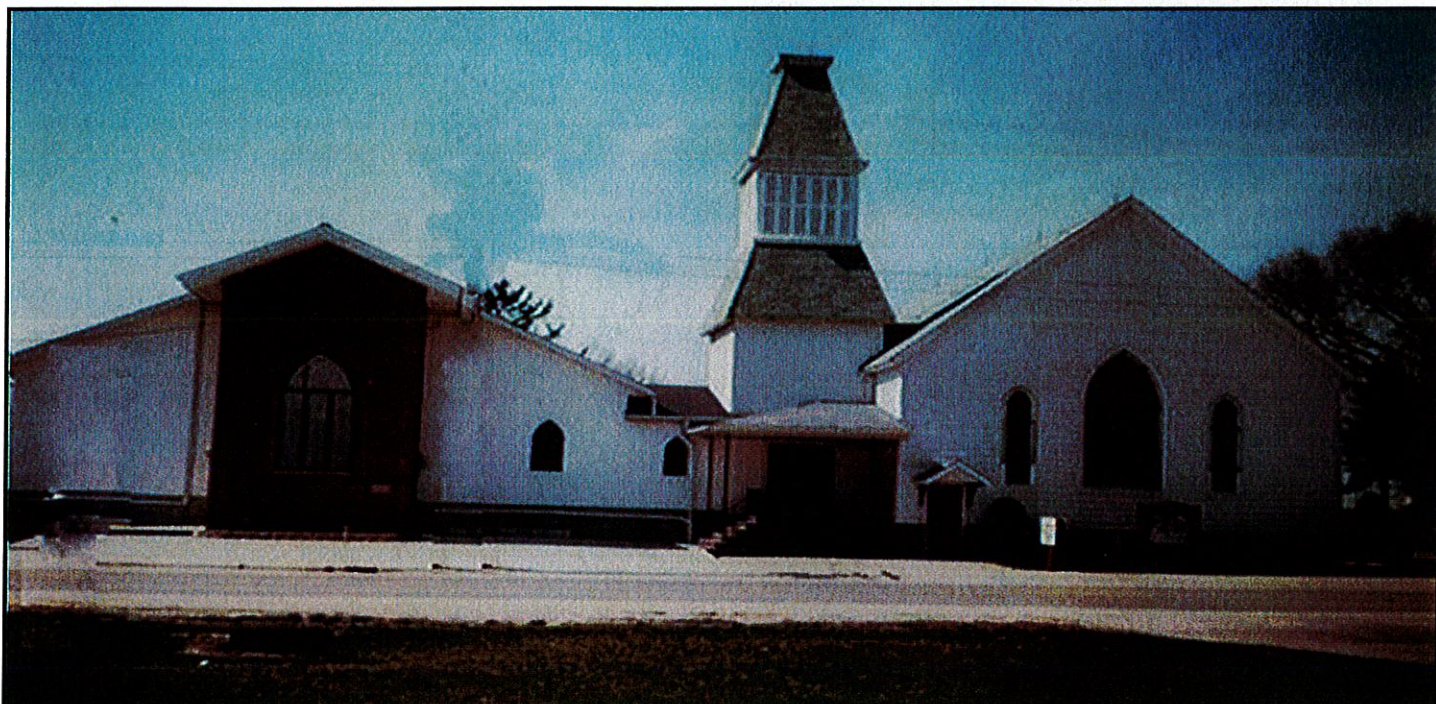


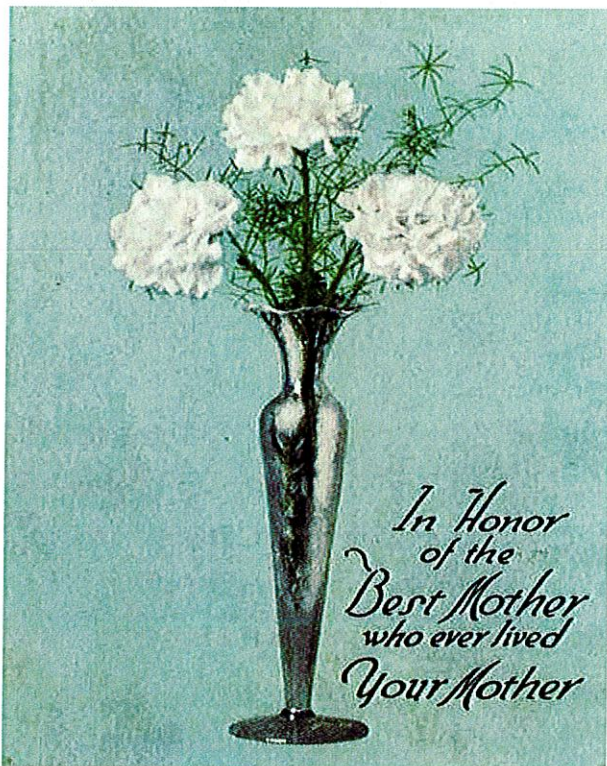
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The Chimes

May 2025 Church News





Mother's Day 2025

Did you know that "Country Roads, Take Me Home" is one of four official songs of West Virginia? Why is this song and West Virginia important to Mother's Day? It all started with Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, a "mountain momma," and Julia Ward Howe, the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Howe, horrified over the death and destruction she witnessed during the Civil War, started a movement of women called Mothers for Peace to be celebrated in June. That took place for a few years but did not catch on. The Mother's Day that we celebrate today is more the collaboration of Ann Reeves Jarvis and her daughter Anna Jarvis, who wanted to celebrate her mother, Ann, and all that she had done before her death in 1905.

In 1908, Anna Jarvis began her quest to make the second Sunday of June an official holiday. Her quest became official when President Wilson issued a proclamation that declared the second Sunday of June each year as Mother's Day. Anna stressed that it was her desire that everyone would write to his or her mother a handwritten letter to express their love and gratitude to their Mother. Anna was never married or had children, yet she was adamant that mothers should be celebrated. She would not be pleased at the mass-produced cards that are sent every year on Mother's Day these days, for she thought they were too impersonal. (In Anna Jarvis' eyes, those cards didn't count.) In the picture are white carnations, which was the choice of Miss Jarvis for her own mother. (That picture is circa 1916 printed by Northern Pacific Railway.)

This day had become, in her eyes, too commercialized and benefitted the florists and card companies more than honoring mothers. So much so that in 1943, she started a petition to recall the annual Mother's Day proclamation. Five years later, Anna died penniless in a sanitarium where her bills were paid by the very florists and greeting cards she detested.

Happy Mother's Day! Make sure you tell your living Mom how much she means to you!

--from the desk of Pastor Joel

Seward Congregational Church Chimes May Announcements

BIBLE STUDY: Will meet on May 7, 14, 28 at 6:30 p.m.

DIACONATE: The Diaconate will meet on May 7 at 11:30 a.m.

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on May 21, at 6:30 p.m.

CHOIR: Will meet on May 1, 8, 15 at 6:30 p.m.

MOTHER'S DAY: Mother's Day is May 11, 2025. We will have a small gift for all the mothers that Sunday. We look forward to honoring Mothers for all they do.

PROMOTION SUNDAY: Will be on May 18 during the worship service.

SUMMER SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars! We will begin our summer worship schedule May 25th. Church will be at 9AM and there will be no Sunday School until Fall. Watch for upcoming information on Vacation Bible School.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP: Will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. on May 20 to go to Nine East.

The Women's Fellowship will be going to Timberlake Playhouse on June 25th for the 2 pm matinee. Rock of Ages is a musical production. Contact Karleen to reserve tickets. Should be a fun afternoon. Men are welcome to join us too.

GUEST SPEAKER: Looking forward, Pastor Brad Reardon will be our guest minister on June 8th. Pastor Joel will be out of town that weekend.

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

March

General Fund	Income	\$7,729.00
	Expense	\$8,653.76

Monthly Budget \$7,338.59

January-March

\$17,111.59
\$27,185.43

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1-Carmel Hirschuber
Sam Hirschuber
11- Richard Beuth
13-Esther Fry, Rosie Gasior
14-Sandy Freedlund
19-Lucas Cowman
23- Ken Hazzard
25-Allen Long
26-Jean Mennenga
28-Carmen Shank

Anniversaries

1 Jeff & Jill Viel
28 Julie & Tony Gasior

Diaconate meeting minutes for April 2nd, 2025

Meeting called to order by chairman Teresa Gobeli at 11:30am. In addition to Teresa, those present in person were Bev Weerda, Bev Hilton, Delores Poppen, Karleen Merchant and Pastor Joel. Julie Gasior was present via phone. Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

Karleen read the minutes from March 5, 2025. Motion to approve by Bev W, 2nd by Bev H. Motion carried.

Bev W. reported that there is 779.78 in the treasurers account. There was an offering taken at the Singspiration on Sunday, March 30th, but she wasn't given the amount yet. Karleen made motion to give the Singspiration offering to Carpenters Place, 2nd by Delores. Motion approved. Karleen made motion to accept treasurer report, 2nd by Julie. Motion approved.

Pastor Joel shared his visits with details on a spreadsheet. He also had all his hours on a report. A few suggestions of others to visit were given to him.

Under old business, all is in order for our Maundy Thursday Communion service and our Easter breakfast, followed by Easter worship. Bev H. has ordered palms for Palm Sunday and Karleen is waiting for Easter lilies to arrive at Menards. The Mothers Day gifts were ordered and have arrived. It was suggested that if anyone has information to be put in the Chimes, it is best to send it in a Word Document, if possible. The Spring Tea on April 26th reservations are filling up. Natalie Morrissey will present the program; God in an Apron. Those attending are encouraged to wear their favorite apron. Karleen reported that Pastor Brad Reardon has agreed to do the message on June 8th.


Vacation Bible school was brought up under new business. We will confirm details on that at our May meeting.

Our next meeting will be May 7th at 11:30am.

With no other business, Bev H made motion to adjourn, 2nd by Bev W. Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karleen Merchant

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir 6:30	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	5	6	7 Diaconate 11:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	8 Choir 6:30	9	10
11  Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	12	13 Women's Fellowship at 9 East 8:30 a.m. Leave church	14 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	15 Choir 6:30	16	17
18 Promotion Sunday Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	19	20	21 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Fellowship following the service Communion	26	27	28 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31



Dear Seward Congregational,

Little things add up to big things in the Kingdom of God! Matthew 25:21 says,

"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'"

Together, we celebrate the faithful contributions from your congregation's participation in this year's Change for Life campaign. The change from the baby bottles your church filled totaled \$353.13! Thank you for your part in raising a grand total \$43,436.45 through Change for Life! Little things truly add up to BIG THINGS in God's economy.

The ministry of Lifeline Coalition provides hope to the hopeless. In 2025, 40 women have chosen life, and over 100 women have received the good news of the gospel of John. You are impacting lives not only here on Earth but for all eternity!

God is calling all of us to bigger things. We desire to reach those women who are facing unplanned pregnancies before they connect with an abortion clinic. This means operating a 24/7 chat line and ensuring our clinics are open when women need our care. When women choose life there is no incentive for an abortion clinic to offer services to our community. In 2024, 210 women chose life through the clinics we operate. With your support, we are trusting God to save even more lives in 2025!

Thank you for standing for life and preaching the word of God in the pulpit. Your church truly makes a difference, and we appreciate you!

For LIFE,



Emily Giasson
Executive Director

May 2025-Pastor Joel's Sermons: Will be doing a series on Marriage

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Hebrews 4:12 says that The Word of God is alive. The Adult Sunday School Class endeavors to go deeper into the Word of God to find out what it means and how it affects us in our everyday lives.

In the month of May, we will start with Exodus 33. We will then seemingly go backward to Exodus 19 and 20 and then we will move forward many hundreds of years to Pentecost. Come join us and find out the messages that the Word of God has for you.

NOTE—Lessons usually take two to three weeks.

By Catherine Hicke

A Servant of the Living God Jehovah

Cathy Hicke

DA LIGNEI MI ATTAH OMED
(Know Before whom you stand)

SUMMER CAMP AT EMMAUS

<https://campemmaus.churchcenter.com/registrations>

Elementary 1 Camp 2025 (Gr. K-2)

June 21–22, 2025

Details

Kids who have completed kindergarten through second grade bring an adult with them to experience overnight camp for the first time. Get a taste of some favorite camp memories and experience God in a new way.

Campers will spend time making new friends as they experience activities, worship and engaging biblical teaching designed to connect the Bible with younger kids at their level.

Registration Fee: \$100

Late Registration (after June 1): \$125

Director: Maddy Weaver

UPCOMING DATES -Jun 21, 2025 10am TO Jun 22, 2025 10am

LOCATION- Camp Emmaus, Oregon Illinois 3011 West Camp Rd Oregon, IL 61061

Survivor Camp 2025 (6th-8th Grade)

July 6–12, 2025

Details

Imagine being so attuned with God's Creation that you can read the stories written on the landscape and hear Creation's rhythm and songs. Campers will discover what it means to live close to Creation by learning and practicing skills of self-reliance. They will construct earth shelters, make fire primitively, learn to purify water, prepare wild plants for food, learn navigation skills and play awareness games as well as other favorite camp activities. Survivor Camp will reawaken your relationship with the Creator and creation!

*(*Survivor Camp will be at Camp Mack (IN) where we'll be joining with campers from Camp Mack and Camp Brethren Heights.*)*

Registration Fee: \$450

Late Registration (after June 1): \$500

Directors: Randall Westfall & Camp Mack & Camp Brethren Heights Staff

UPCOMING DATES- Jul 6, 2025 12pm TO Jul 12, 2025 10am

LOCATION- Camp Emmaus, Oregon Illinois 3011 West Camp Rd Oregon, IL 61061

Middle School Camp 2025 (6th-8th Grade)

July 20–26, 2025

Details

Middle schoolers have the chance to experience camp for a full week for the first time. Enjoy a choice of workshops on things like sports, games, arts, and crafts along with our summer Bible theme ("Another Way"), campfires, hikes, and a talent show. Many of our staff from last year will be returning. Come and experience the best of what Camp Emmaus has to offer--and invite a friend!

Registration Fee: \$400

Late Registration (after June 1): \$450

Directors: Walt Wiltschek and Melyssa Otake Greenacre

UPCOMING DATES- Jul 20, 2025 4pm TO Jul 26, 2025 2pm

LOCATION- Camp Emmaus, Oregon Illinois 3011 West Camp Rd Oregon, IL 61061

Senior High Camp 2025 (Gr. 9-12)

July 13–19, 2025

Details

Youth currently in senior high can come together for a week of campfires, Bible study, family groups, games, workshops, good food, and a special love feast service. This camp is designed to give teens the opportunity to grow closer to Christ and to live into an authentic faith that is growing, serving, and leading. The friendships they are building will last a lifetime!

Registration Fee: \$400

Late Registration (after June 1): \$450

Directors: Sara Garner & Aaron Gerdes

UPCOMING DATES-Jul 13, 2025 4pm TO Jul 19, 2025 2pm

LOCATION- Camp Emmaus, Oregon Illinois 3011 West Camp Rd Oregon, IL 61061

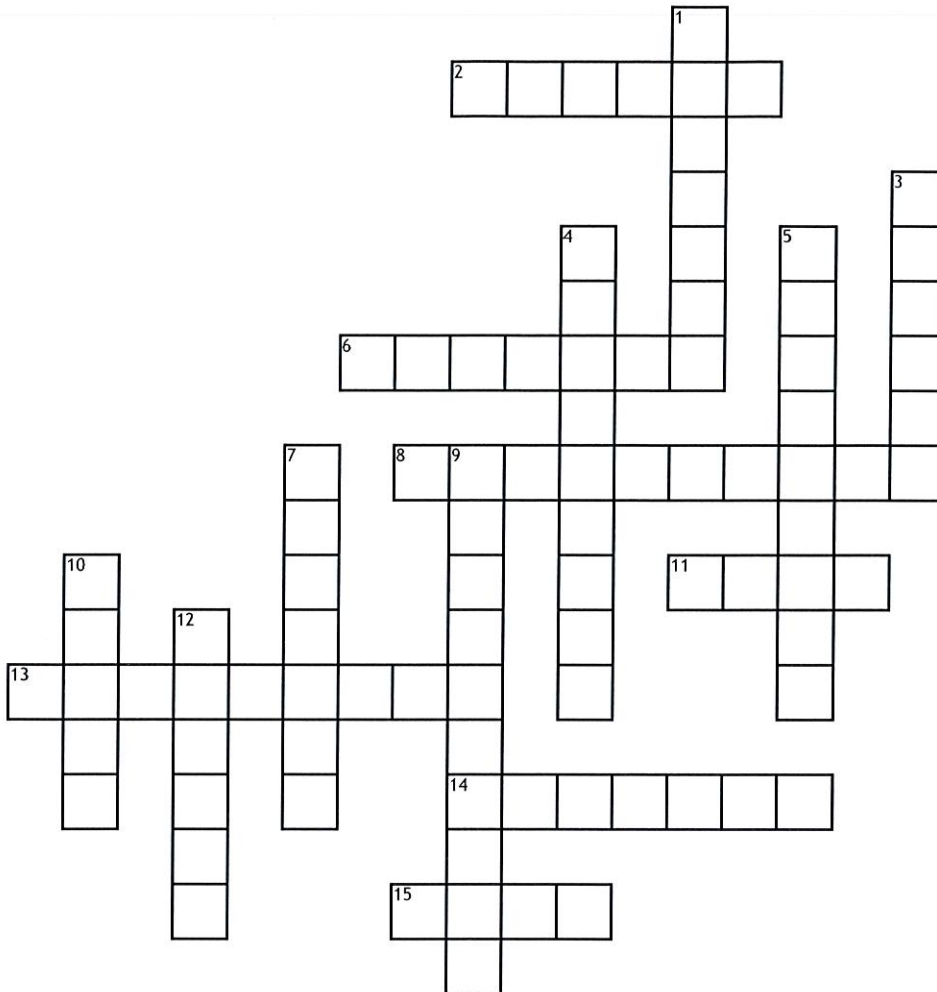
Mothers Day Word Search

Find the hidden words.

F R C B Y Y H C L Y L I M A F
G S E T H O U E V U U O G I M
N O N S N P G L F K M V M O X
I U E O P W S T W M D P T X U
V R R M I E H E Y O D H M E B
I F D T C G C W I W E E K K A
G R L A U G H T E R V H I Z Y
Z C I O R R W O R O O E S L J
Y Z H S W E E T L A T M S Q P
H T C T J E P O Z I E O E Q W
V W M G N I R A C H D H S M H
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L P R S L U P T P C J R O S G

CARING	GIVING	KISSES	NURTURE
CHILDREN	HEART	LAUGHTER	PARENT
DEVOTED	HOLIDAY	LOVE	RESPECT
FAMILY	HOME	MEMORIES	SPECIAL
FLOWERS	HONOR	MOMMY	SWEET
GIFTS	HUGS	MOTHER	THOUGHTFUL

Who does God say I am



Across

2. 2 Tim 2:21

6. John 8:31

8. Hebrews

10:10

11. Romans 8:17

13. 2 Cor. 5:21

14. Gal. 4:5

15. John 14:23

Down

1. Matt 20:26

3. John 15:15

4. 1 John 4:4

5. Romans 8:31

7. Acts 1:8

9. 2 Cor. 5:20

10. John 1:12

12. 1 Peter 2:9

Word Bank

home

righteous

adopted

Heir

servant

student

witness

overcomer

ambassador

child

friend

Chosen

Vessel

sanctified

justified

Happy Mother's Day!

