

August 14, 2020

Hello all from Pastor Chris and the staff at Open Doors,

I hope you all are well and enjoying the warm weather while it lasts here in August. In an attempt to keep everyone as informed as much as possible, here is another little update on the goings-on here at Open Doors.

- I am looking to start another Zoom bible study that will focus on the Old Testament. It will be part of the Disciple Fast Track program, and includes a book plus a video we will watch each week. It will be offered this fall jointly with my father's church, Sturgeon Bay UMC. Our plan is to offer it at two times, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. It is a 12-week study.
- The prayer partners program still needs more people and I again ask you all to consider it. Praying with others and joining in community is a core part of the life of a Christian. Just let me know either by email pastorumc@bevcomm.net or give us a call and we can get you set up.
- Sundays we will continue to be outside as long as the weather is good, but if not we have to follow the guidelines in the Phase Yellow/1 that was in the newsletter. This includes masks as per the order by the governor.
- TJ Lewis will be preaching on Sunday, August 23, so I hope you all will come out or tune in to hear him. He will be preaching on Matthew 16:13-20. We will finish the 4-part look at Philippians on August 30th.
- I will be doing another monthly Facebook Live devotional the last Wednesday of the month. It will be around 2:30 as usual, but it is recorded and can be found on my or the Open Doors Facebook page after that time.
- If you watch Facebook Sunday mornings and have been having issues with the sound, I encourage you to look for the link to the YouTube recording on our website www.opendoorsumc.org which has louder and clearer sound.
- We are currently working on upgrading the sound and video equipment. The new wireless microphones for the sanctuary are in and working great! The cameras for the video system are on backorder but the new system should hopefully be set up by the fall, so look for a better online worship experience when it is installed.
- I will be mostly working from home yet, but that doesn't mean we can't meet. Please give me a call and we can make an appointment to meet in person.
- This summer I wanted to have another visioning meeting, but with the limitations of Zoom and Covid-19 I am going to plan on having one next summer, and to be ready to present some info on some coming changes at our annual meeting this winter, as long as we will be able to safely meet.
- If you are a parent of a confirmation student, then I hope you have received my email about the fall, but I also intend to send a paper copy soon, so look for that in the coming days. You can also email if you have any more questions, comments, and concerns.
- I will be taking vacation August 17-23. If you have any pastoral needs while I am gone, please contact Jan Johanson (507-553-5077) or Sandy Youngblom (507-525-2401). We have pastoral support on call. Sarah will also be on vacation next week.

More Announcements:

- I've moved my at-home office back to church for now. So if you want to contact me, you still can by calling my cell phone (507-317-4322) or the church phone (507-553-5453). Hours are flexible, but you can usually catch me at church from 10am-5pm. A call beforehand would be helpful to plan a visit. (I'll be on vacation August 17-12.) – Sarah
- School supply collection is going on through August. You may bring your donations to either church. Besides the standard list of school supplies, in great need this year are individual bottles of hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and head phones or ear buds.

- **Annual Conference 2020:** Aug. 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m., online. The Minnesota Conference will meet virtually with a pared down session. The theme of our 166th Annual Conference is “Be the Light: Live Hope!” and centers around our gospel imperative to heal a broken world. Those who are not voting members will be able to watch the live stream from Facebook. (You don’t need a Facebook account to watch.) Open Doors’ voting members are Pastor Chris and Sherry Asmus.
- The **Conference Love Offering** is part of Annual Conference, the theme of which is “Be the Light–Live Hope!” We ask that you have your offering mailed or brought in by **August 23**. This offering will go to organizations who help those who have been hit hard by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: 40% will go to Simpson Housing, 40% to Emma Norton, 10% to Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, and 10% to Committee on Native American Ministry Diaper Drive, all Minnesota ministries. More information and special offering envelopes were mailed out with the August OneWay.
- The Little Red Food Pantry at the Wells site has been seeing regular use. The supply of food we’ve been using to refill it is running low. If you would like to donate some food, you can simply put it in the little pantry, or if it doesn’t fit, contact Sandy Youngblom or me and we’ll add it to the inventory. Protein or meat products go the best. Personal hygiene items can also be donated. Whatever is donated through the end of summer should be heat tolerant.
- Congratulations to Becky & Adam Gerambia and grandparents Ron & Betty Culbertson on the birth of Scarlett Ann Gerambia, born August 8 in Illinois. Scarlett was 7 lbs. 13 oz. and has one older brother, Kellen, who shares a birthday this month and will be 3.
- If you have an email address that we could send this to you instead of sending through the postal mail, please reply to opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net to update us with your preferred e-mail address. Thanks!
- **A new UMC Market!** The United Methodist General Council on Finance & Administration is excited to introduce to you a new revised UMC Market, powered by iGive. During the pandemic, people have gone to online purchasing like never before. Did you know that each of those purchases could mean a donation for our church when done via UMCmarket.org? With 2300+ online stores, it’s easy for anyone to find a place to shop. At umcmarket.org, you’ll enter your name & email address and can start earning donations right away by shopping at your favorite retailers! **Right now** is the BEST time to join - **all UMC members will earn double donations on purchases made during August!** All your late summer fashion and Back to School necessities will generate double the normal rates. We strongly encourage you to register for a free membership by visiting www.umcmarket.org and selecting Open Doors United Methodist Church as your ministry to support.
- Thank you to all who have been generously supporting Open Doors! Just a reminder, you may give online by going to www.opendoorsumc.org and clicking on “♥Giving” in the menu bar; through the free mobile app “GivePlus Church”; by mailing in a check to the central office in Wells; hand deliver by dropping it in the mail slot in the northwest church door or the offering chest or plate on Sunday mornings.

Conference opportunities for growth:

- **Being Church Today:** Aug. 17, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., online. God is calling the church into the halls of power and into protests on the street. At this free event, a diverse set of nationally recognized and local Minneapolis Christian leaders will explore how the church can lead in a time like this.
- **Dementia & the Church Webinar:** Aug. 21, noon, online. This webinar is part of a series organized by the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministry. This session's theme will be *Tools for Connecting with People Living with Dementia when Behaviors are Challenging*.

