

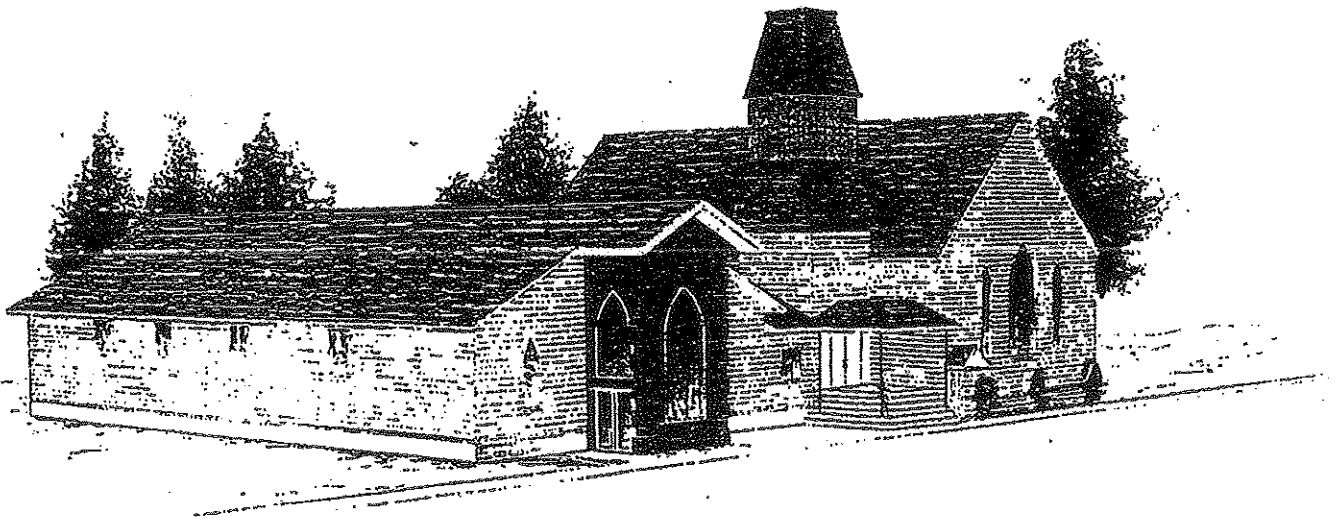
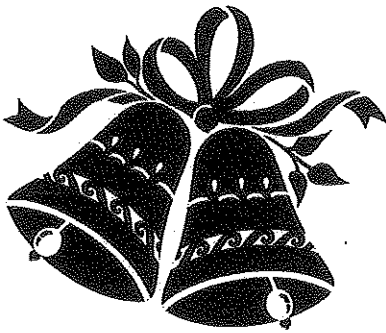
Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>

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*The
Chimes*

January Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS



Help Brave Young Christians Have a Hopeful Future from Barnabas Aid

Isabella says she is “trusting in God for protection.” Like many thousands of Christian children around the globe, who face oppression and hardship, Isabella is learning to be self-reliant at a young age.

Isabella’s mother fled war-torn South Sudan to shelter in Uganda with her family. When her husband died, she had to return to her stricken homeland just to earn enough money to provide for her children’s basic needs. She sends money home to Isabella each month, to pay for rent and food, but can only afford to visit her children every two years.

Cheerful Christian Teenager Turned Craft Skills into Income.

Isabella is determined to help her brother and sister survive and have a better future. Through a Barnabas-supported youth training project she learned basic business and craft skills, including shoe-making and baking. The cheerful, hard-working teenager quickly turned her new skills into valuable income with a successful business.

Industrious Isabella soon multiplied her investment. Business-minded Isabella made a little income from selling beautifully hand-crafted sandals that she made with her new skills. “The training in crafts helped me raise capital for starting business,” she explained. She invested the money in setting up a successful cake-making business and quickly grew her investment.

“I plan to raise all the money [we need for food] before school starts. Every holiday, I will be doing business. I am so thankful for the opportunity to learn,” grateful Isabella said, clutching her latest batch of cakes.

Barnabas is investing in the Next Generation. Isabella’s story is not an unusual one in regions where Christians are a persecuted and marginalized minority. Around the world, many other Christian children and young people are in need too.

Barnabas is investing in the next generation of believers by providing vocational training to enable young Christians to develop practical skills including hairdressing, shoe repair, sewing and other crafts that can help earn a living. In Pakistan we are supporting an apprenticeship project for Christian school graduates to learn trades, enabling them to have a paid vocation such as plumber, tailor or car mechanic.

If you would like to donate to this project, see Pastor Joel (or call or email him) and he will give you the information.

pastor@sewardcongregational.com

779-221-4395

Announcements

DIACONATE: Will Meet on January 31 after the annual meeting.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on January 20, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in fellowship hall with social distancing.

COMMUNION: Will be January 24, 2021

ANNUAL MEETING: Reports are due in Theresa's office by **January 15, 2021**. The meeting will be on January 31 following the worship service in the sanctuary.

PECATONICA FOOD PANTRY: For the month of January they are requesting donations of cake, cookie and brownie mixes and also canned frosting.

REMINDER: All contributions for the CHIMES newsletter are due to the Office by the 3rd Friday of every month.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$6,794.17

	November	January-November
General Fund	Income \$ 4,416.00	\$55,858.46
	Expense \$ 4,265.17	\$63,893.62

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

6—Don King
7- Brenda VanHauen
8—Ken Asche
11- Delores Poppen
12-Mike Weerda
27-Wendell Poppen
28-Ron Craven
21-Wayne & Jean Mennenga

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 18, 2020

PRESENT: Pastor Joel, Effie Hoppe, Brenda VanHauen, Tari Woods, Matt Cowman, Aaron Ackerman

ABSENT: Scott Whitney, Dick Remer

Call to Order/Prayer at 6:36 PM by Tari and she led us in prayer.

Minutes: October's minutes were read by Matt and were approved. Motion by Effie, second by Aaron.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Secretary's Report: reviewed and approved. Motion by Matt, second by Tari.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel had 19 contacts and averaged 25 hours per week.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update from Maury Daubs on profit sharing
2. Replacing the doors has been tabled
3. Camera for recording services is still not up and running
4. Credit Card will be in the church's name for church expenses

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget 2020 has been reviewed
2. Children's Christmas Program will be socially distant this year, and Tari and Bev are leading that
3. Bev needs blank CDs Christmas program.
4. Annual meeting will follow a shortened Sunday service and will be held in the sanctuary to maintain social distance, need 10 attendees for a quorum
5. Dick Remer is not returning as a Trustee in 2021 and Maury Daubs will be taking his place.

Maintenance Report:

1. Brian Mennenga will plow, the Cowman family will shovel, and the furnace has already been maintained for upcoming winter.
2. Rodent traps have been being maintained
3. Sanctuary cleanliness still not been completed, Joel will reach out to the cleaning service
4. There is still salt left, so Matt will address that when it gets low

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:30

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM: Motion by Effie, second by Matt

Respectfully submitted,

Diaconate minutes for December 8th, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Chairman Cletus Hoppe. Others present were Char Remer, Mary Jane Zipse, Barb Daubs, Dennis Freedlund, Karleen Merchant and Pastor Joel Hicke, who opened with prayer.

Karleen read minutes from Nov. 12th meeting. Dennis motioned to approve, 2nd by Char. Report approved.

Dennis gave treasurers report stating a balance of 458.04. Karleen motioned to approve, 2nd by Barb. Report approved.

Joel reported that we have had issues with both the sound and camera since we started using the new camera two Sundays ago. The camera will remain plugged in, as the battery had gone dead during the service this past Sunday. The sound person is coming out tomorrow to resolve those issues.

The Christmas program will be a video during the service on Dec. 13th.

The three members going off Diaconate are Mary Jane Zipse, Dennis Freedlund and Cletus Hoppe. We still need three new Diaconate for 2021.

The annual meeting will be in the sanctuary, after the service on January 31st.

After discussion, we decided to have communion on both Christmas Eve and Sunday, Dec. 27th. Also we will not light candles this year on Christmas Eve.

Our next meeting will be after the Annual meeting on Jan.31st, to vote on officers.

We are suggesting that the congregation send Christmas cards to those who are isolated in their homes or nursing facilities.

Pastor Joel closed with prayer. Motion to adjourn by Dennis, 2nd Barb. Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karleen Merchant

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Reports for annual meeting due	16
17	18	19	20 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24 Communion	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Annual Meeting						