We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;  
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;  
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,  
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

4 As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,  
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.  
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

**Benediction**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

**Postlude**

**Pam McConnell**

***The People of God Go Forth to Serve***

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