



OPEN DOORS UPDATE

News and Announcements

Hello all! It is getting closer and closer to one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving! I love Thanksgiving because to me it means family, football and food. The trinity of holiday F's. Usually it means more family, but this year it will be just our little branch of the Leistra tree. That doesn't mean that it won't be joyful, and in the midst of this pandemic, I think more than ever we need to turn to joy and what we are thankful for. I am thankful that despite it all, I have family that helps me through the rough parts. I also have Faith – another very important F that keeps my eye pointed at hope.

Thanksgiving has always been a happy day and is in my mind a time to be with people we love and to focus on our blessings as we ready ourselves for Advent and all the joy that will bring. I hope that as we get to Thanksgiving, you will join me in being thankful, because despite the place we all find ourselves in, we need look no further than next month to see what the whole world and all people have to be thankful for – and that is Jesus who saves us and gives hope in the midst of life, even pandemic time. So let's be joyful, thankful, and in that...find peace.

A very happy and thankful Thanksgiving to you and yours!

~ Pastor Chris



- Soon we will be giving out packets that will be picked up at the church (more details about that later in the letter). In the packet, you will find a red sheet of paper. That is for you to cut an ornament out and write what you are thankful for this Christmas season. We will be putting them up in the sanctuary. You can also use your own sheet of paper and make your own ornament, write your thanks on it and drop it off at the church. If there isn't anyone at church, just slip it into the mail slot on the door that is marked with a 595 on it. (by the little free pantry). You can also use a real ornament and just write it on the side - but use one that you don't necessarily want back.
- For Advent, we will be looking at rediscovering the Joy, Hope, Peace and Love of Christmas. Look for more info on that later.
- I am asking people to take a video or picture of you or your family saying hi to the congregation. My family took a video with my phone and we will be showing it as an example. Watch for it in the service this Sunday. I hope many of you will do this and we will play them in church to say "Hi" as we aren't able to gather at this time but we are still community in Christ. As we get more comfortable with this, I want to have us do virtual Christmas cards which we will play on Christmas Eve so we can wish each other a merry Christmas. (Technical notes: Please record video or take your picture in the horizontal format. Email to opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net or share via Messenger. Large files upload to Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, or similar cloud storage, and share the link with opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net.)
- I continue to urge you all to come in and join in recording a Sunday worship service so you can be at part of the service and people can see you. You can sing, read, pray or give testimony, and those are just examples – use your imagination.
- We are at work designing a special online Christmas Eve service and we will hopefully have many of you joining in to record different parts. We hope we can make this as special of a Christmas as we can.
- I continue to ask that if you would like to talk or meet, to give me a call and we can set up a time via Zoom, or in person with all the precautions in place. This is part of the current situation but it is always best to make an appointment to be sure to catch me.
- Please fill out the gold pledge card you received in the mail and consider upping your pledge as it helps us immensely to have an idea for planning on budgets. I encourage you to think about tithing as part of your discipleship journey.



Facebook: Streaming live at 9:30 am on Sundays and saved there as a recording to watch later.

YouTube: Streaming live at 9:30 am on Sundays and saved as a recording to watch later. Search YouTube for Open Doors UMC to find our channel, click the "Subscribe" button and the "bell" icon to be alerted anytime that Open Doors goes live.

Website www.opendoorsumc.org: Video recording is posted here to watch anytime.

Bevcomm Cable TV: Mondays at 11am and 6pm and Tuesdays at 8pm.

Pie Auction by Sandy Youngblom

If you have not yet called or texted me to bid on a pie, there is still time. You have until 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 19 to bid. I have listed the highest bids so far on the pies below. Please don't wait until Thursday to bid, you might not get your pie!! The starting bids are \$25 per pie. Let's have some fun, and help out the Youth Group. My number is 507-525-2401. You can call or text me!! I will let you know if someone out bids you. Or you can call someone up and bid against each other and then just let me know what the final result is..... have some fun!!

<u>Pie</u>	<u>Pie Baker</u>
1. Bumble Berry Pie \$80	Mary Loveless
2. Apple Pie (frozen, ready to bake)	Katie Hueper
3. Apple Pie (frozen, ready to bake)	Sandy Youngblom
4. German Chocolate Cheesecake \$90	Sandy Youngblom
5. Crunchy Pumpkin Pie	Sandy Youngblom
6. Kentucky Derby Pie (Chocolate pecan pie) \$25	Sandy Youngblom
7. Lemon Meringue Pie \$50	Teal Leistra
8. Banana Cream Pie \$25	Lois Benson
10. Apple Pie	Elizabeth Bittman
11. Caramel Apple Pie \$25	Elizabeth Bittman
12. Caramel Apple Pie	Britney Haugh
13. Peanut Butter Pie	Britney Haugh
14. Banana Cream Pie	Britney Haugh
15. Rosettes, 1 doz (3 offers)	Stacy Magnuson
16. Krumkake, 1 doz. (3 offers)	Stacy Magnuson
17. Golden Cinnamon Coffee Cake (2 offers)	Amy Chandler
18. Apple Pie	Margaret Courier
19. Blueberry Pie \$25	Margaret Courier
20. Pecan Pie \$75	Sally Roesler
21. Pecan Pie	Sally Roesler

- Bidders:**
1. Call or text 507-525-2401 to place your bid. Give the number of your pie selection and your bid. Bidding should be in \$5 increments with \$25.00 starting.
 2. You will be contacted when you have been outbid.
 3. Bidding closes at 6:00 pm CST Thursday, November 19.
 4. Winners will be notified of what they won. Pick-up times will be between 9:00-11:00 am at the back door. Call Sandy if you can't come get it and she'll deliver.
- Bakers:** Make your pie and deliver to the Wells church by 9:00 am Sunday, November 22.

Youth Group

Our amazing youth group has had a wonderful Fall! I feel so blessed to have been able to meet with the kids outside and inside during this time. However, we will be taking a little break right now, while everyone figures out the school schedules, and UMC is not allowing more than 10 people in church at a time. But we will be back, and when we are, it will be a great celebration.

Last week, since the weather was so beautiful, we were able to be outside and enjoy the amazing day. We started a series on "Loving Like Jesus" "God has a name for you". Jesus looks at you with a purpose. We all have a purpose in this world! We are all made by Christ for specific plans and opportunities to spread His incredible love to the world. "Jeremiah 29:11 "for I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Sometimes, I believe we get down on ourselves, when we sin or go down the wrong path in life. But God has a purpose for everyone. When you choose to belong to Christ, you are a new person and your new life has begun. 2 Corinthians 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!!

Blessings on your Thanksgiving!!! Can't wait to get back together!! ~ Sandy

Tuesday Kids

The Tuesday Kids has had a good Fall, but we will also be on hold until we are able to meet up again! We have had fun being together and learning about the Fruits of the Spirit! We will let you know when we will be back together again! ~ Sandy

Operation Christmas Child

Covid-19 has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world. Children need to know God has not forgotten them. They need great joy now more than ever. You can give that joy by packing a shoebox full of gifts for a needy boy or girl. You can get instructions on how to pack a box and print off your box labels from the website www.operationchristmaschild.org. You can also build a shoebox online, avoiding the shopping trip. You can pick what you want to go in it, probably for less money than if you were to shop for the items yourself. Open Doors has a goal page set up on the Samaritan's Purse website. How many children can we bless with the Good News of Jesus Christ by building shoebox gifts online? This goal page will help us track our progress. <https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/1e59cb6a-1d7a-4e84-88be-c1d2996b7b1b>

Collection due date is Sunday, **November 22**.

Prayer Concerns:

Those dealing with cancer: Mickey Ellsworth, Aurora Blank, Charlie Johnson, Karen Kimberline, Bebo Getchell, Joan Christian. Continued recuperation for Dan Willaby and Reese Druckenmiller. Mark & Michelle Lacher, Ryan & Taylor, Greg Niebuhr, and others who are fighting Covid-19. Upcoming surgery for Glenn Johanson. All others grieving loss, dealing with family crisis, or any type of physical or mental ailments.

Community:

UHD Hospice Light Up a Life – Your financial contribution to UHD Hospice is a meaningful way to remember deceased family and friends through a **Memorial** or to acknowledge those living family and friends through a **Tribute**. A **Donation** supports the hospice programs and those in need of its services. A **Light Up a Life** will honor a person by name (\$10 ea.). Donation envelopes are available on request at church, or you may mail donations to UHD Home Health & Hospice, PO Box 160, Blue Earth, MN 56013-0160.

A Festival of Trees, a Five Sisters Project fundraiser – Tour beautifully decorated trees. Cast a vote for your favorite. Individuals, groups, organizations, businesses invited to decorate a tree in a theme of your choice, or use your tree as a "billboard" to creatively advertise for your business or organization. Location: Wells Community Center. When: Thursday, Dec. 3 (3:00-8:00 pm), Friday, Dec. 4 (10am-8pm), Saturday, Dec. 5 (10am-8pm). Social distancing will be practiced. Free will donation.

Ruby's Pantry regretfully announces that they will not be distributing food any longer at Albert Lea Assembly of God.

Calendar:

- 11/15 Online Worship – 9:30 am
 11/19 Newsletter Deadline
 Virtual Pie Auction ends at 6:00 pm
 11/18 “Disciple” Bible Study – 12pm & 6:30pm
 11/22 Pledge Sunday
 Thanksgiving/Advent Drive Thru – 9:00-11:00 am
 Pie Pick-up day – 9:00-11:00 am
 Online Worship – 9:30 am
 Operation Christmas Child boxes due – 11:00 am
 11/25 “Disciple” Bible Study – 12pm & 6:30pm
 11/29 Online Worship – 9:30 am
 12/2 Confirmation class on Zoom – 4:30 pm
 12/3 Ad Council on Zoom – 7:15 pm



25 boxes containing hygiene items, food and treats were sent to the southern Minnesota troops in the Horn of Africa! Thank you all for supporting our military!

NOVEMBER 22



DRIVE-THRU

On Sunday, November 22, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.,

**Open Doors will have a Thanksgiving/Advent packet for you to pick up
in front of the church . . . Curbside!**

AND DOUGHNUTS!

In the packet will be: Thanksgiving and Advent themed devotions and prayers, an Advent chain craft, Advent wreath table tent, a tree ornament, materials for making your “thanksgiving” Christmas tree ornament to return back to church, communion kits for December 6 . . . And add to that for families: children & youth activity sheets, a Deep Blue Kids Christmas book, craft, and more . . . *And doughnuts!*

You can also drop off your pledge card and Operation Christmas Child shoebox during the drive-thru and pick up your winning pie. And did we say, doughnuts?



We all will miss being together as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child and to celebrate in candlelight and song on Christmas Eve! But even in the uncertainty and chaos of this season in 2020, know that Jesus is the one sure hope that we know won't leave us.

He won't be quarantined!