

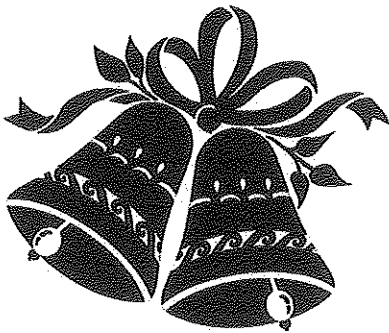
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*The
Chimes*

June Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

The Nehemiah Summit
Relational Wisdom 360—Dr Ken Sande

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35

³⁷ Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus spent three years teaching His disciples while building a relationship with them. As a teacher, the best students that we have are the ones with whom we have the best relationship. Have you found this to be true? That is when we have the best discussions, when we share what is on our hearts, when we know that we can trust the other person(s) with our most cherished thoughts.

Dr Sande states that relationships are fueled by emotions. The word “emotion” comes from a word that means “to move.” I had never thought about this in this way, and it made sense to me when I heard him speak about this. So how does this carry over into our relationships in the church? According to John 13:34-35, Jesus gave us a command to love others as He loved us, therefore showing the world that we are truly followers of Christ.

How do we show that love for others—in and out of the church? First, we have to love God with all of our being: our heart, our spirit, our intellect, and our actions. This, Jesus said, is the greatest commandment of all. Second, we have to love ourselves so that we can love our neighbor—those closest to us as well as those who are around us day to day. Maybe even the ones that we come into contact with only on occasion.

SOG: Self aware, Others aware, God aware. Self engaging, Others engaging, God engaging. Am I able to discern emotions, interests, abilities in myself and others; then using God’s Word to help me be the best person I can be for Him?

GPS: God Positioning System. Glorify God (trust Him completely). Pursue God (Seek Him earnestly). Serve God (Do what pleases Him).

This is some of what I learned at the Nehemiah Summit about building relationships in and out of the church. I will share more of this in the future. There was so much that it would be impossible to share all at one time—that is why this was spread out over three days! Thank you for sending me and helping me to be a better pastor/shepherd!

--From the desk of Pastor Joel

Announcements

DIACONATE: TBA.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on June 21, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Rose Room

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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: The June outing for Women's Fellowship will be on Wednesday, June 21st, going to the Timber Lake Playhouse to see the Alfred Hitchcock masterpiece, 39 Steps. The show begins at 2pm. We will be stopping for lunch before the show.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

	January-April
General Fund	Income \$21,974.76
	Expense \$ 27,526.84

Monthly Budget \$7,026.50

April
5,504.00
6,459.54

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

3—Mary Lou Speracino,
Nancy Kirby
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

Diaconate Meeting
May 21, 2023

Jennifer Lloyd, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:32 A.M. Pastor Joel gave a prayer.

Members present: Jennifer Lloyd, Jacki Cunningham, Karleen Merchant, Bev Weerda, Shirley Myers, Delores Poppen, Pastor Joel, and Jean Mennenga.

February minutes were read. Motion to accept the report was made by Karleen, seconded by Bev and it carried.

Bev gave the treasurer's report: there is a balance of \$933.30 in the Diaconate fund. Motion to accept was made by Karleen and seconded by Bev and it carried.

Pastor Joel gave his report of visits for January thru April. He also handed out papers summarizing the conference he attended. It focused on "Conflict Prevention and Resolution in the Church, Family and Workplace".

Old Business:

- Lent and Easter service comments: went well, soup was good, and 80 people attended Maundy Service (the community Bell choir present special music).
- Mother's Day: Pens or bookmarks were handed out to Mothers
- Discussed problems with online viewing of church service. There are different steps that will be attempted to resolve the problems.

New Business:

- Summer time for church service will start May 28th to 9 A.M. Answering machine, sign and website need to be updated to reflect that.
- Sunday School will resume on September 10th (Sunday after Labor Day)
- VBS-will be June 12th-15th at 9:30 A.M. To 11:00 A.M. The theme will be: Love, Joy, Patience and Kindness.
- Pentecost is May 28th and Communion will be served.
- Father's Day we will have pie, cookies, brownies or any sweet treat for fellowship.
- Communion will be on the last Sunday of the month (May 28, June 25, July 30, and August 27).

The motion for adjournment was made by Karleen, seconded by Jennifer at 12:07P.M. Approved by all.

The next meeting TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Mennenga

Board of Trustees Meeting
Seward Congregational Church
April 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Peggy Whitney, Matt Cowman, Maury Daubs, Dick Remer, Effie Hoppe, Brenda Van Hauen, Pastor Joel Hicke.

Pastor Joel opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from the March meeting were read. Dick made a motion to accept the minutes; Effie seconded, and the motion carried.

Financial reports were given by Effie, Brenda, and Maury. Matt made a motion to accept the reports; Dick seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Light bulbs—Josh has been replacing bulbs as needed; we are now out of bulbs. Brenda will bring some for us to try. In the hallway outside the Rose Room, there is still one that is not working.

New Business

May 8th will be a yard clean-up day beginning at 5:00 pm; the 4H club will be helping out. We will need a checklist for the 4H group so that all things will be accomplished. We need to make this announcement in the bulletin and the Chimes.

Domynic will try to have the lawn mowed before the funeral on Saturday.

There was a discussion about having the church be a polling place for elections. The question was raised about the county election board providing insurance for the time of the elections. Motion to allow was made by Peggy; there was no second, therefore no vote. The answer is no.

There was a discussion about having the church listed on a historic record of houses of worship. Maury will look into this.

There are golf cart drivers needed for the county fair. Maury will follow up on this and report back.

The next meeting will be on May 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dick; seconded by Matt; and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Hicke

June 2022

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