

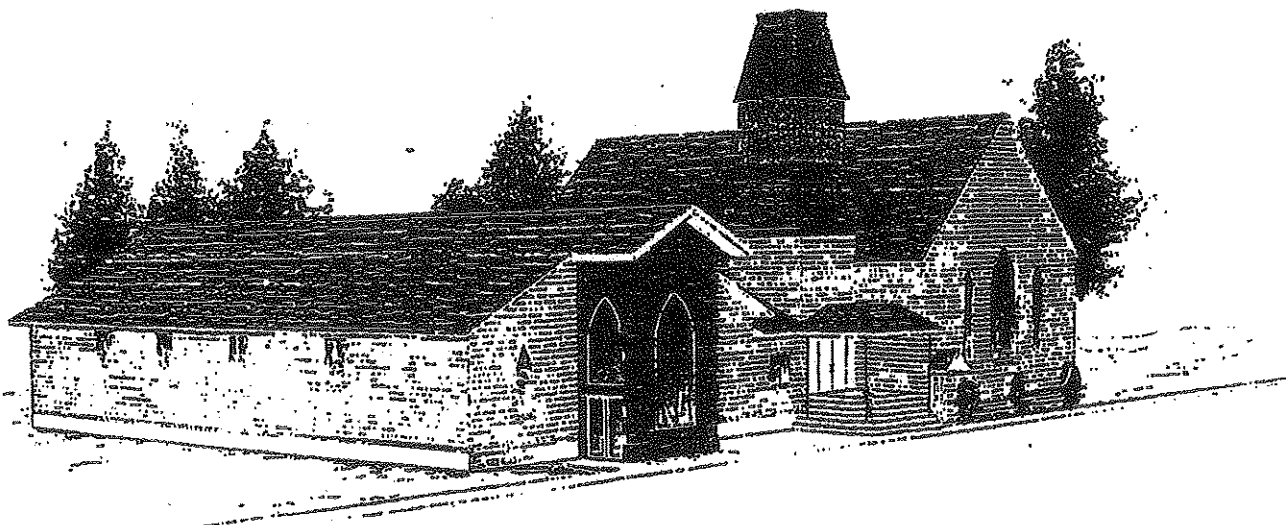
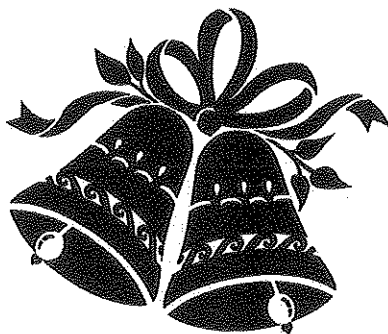
Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Seward, IL 61077

*The
Chimes*

June Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

Judas had

The best pastor

The best leader

The best teacher

The wisest and

Best friend

And he failed

The problem isn't the Leadership or
the church you go to.

If your attitude doesn't change or your
character isn't transformed, you will
always be the same.

I thought I found the perfect church
once, and then I started attending
there!

I know that I have put some funny things in
the Chimes the last couple of months—it is
good to laugh at ourselves once in a while!!

Consider this—ever felt like a failure? I
sure have at different times in my life.

What do we do with those times of feeling
like we have not made a difference?
Feeling as if we could have or should have
done something different or better? Just
remember, Judas spent three years with
Jesus—in person—and still he failed!! Did
he focus too much on self, and not enough
on his relationship with Jesus? Where did
he lose his way?

I like this definition of fail:

F first
A attempt
I in
L learning

Remember, the Apostle Paul wrote in
Philippians 4:13 (NLT) "For I can do
everything through Christ, Who gives me
strength."

Thomas Edison's teachers said he was "too
stupid to learn anything." He was fired
from his first two jobs for being
unproductive. When asked "How did it feel
to fail 1,000 times?" Edison answered, "I
didn't fail 1,000 times, the light bulb was an
invention with 1,000 steps."

We can be like Judas and just give up, or we
can allow God to teach us through the
attempts in learning, and be the better
person for it! Pastor Joel

Announcements

DIACONATE: Will Meet on June 8 at 1:00 p.m.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on June 16^h at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in fellowship hall with social distancing.

COMMUNION: Will be June 27, 2021

PECATONICA FOOD PANTRY: We are collecting red, white and blue items for the Pecatonica Food Pantry, during June. Be creative! In addition to food, they take personal hygiene items.

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$6,821.50

	April	January-April
General Fund	Income \$ 6,140.00	20,864.00
	Expense \$ 6,447.03	25,329.76

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

3—Mary Lou Speracino,
Nancy Kirby
6- Alicia Piper
8- Joshua Cowman
12-Ryan Viel
16-Jessica Cowman
20- Jacob Hilton
27- Alena Asche
29- Aaron Ackerman

Anniversaries

5- Allen & Mary Asche
19-Dick & Char Remer
30- Maury and Barb Daubs

May 11, 2021 Diaconate Meeting Minutes

Chairman Karleen Merchant called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Members present were Char Remer, Jackie Cunningham, Jean Mennenga, Karleen Merchant, Bev Weerda, Barb Daubs, and Pastor Joel Hicke. Karleen led the group in prayer.

Barb read the minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting. Jean made the motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Bev. The motion was approved. Bev gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$770.88, with \$119.00 received from the April 25 Diaconate donations and Confirmation expenses of \$118.00. Barb made the motion to approve the report, seconded by Jackie. The motion was approved.

Pastor Joel's report included a number of visits and many contacts. Karleen asked Joel to change summer worship times for the Gazette. He reported that \$113.68 was received for the Freeport Pregnancy Center's baby bottles, \$268.00 in donations to the Gideons, and \$427.00 for the Ollis Family. Pastor Joel has vacation from May 27 through May 30. Zach Simmons from Rockton will preach on May 30. Joel will also have vacation on July 25.

OPEN ISSUES:

Diaconate members discussed their contacts with church members. Karleen thanked Diaconate members for their donations for Palm Sunday palms and Easter Breakfast foods. Everyone agreed that the Confirmand's presentation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday events worked out well. Special thanks to Nancy Kirby for the delicious cookie and cupcake donations for Confirmation Sunday. We will need to replenish the Mother's Day gifts for next year. Promotion Sunday will be on May 16. Students will be presented to the congregation by their teachers, and the students will sing. Teachers will be recognized for their excellent work during the school year. There were some online transmission problems with the Ollis Family Concert on May 9, and suggestions were made as to how to improve future Ollis Family Concerts. Pastor Joel will contact the Kemp Family about a future concert.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pentecost Sunday is May 23. Karleen will change the altar cloth for Pentecost. May 23 is also the beginning of the 9:00 A.M. worship hour, and Communion will be offered with Char doing the preparation for the Communion. Hosts and packaged cookies for fellowship hours are needed. Diaconate members feel that we do not have sufficient manpower to put on Vacation Bible School this summer, but we may be able to go with another church or churches. We want to encourage students to come back to or begin Sunday School on September 12. The Diaconate discussed having a coffee hour on Father's Day, featuring homemade pies. More discussion will follow at our next meeting.

The motion for adjournment was made by Karleen at 10:25 A.M., seconded by Char. Our next meeting will be on June 8, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Daubs

Trustees Meeting
April 21, 2021 6:31 pm

The meeting was called to order by Tari Woods at 6:31pm. Present were Scott Whitney, Maury Daubs, Brenda Van Hauen, Effie Hoppe, Dick Remer and Pastor Joel Hicke. Absent was Matt Cowman.

Tari led in the opening prayer.

March minutes were read by Tari. Brenda made a motion to accept the report; Effie seconded; and the motion was approved.

The treasurer's report was given. Dick made a motion to accept the report; Scott seconded; and the motion was approved.

Pastor Joel reported 52 contacts for the month of March; and average hours per week was 28.17, partly due to having had to quarantine for Covid from February 25 for two weeks.

Old Business

Thank you to Scott for fixing the kick plates on the outside of the front doors. They really look nice! There was a motion to place those same kind of plates on the inside of the doors as well. The cost of totally replacing the doors is just under \$10,000.

Tari extended a Thank You for the people of the church and the 4H group for helping with the cleanup on the outside of the church. Some noticed that some of the downspouts need to be repaired. Scott said he will contact Ken Hazzard.

Some of the light fixtures in the fellowship hall need bulbs replaced. We need to ask Matt and Aaron if they will check them out.

Rise Broadband was here on April 9. The technician said that the signal was really good. HughsNet was discussed. It seems that the best upload speed we can get is 2 mbps. Motion to switch to Rise was made by Maury, seconded by Dick, and was approved.

It was decided that the church would trade the Samsung tablet that we purchased for the Apple iPad that Cathy Hicke had been letting us use. Effie made the motion; Brenda seconded; it was approved.

Maury talked about the safe church program the insurance offers. In order to qualify, we need smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors upstairs and in the basement. There were four things we need to do and if all four requirements are met, then the discount will start at the next billing cycle.

Maury asked if anyone had been checking the exit lights and the sump pump every month. It was decided that we needed to resume this monthly check. Maury will check the lights this month.

There was a discussion about whether to change any of the investment options. The suggestion was made to form an investment committee so that Maury was not the only one working with this. The suggestion was made that there should be a quarterly review of those investments.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Scott made the motion to adjourn; Brenda seconded; the motion was approved.

The next meeting will be May 19 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted by Joel Hicke for Matt Cowman

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship Service 9:00 a.m.	7	8 Diaconate 1 p.m.	9	10	11	12
13 Worship Service 9:00 a.m.	14	15	16 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20 Worship Service 9:00 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Communion	28	29	30			