



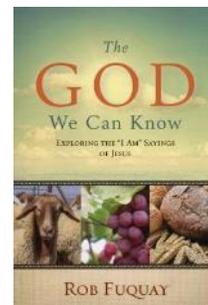
OPEN DOORS UPDATE

News and Announcements

Hello Everyone!

These short winter days have sure flown by. It seems like just yesterday we were talking about Christmas and New Years. But here we are in February, and the days are slowly starting to get longer; not warmer quite yet, but the sun is a limited commodity that I like to get as much of as possible. I hope that the sun finds you well as you read this, and that we can have coffee again soon.

- We will be starting the new online study on the 24. The study is called, “*The God We Can Know*.” It will look at how God reveals God’s self through the “I am” statements. It will be six weeks and be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. If you are interested, email me at pastorumc@bevcomm.net. All I need is an email address and whether you want to buy a book from us or order it on your own. The cost for the book is \$8 from us, and should be around the same price if you buy it yourself. It will also go with a sermon series that will start this Sunday, February 14.
- We are now in the Orange Phase (details in the OneWay), so we are in-person for worshiping in both Wells and Kiester, but we still need to make sure to keep each other safe so we will continue to wear masks and observe social distancing. This is all part of doing no harm, which has been our guiding light through this pandemic. If you feel sick at all, or just don’t feel comfortable, please keep joining us on Facebook, YouTube and Bevcomm cable TV. Also, please keep liking the videos and commenting in Facebook. I really enjoy seeing everyone say hi on Sunday morning.
- For the parents of confirmation students, we will be meeting on Zoom until March, at least. Since we are in the Orange Phase, and with it being very cold, it is still best to stay with Zoom for now.
- Ash Wednesday is the 17th this year and I will be recoding a message that will be on Facebook and YouTube at 2pm that day. It’ll also be saved so you can watch in the evening or when you have the time available.
- Thank you to everyone who has made our online Sunday worship services possible! If you would like to get involved, please let us know.



~ Pastor Chris

10 Ways to Mark Ash Wednesday at Home

Ash Wednesday, February 17 this year, marks the beginning of Lent, a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. In normal times, we come together to remember that we are all sinners and ask forgiveness for those sins. We receive ashes on our foreheads or on our hands as a visual reminder our commitment to our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year, we will not gather together for this service, but we can still do something to mark this day and remember how Jesus loved us.

Here is a list of 10 ways we can mark this day. Choose one or more ways to consciously remember and serve each other.

- **Worship:** Pastor Chris will be streaming a contemplative Ash Wednesday message online. Find a quiet and comfortable spot to listen and reflect.
- **Serve:** We remember that we are part of the human family. Find a place to volunteer, use your lunch break to hand out sandwiches and drinks to the homeless, or take an hour or more to help out a neighbor.

Continued on next page.

Ten Ways to Mark Ash Wednesday at Home *(Continued)*

- **Give:** Give to your church, the Lenten offering (which goes to our missionaries, the Graners), UMCOR, or give your server a larger tip. Find ways to bless others with that which God has given you.
- **Abstain/fast:** Often we give up a favorite food, or bad habit during Lent. Perhaps giving up gossip or complaining, or fear, or anxiety for Ash Wednesday, will mark a new beginning. Pause for prayer.
- **Pray:** Offer sentence prayers throughout the day for drivers, passengers, health-care workers, police, mail carriers, parents, co-workers and others as you thank God for them and the work they do.
- **Make something:** If you reflect and pray best when your hands are busy, go to the workshop, take out your art supplies, sit at the piano and let the music flow. As you create, give thanks to our Creator who longs to be in relationship with you.
- **Be still:** Light a candle and pause before the presence of God. Listen for the voice of God.
- **Clean something:** Spend an hour with the junk drawer, that cabinet, or organizing the files on your computer. As you remove the things you no longer need, be mindful of the ways God cleans us. As we get things in order, we remember that Jesus gave his life so that we might be free from our sins and know new life.
- **Burn Something:** When you finish cleaning, take some of the papers you no longer need to the fireplace. Light them and watch as they turn to ashes. These ashes are not the same as those used in worship, but can serve as a reminder that your sins are forgiven.
- **Forgive and seek forgiveness:** As we pray for God's grace, we should also seek forgiveness from those we have wronged. Ash Wednesday is a great time to go to those you have hurt. It's also a wonderful day to forgive those who have wronged us. Maybe while you are burning those old papers, you might burn a grudge. Remember that forgiveness has much more to do about us than the one who offended us.

(Condensed from an article by Joe Iovino, who works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications.)



Annual Meeting of Open Doors UMC

Everyone who is connected with Open Doors UMC is invited to come to the Annual Meeting, which will be both in-person at the Wells Campus and streamed live to a private Facebook Group on Sunday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m., following worship. We will have one joint worship service that day at 9:00 in Wells, so everyone will have a chance to join in the meeting, whether in person or online.

To participate in person: Find a seat, socially distanced, in the sanctuary at 10:00.

To participate online: Sarah has set up a private Facebook Group page called **Open Doors UMC Community**, on which the Annual Meeting will be live streamed. Everyone that is friends with Open Doors UMC Facebook page will be sent an invitation to join. If you are on Facebook, but not currently a friend with Open Doors, send a Friend Request to *Open Doors Umc* and you'll in turn get an invitation to the private group. This *Open Doors UMC Community* private group will be used for other news, conversations, prayer requests and business items that are just for Open Doors' members and close friends and not the public, so it would be beneficial to join the group, even if you don't plan to take part in the Annual Meeting at this time.

When it comes time for the meeting, log into Facebook and find "*Open Doors UMC Community*" among your groups, or do a search for it. The meeting will be streamed live to the page. Please type in the comments that you are attending. And if you have any questions or comments, please type them in the comments area and the moderator will call them to Pastor Chris's attention so all questions can be addressed.

The Annual Meeting booklet will be available to pick up at the meeting and available as an online pdf file with its link posted on the Open Doors UMC Community group page. Pages will be projected on screen as well.

New Bell Choir Forming

Are you missing the chance to make music with others in this time of separation? We can do bells/chimes fairly safe. Six ringers, wearing masks and standing six feet apart, can make music together. Anyone, from Open Doors UMC or not, is welcome to come try this out. There is note reading and rhythm reading involved, so if this would be a new experience for you, having learned to play an instrument would make it a bit easier. The day and time will be determined by the group, starting in March.

Anyone who would like to give this a try, please let Jan know by email-- wellsucomusic@gmail.com, or call 553-5077. We will need six people complete a choir.

Lenten Offering for Graners

We have a Covenant Relationship with our UMC missionaries, Ardell & Gordon Graner, in Dominican Republic. That means we support them with prayer and with finances. Our annual commitment is \$1,250 this year.

The latest news from the Graners was regarding conditions of poverty during the pandemic. Their last newsletter told about delivering food to some of the poorest families.

We had 150 food baskets, each containing 10 lbs. of rice, 3 lbs. of dry beans, and 1/2 gallon of vegetable oil. Initially, the plan was to take them to four rural villages who were the last to receive solar ovens prior to the start of the pandemic. Afraid of being overwhelmed by crowds, the villagers were not told there would be free food handed out, only that there would be a solar oven meeting and prayer. The turnout was very slim. So instead, they took the food baskets to vulnerable neighbors, those who are ill, too infirm to leave their homes, blind, and many others in need who are outside the solar oven network.

Gordon wrote about the experience: "Our experience in the Dajabón area was another example to me of why we seek out the 'least of these'. And that is, the closer you get to persons who are forgotten and suffering, those who are vulnerable, who live 'outside the walls', the closer you get to the presence of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 25.



To read more about the people they served with the food baskets and future vision of Solar Oven Partners, read their blog at <https://granerfamily.org/>

The offering for Graners will be collected all through Lent. Use the special Lenten envelopes or write "Lenten Offering" in the memo line of your check made out to Open Doors UMC. You can also give **online** – Lenten Offering is one of the fund choices you have.



Open Doors Re-Gathering Plan

Limited in-person worship resumed on February 7, 2021, in both Wells (9:00) and Kiester (10:30) locations. 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 (For full Re-Gathering Plan, see the February OneWay or <http://www.opendoorsumc.org/about>)

- 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.

NOTE the earlier time for live streaming and new schedule for Bevcomm!

Worship
with us
from
HOME

Facebook: Streaming live on Sundays at 9:00am and saved there as a recording to watch later.

YouTube: Streaming live at 9:00 on Sundays 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: Channel 990: Tuesdays at 11am & 8pm and Fridays at 6:00pm.

Prayer Concerns:

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

Calendar:

- 2/14 In-person Worship – 9:00 Wells, 10:30 Kiester
Online Worship – 9:00 am
- 2/16 Newsletter Deadline
- 2/17 **Ash Wednesday** Online Worship – 2:00pm
Confirmation Zoom 5:30; Youth Grp Zoom 6:30
- 2/18 NO Ad Council as printed in the OneWay calendar
- 2/21 In-person Worship – 9:00 JOINT service in Wells
Online Worship – 9:00am
Annual Meeting—10:00am (in-person & online)
- 2/24 Confirmation Zoom—5:30; Youth Grp Zoom—6:30
"The God We Can Know" Study—6:30pm
- 2/28 In-person Worship – 9:00 Wells, 10:30 Kiester
Online Worship – 9:00 am
- 3/3 Confirmation—5:30; Youth Group—6:30
"The God We Can Know" Study—6:30pm
- 3/8 Ministry Council Zoom – 6:30 pm

Weather Related Announcements

If worship or other church-related activities need to be canceled because of weather, please refer to the following preferred media for announcements:

- **Facebook** (Open Doors Umc)
- **www.opendoorsumc.org**
- or **call** the church office at **553-5453** & listen to the recorded message.

Worship cancellations will be also be announced on the following radio & TV stations:

KEYC-TV
KATE (1450 AM); **KJLY** (website only)
KBEW (1560 AM/98.1 FM)

OFFICE HOURS: I'll be in the office through the rest of February. Please call me at 553-5453 or 507-317-4322 or email opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net if you need anything or to make an appointment to come in to church.

~ Sarah