

September 11, 2020



OPEN DOORS UPDATE

News and Announcements

Hello all, hope the fall-like weather is treating you well. I know I am really looking forward to fall apples. Here once again is some info on what's coming up from us here at Open Doors United Methodist Church.

~ Pastor Chris

- September 23rd will be the first meeting for Confirmation. We will meet in the park right after youth group. We will try this as long as possible and then will be inside with masks and social distancing.
- September 30th will be start of our 12-week study on the New Testament via Zoom. We will have two time slots: Wednesdays at 12:00-1:00 pm and 6:30-7:30 pm. Week 1 will be an introduction and we will look to finish before Christmas. If you are interested, email me at pastorumc@bevcomm.net. If you want us to order a book for you, let me know. They will be \$13 from us and around the same from Cokesbury. Amazon has them a little cheaper in a Kindle version.
- We are still in the Yellow Phase and will be until the Conference changes it. No date for that yet, so look to be outside as long as we can and then inside with all of the restrictions that are in the plan that was outlined in the newsletter. All activities will follow the phase we are in and may need to be canceled or changed depending on what happens this fall.
- I am available but at this point by appointment. If you'd like to meet in the church, then all the restrictions apply and you just need to contact me or the office to set something up. You can also meet me via Zoom if you don't feel comfortable coming in person.
- Due to Covid, Annual Conference was done via Zoom and was mostly uneventful. You can check the Annual Conference website for detail – www.minnesotaumc.org. Next year is tentatively set to be in person June 22-24 in St. Cloud, with General Conference August 29-September 7, 2021. General Conference is set to be in Minneapolis.

Stay safe and a happy start of the school year to staff and students.

Special Music this Sunday, September 13

Come early to church in Wells this Sunday! Steve Burns, John Miller and Katie Hueper will be playing guitar and singing for prelude music outside.

Drive-Thru Adventure - Sunday, September 27

The plans are underway for a Drive-Thru Adventure for families, teams etc., weather permitting. Your family or team will sign up at Open Doors UMC, by calling the church at 553-5453 or calling or texting Sandy at 507-525-2401 by Wed., September 23. The admission fee is one food item per member for the Tiny Pantry. The adventure will begin at church at 4 p.m. – arrive by 3:45 to register and drop off your food. You will have a certain time, 1 to 1½ hours, to fulfill the adventure, (time is yet to be determined) by finding things, doing things, taking lots of pictures and videos, etc. It is a big driving scavenger hunt! It will be located in the Wells area! Be creative and have fun!! After you are done with your clues or the time is up, head back to church, and we will have a hotdog and bag of chips and a cookie for each participate. If you don't want to do the race but would like a hotdog, come at 5:30 and drive through the back of the church to pick up your hotdog meal. The plans are still in the works... can't wait to see you all.

Tuesday Kids

This coming Tuesday, Sept 15, will be the first Tuesday Kids for the 3rd-4th graders. Please call the church if you plan on coming, just to get a head count. You can be dropped off at the church, someone

will be waiting for you outside and we will walk to Thompson Park, that is where we will do all of our activities. There will be a snack, story, craft, science project, and a game. Starts after school and will be done by 4:30. The first week is 3rd and 4th graders, the next week is 5th and 6th graders. We will be learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. The first week will be about Love!

*“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

Sunday School Teachers Needed

October 4th will be the first day of Sunday School. We're looking for teachers for:

- Co-teachers for Pre-school & Kindergarten (one all year and one from Jan.-May)
- A co-teacher for 3rd & 4th
- Two co-teachers each for 5th & 6th and 7th & 8th.

If you would like to be a teacher this year, please contact Sandy Youngblom or Sarah in the office. We are planning now for in-person classes; however, if the virus situation gets worse, we may need to try virtual options.

Blessing of the Backpacks & Devices

On October 4, the first day of Sunday School, we will have a blessing of backpacks and all electronic learning, working, and communication devices. So, *EVERYONE*, bring your backpacks and cell phones . . . and tablets and laptops if you like, to church that day to have them blessed for the coming year.

Youth Group

Youth group will meet outside at Thompson Park on Wednesday, Sept. 16, right after school and be done at 4:30. We will have a message, prayer and game.

This has been a hard time for everyone, not knowing what and how we can do things. We are trying to be creative at Open Doors UMC. So we will work outside while the weather is good, so the kids will not have to wear a mask. We will see how things progress and work out. We are all so excited to see you all! It has been a long six months!!!!

Special Askings

Camping – The Minnesota Camping Ministry has taken a hard hit this summer with the cancelling of all registrations. Nearly 100% of our three UMC camp's operating expenses are normally paid with the camp registration fees. We're asking if you could help them out to ensure that the campfires stay glowing now and for generations to come! **For every dollar you donate, Open Doors will match your donation, up to \$300!** Just clearly indicate "Camps" on your check or envelope. Give future generations the opportunity to enjoy life-long memories from camp! Thank you!

New Back Door – The back door leading to the basement at the Wells Campus needs to be replaced with a new, weather-tight, secure door that opens and closes much more effortlessly than the current rusted one. If you would like to contribute to helping us get the new door in before winter, please send in your gift designated "New Door."

New Copy Machine – We have funds in memory of Betty Kruse to use for replacing the 9-1/2 year old copier. We have a ways to go, so if anyone else would like to help with this purchase, your donations would be appreciated!

World Communion Sunday is October 4

Did you know World Communion Sunday funds education for church leadership in the UMC? Half of the gifts made on this Special Sunday will benefit World Communion Scholars, students pursuing expertise in a wide range of fields as they follow God's call to serve communities and churches around the world.

We will take this special offering in church on October 4. Use the enclosed envelope for your gift.