



OPEN DOORS UPDATE

News and Announcements



In-Person Worship Will Begin On February 7!

Bishop David Bard has turned the dial on the Minnesota Conference's Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches from red to orange and made some adjustments to the Orange Phase that allows for churches to have up to 50% of the building's capacity with a maximum of 50 people. Open Doors will open up to in-person worship on Sunday, February 7. Masks and social distancing are required and people in at-risk groups are still recommended to worship from home.

We will be going back to two services:

9:00 a.m. in Wells and 10:30 a.m. in Kiester.

Live streaming from the Wells Campus will continue on YouTube and Facebook at 9:00 a.m.

See the Orange Phase description page 4.

*January 31st
Drive Thru*

Come one, come all, to a Covid-safe drive-thru event at the Wells Campus. We have a Valentines goody bag for you, communion cup, Lenten devotional resources, children's activity sheets, all handed to you with a friendly smile from Open Doors!

*Sunday, January 31, 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Drive through the back drive to pick up your Valentines bag.*

No need to get out of your vehicle.

Hello Everyone!

As I write to you, the sun is shining into my office window and it is a welcome change from the dull, listless light that has been reaching us from the star we orbit. In the winter, the sun becomes a rather unreliable friend, but one that I welcome any time it decides to show its warm face. As we move into 2021, I hope that the sun finds you happy and well.

- Due to a likely Covid exposure, the staff at Open Doors will be in quarantine until January 20. This means that if you need to get in contact with any of us, that you will need to call that person directly. Remember though, that we will be unable to do much until we know that it is safe. It also means that on Sunday, January 17, we had a different service than usual – we used a pre – recorded sermon from our DS, Rev. Fred Vanderwerf. We'd be happier without the pandemic, but Covid has blessed us with electronic resources we wouldn't have had otherwise.
- If you are having trouble finding our Sunday videos, I suggest you make an account with YouTube. This takes an email address to sign up. You should find a place to click on the top right to make an

account. If you need more help with this, here's a video that will walk you through the process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnmCMPTTiO8> Then you just need to subscribe to our channel, which you can do by going to our YouTube channel, by either searching Open Doors UMC on YouTube or going to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsJrL3wwm_iCWJZN0WXb_Q Then click on the word SUBSCRIBE that is in red, then click on the bell icon that is close by and that will give you an alert when we are going live or have a new video. On Sunday morning, just be ready at 9:30 and click on the video and you will join us live. You can click the video early and it will just say "going live soon," and you can wait until it starts. You can also find the link on our site <http://www.opendoorsumc.org/> that will bring you to the channel, just look for the YouTube icon. Facebook is also an option and if you friend request our page, then you will get alerts that we are going live. A note though, while it will show up on Facebook right away, it does take a bit to show up on YouTube. So if you don't see it right away, check back a little later. If you still have problems feel free to contact me and I can help walk you through it.

- Look for a new Zoom study called *The God We Can Know*, starting February 24. More info will be in the OneWay and announced on Sunday.

~ Pastor Chris

2020 Ended in Good Shape

Thank you for your giving in 2020! Your support through your prayers and donations helped us get through an uncertain year. Lower expenses and a PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) forgivable loan also helped make ends meet. We were able to end the year with all our obligations paid, including 100% of our apportionments! **Thank You!!**

2020 Financial Statements are being mailed this week and last week to each household that made contributions during the year. If you have not received yours, or have questions, please contact Sarah Hankerson in the church office or at 507-317-4322.

For Bevcomm Cable TV Subscribers – Schedule Change for Worship Broadcasts Starting February 1

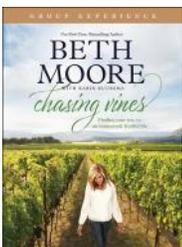
Starting on February 1, 2021, our local worship service on Bevcomm TV will be aired on Channel 990 rather than channel 7. You will find a listing for our worship service in the guide and have the ability to record the program if you subscribe to DVR services through Bevcomm.

New Worship Schedule on Bevcomm TV — Ch 990:

Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Online Bible Study – *Chasing Vines* with Beth Moore



Join bestselling author Beth Moore on a six-session video journey to discover the true meaning of a fruitful life.

In this online Bible study, Beth Moore explores the ways God delights in watching things grow and how the vineyard holds the secret to how we can have a more abundant and meaningful life. As she traces the metaphor through Scripture, Beth uncovers how every part of our own lives even the rockiest, most difficult soil is used by God to make a difference for His Kingdom.

You can do this study on your own or contact Sandy Youngblom to be part of a small group who will get together online via Zoom once a week, day & time tbd by the group. Access to the videos are free and there are other free resources—go to www.christianbook.com, look for the banner under Bible Studies, and sign up today! The videos become available January 26.

Annual Meeting of Open Doors UMC

The date is set for Sunday, February 21. If all goes well and we are still worshipping in person, we will have the Annual Meeting in person following worship at the Wells Campus. We will have a joint worship service that day for all Kiester and Wells members at 9:00 am at the Wells Campus. The meeting will start at 10:00 and also be streamed live for those who prefer not to attend in person. More information on how to find the live stream will be coming in the February OneWay newsletter.

Ministry chairs and treasurers, please have your 2020 annual reports to Sarah by January 22.



Souper Bowl of Caring – February 7

Every year, the youth sponsor the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday. A special offering is held and all the donations will go local food shelves. So if you would like to donate, you can send a donation to the church, marked for the food shelf, or drop it off when you come to church on the 7th. Thanks for supporting the food shelf. All the money donated by Kiester folks will be directed to the Kiester Food Pantry, and Wells folks to the Wells Area Food Shelf.

Into The Wilderness—THE EVENT 2021

This year, The Event and The Confirmation Gathering are merging into one great digital experience for all Minnesota Conference youth! THE EVENT will be live on Wednesday, February 3. Pastor Chris and Sandy are going to combine Youth Group and Confirmation class together, in person in the sanctuary, for a night of worship with Boiling Point, games and a great message. It is going to be awesome!

Masks and distancing must be adhered to in the church! Parents can stay and participate too, if you would like to.

*If there is an up-surge in cases of Covid, we will still be able to do this online in our own homes.

NOTE: With everyone's health in mind, I've decided it's best not to do the Super Sub Sale this year.

Zooming.....As of right now, the youth will continue to Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. until we get the all clear ... except for February 3, when we will meet together for The Event at 7:00 (see article above).

Spa Day

Spa Day "week" will be the week of January 18. Sometime that week, I will be dropping off a fun bag for girls in 5th-12th grade. So be looking for a bag on your door knob sometime that week! I am trying to come up with something for the guys too, since fishing would be difficult.

~ Sandy

Worship
with us
from
HOME

Facebook: Streaming live on Sundays at 9:30am and saved there as a recording to watch later. Beginning Feb. 7, the time will be 9:00 a.m.

YouTube: Streaming live at 9:30 on Sundays (9:00 beginning February 7) and saved as a recording to watch later. Click the YouTube icon in the red menu bar on our website or search YouTube for Open Doors UMC to find our channel. "Subscribe" to our channel and click the "bell" icon to be alerted anytime that Open Doors goes live.

Website www.opendoorsumc.org: Video recording is posted here to watch anytime. This also is live on Sunday mornings.

Bevcomm Cable TV: Through January on channel 7: Mondays at 11am and 6pm and Tuesdays at 8pm.
Beginning February 1 on channel 990: Tuesdays at 11am & 8pm and Fridays at 6:00pm.



Open Doors Re-Gathering Plan

In-person worship will begin February 7, 2021, as voted on by the Administrative Council on January 14. Watch for future announcements, as this is still a fluid situation and we can change phases at any time, determined by Covid-19 case activity in our area and throughout the state.

Worship and Life Events

- We will be worshipping in one or more of the following formats:
 - Indoor: A limit of 50 people are permitted provided that family units are at least six feet apart and attendees wear masks (however, building capacity must not exceed 50 percent). No food or drinks may be served.
 - Online: Will continue to be offered every week regardless of the phase we are in.
 - Outside and/or drive-up: Worship services of up to 50 people are permitted provided that family units are at least six feet apart and attendees wear masks. No food or drinks may be served. Drive-up is when people gather in a parking lot without ever leaving their vehicles and with each vehicle must be at least six feet away from others.
- Weddings and funerals of up to 35 people are permitted with a consultation with the pastor, provided that family units are at least six feet apart and attendees wear masks. No food or drinks may be served. These gatherings are safest outdoors and should be live streamed whenever possible to allow greater participation.
- Wedding and funeral receptions with food and drinks are limited to two households (10 people max) indoors and three households (15 people max) outdoors, per the Office of Gov. Tim Walz.

Small groups and faith formation:

- Groups should continue to meet virtually as much as possible, and pastoral care visits should still be done by phone or online as much as possible.
- Small groups of up to 10 people are permitted to gather in-person in large, open areas—preferably outdoors—if everyone is wearing a mask, there is a minimum of six feet between each person, and the gathering area is thoroughly sanitized after each gathering (with special attention to common areas like restrooms). Small groups gathering in a church building should not sing, as singing spreads aerosols that carry the virus a substantial distance.
- High-risk individuals (those over age 60 and/or with underlying health conditions) should continue to stay home and be given options to participate in the life of the church through virtual means.

Staff and Building Operations

- Church staff should work from home as much as possible. Every person who must be in the office should wear a mask at all times and engage in frequent hand-washing; staff should stagger schedules as much as possible so that multiple people are not in the office at the same time for long periods.
- The custodian will disinfect all surfaces that might have been touched by the public after the service as soon as is reasonable.
- The church offices will be open by appointment only until we move to the Yellow Phase.

Calendar:

- 1/19 Newsletter Deadline
- 1/20 Confirmation 5:30; Youth Group 6:30
- 1/21 Clergy Leadership Academy
- 1/22 Annual reports due
- 1/24 Online Worship – 9:30 am
- 1/27 Confirmation 5:30; Youth Group 6:30
- 1/31 Online Worship – 9:30 am
Drive-Thru – 10:15 am
- 2/2 New worship schedule on Bevcomm starts
Tues. 11am & 8pm; Fri. 6pm on channel 990
- 2/3 Confirmation 5:30; Youth Group 6:30
- 2/7 **In-person** Worship – 9:00 Wells, 10:30 Kiester
Online Worship – 9:00 am
- 2/8 Ministry Council Zoom – 6:30 pm
- 2/14 In-person Worship – 9:00 Wells, 10:30 Kiester
Online Worship – 9:00 am

Prayer Concerns:

The families of Pat Bathke and Jim Haakensen. Those dealing with cancer: Aurora Blank, Charlie Johnson, Karen Kimberline, Bebo Getchell. All the people fighting Covid-19. Shut-ins and residents in extended care facilities. Randy Courier in hospice care. Our military personnel. All others grieving loss, dealing with family crisis, or any type of physical or mental ailments.

OFFICE HOURS: I'll be in and out through the rest of January. Please call me at 507-317-4322 or email opendoorsmc@bevcomm.net if you need anything or to make an appointment to come in to church. ~ Sarah