



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELLS CAMPUS

595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097
507-553-5453
Worship: 9:00 am

KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3rd St., Kiester, MN 56051
507-294-3300
Worship: 10:30 am

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Leistra | Cell Phone: 920-765-3665 | Email: pastorumc@bevcomm.net
Central Office: 507-553-5453 | opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net | Web Site: www.opendoorsumc.org

November 7, 2021 – Pentecost 24

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

(* indicates when to stand. You may remain seated if standing creates a problem for you.)

– Gathering in Faith –

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

* *Call to Worship and Praise*

Song "How Great Thou Art" #77, vs 1

Leader: We read from Psalm 24:

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

People: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

Leader: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Song "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" #2195

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Song "Holy Ground" #2272

All Saints Celebration – Prayer of Commemoration

One: I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

All: We praise you, O God, for all your saints in heaven.

One: How grateful we are of the life and witness of . . .

(Reading of names and, lighting the candles of remembrance for loved ones)

Lighting candles of remembrance for departed church members:

Open Doors UMC:

Mickey Ellsworth	Jim Haakensen	Karen Kimberline
Marlene Wedin	Joel Thisius	Betty Somage
Pat Bathke	Charlie Johnson	

(Other loved ones we remember but see no more)

Sue Rucker	David Bullerman
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Lighting a candle of remembrance for those who we hold in our hearts that have joined the Church triumphant, our great cloud of witnesses.

Lighting a candle of remembrance for those who have passed due to Covid-19 since the pandemic started.

One: We also praise you for all those whose names are held in your loving memory,

All: the vast company of voices who acclaim you as Lord.

One: We are grateful for this vast company of witnesses.

All: Strengthen us as we follow their lead.

One: Help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, forerunner in faith, Lord of all.

All: Strengthen us in the hope that we with them will taste and see your goodness in the land of the living.

One: By your Spirit, teach us even now to sing the song of heaven:

All: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. Amen!

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Dedication of Church Memorials

One: Throughout the year the church receives gifts in memory of loved ones – some we have named, some we may not even know, but all are known and loved by God. Today we lift up all the memorial gifts that have been received this past year, whether a specific item or a financial gift, to be consecrated to the glory of God and for service in and through the United Methodist Church.

All: We accept these gifts as a sacred trust and will guard and use them reverently in loving memory of those in whose name they were given.

One: In the name of the holy and triune God, we consecrate these gifts to the glory of God, and in memory of God's servants. The memory of the righteous is ever blessed. Let us pray:

All: Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept the gifts of our hands as symbols of our devotion. Grant your blessing, as we have consecrated these gifts to your glory, that they may be an enduring witness to all your people, and that our lives may be consecrated in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn "For All the Saints" (vs 1,4) # 711, vs 1,4
Opportunities to Serve
Pastoral Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Scripture Lesson Joshua 24:11-15 (NRSV)
* Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" #2129
* *Gospel Lesson* * John 12:20-26 (NRSV)
One: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**
Sermon "Joshua – Today Choose!" Pastor Chris Leistra
Message Response "Lead Me, Guide Me" #2214

– Stewards of Faith –

Giving with a Thankful Heart

Offering may be placed in the green chest (W)/offering plate (K) at the back of the sanctuary at this time, or on your way in or as you leave. *Thank you!*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Song "Come to the Table of Grace" (W) on screen (#3168)
The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer pg. 9

Receiving the Gifts of Bread and Cup

You are invited to commune in your seats from the pre-packaged communion set as directed by the pastor. The pre-packaged sets are there for you to pick up as you enter the sanctuary. Every-one is welcome to the Lord's table in the United Methodist Church, as Christ's act of love is offered to all. After you have communed, please discard the empty cup in the trash receptacle. Thank you.

Prayer after Receiving

– Sending Forth –

* *Benediction*

* *Hymn of Going Forth* "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" (vs 1,2,4) # 438, vs 1,2,4

* *Postlude – The Church Scatters for Ministry . . .*

Keep in your prayers this week: Wanda Kothlow (St. Mary's) following open heart surgery to replace her heart pump. Sue Schuster recuperating from surgery. Those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses: Jason Roberts, Sue Schuster, Rita Bebler, Joan Christian, Michelle Viesselman (Kent & Diane's daughter-in-law), Alan Yokiell, Bebo Getchell. Those in the military and their families; and all others dealing with loss, poor health, pain, or family crisis.

All Saints Sunday

November 7, 2021

Welcome! We are honored by your presence among us this morning. We observe this morning **All Saints Sunday**. November 1st is **All Saints Day**, the Church's Memorial Day – a day of remembrance for all the saints, drawing upon the New Testament understanding of saints being all Christian people of every time and every place. We who are Christians celebrate the Communion of Saints as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ. We rejoice, too, in what Christ has done in and through the witness of each of us – and all the saints – throughout the ages. On **All Saints Sunday**, we affirm our faith as we confess: ***I believe in the communion of saints . . .***

A thought to ponder . . .

The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.
– Oscar Wilde

A Prayer for All Saints Sunday

Gracious God, hear us as we pray for those who now worship with us only in spirit. May they all know eternal rest and may they stand with all your saints forever. *(A time of silence to name your loved ones in your heart.)* Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of these lives to our living and our loving. They've made our world richer by their presence. We thank you for the promise that their deaths will not be swallowed up, for we have victory through our Lord Christ Jesus. Now make us sensitive to the saints who live among us, whose witness and example add to our growth in faith. We praise you for allowing us to be part of so great a company, all precious in your sight. *Amen!*

May God grant comfort and peace as warm memories surround us in our remembrances.

Meredith Kay "Mickey" Ellsworth.....April 29, 1946 – November 21, 2020

Marlene Rosella Wedin.....April 14, 1936 – December 7, 2020

Patricia Kay "Pat" BathkeAugust 27, 1953 – December 16, 2020
James Martin "Jim" HaakensenJanuary 10, 1959 – December 26, 2020
Betty Jane SomageSeptember 23, 1923 – June 3, 2021
Joel Eugene ThisiusOctober 20, 1933 – June 6, 2021
Charles Dean "Charlie" JohnsonApril 30, 1955 – June 11, 2021
Karen Marie GimberlineAugust 19, 1964 – June 15, 2021
David Miles BullermanApril 11, 1980 – April 25, 2021
Susan Roberta "Sue" RuckerNovember 15, 1957 – August 30, 2021

Announcements

The Pie Auction is back and in-person! Save the date for Sunday, November 21 at 10:45 a.m.! You don't want to miss this fun, fast-moving event! Pies requested from our wonderful bakers – who's will receive the highest bid?

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Save the Date!! The **Christmas program will be Sunday, December 12** at the 9:30 worship service. This year's program is called "Follow the Star." Children, ages 3-6th grade, with help from some of our confirmation students, will be presenting the Christmas story in traditional and new ways. All kids are welcome to be part of this event. Practice for the program is each Sunday during Sunday School, 10:30-11:30, with 5 Sundays left, including today.

Children in the pre-school & Kindergarten class will be learning and recording their part of the program each week during their class. These recordings will be edited and shown during worship on Dec. 12 as part of the program. It's a little easier on our youngest Sunday School students to be able to watch themselves, and possibly for the parents too.

Children in 1st and 2nd grades will be presenting the Christmas story as their contribution to the program. They will be practicing each week during Sunday School to be ready to share what they have learned about the birth of Jesus in the stable.

The kids in 3rd-6th grades will be learning a song each week, as well as their parts for the play about the wise men visiting Jesus, the young child.

Please help the children be in class each week so they can feel comfortable about knowing their parts for this great day of sharing the story.

While we are saving dates; the dress rehearsal for the children in grades 1-6 is Friday, December 10, at 3:15 p.m.

Any questions, concerns, or scheduling problems, contact Jan Johanson at wellsunmusic@gmail.com or phone 553-5077.

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Advent/Christmas worship It's time to begin organizing for Advent and Christmas worship services, with only 3 weeks until Advent begins on November 28. We will need **5 COUPLES or FAMILIES** who can help with readings and lighting the advent candles each week. One person can do the readings and another person light the candles, or these responsibilities can be split up between any number of family members or friends. Please contact Jan Johanson if you are able to take one of these worship services, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, or 24, in Kiester or Wells.

The advent candle service will include music at the Wells site. This could include the help of 2 chimers for each of the services. If anyone from the **BELL CHOIR** would like to help in this way, please contact Jan Johanson.

Advent and Christmas is certainly a time for music. We love hearing it, and singing it. If anyone would like to try a solo, duet, or small group singing, we have some wonderful music in our music library for the season. If you have other ideas, and think this is a good time to try them out, please let Jan Johanson know what you have in mind, and we can try to get that going as well.

Jan can be reached through email (wellsunmusic@gmail.com) or by phone (553-5077). She would love to hear from you, with any questions or concerns, or just to check in.

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Interested in joining membership of Open Doors UMC? We'll be having a day to join on November 14 and December 5. Contact Pastor Chris or the church office.

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On the first Sunday of each month, we take a food offering for the **Little Red Food Pantry**. In order to help keep the Little Red Food Pantry stocked, please bring non-perishable, healthy food which is able to withstand freezing temperatures. Dried soups, canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and all-in-one meals, peanut butter, cracker or granola snacks, rice or potato mixes are all great. Cash can also be given to go towards the purchase of needed food.

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Spread some Holiday Cheer! UMW-Wells invite you to help the Holiday Cheer Program by donating a gift or cash donation for patients in **St. Peter Regional Treatment Center**. Sharing a gift – even something as small as a new pair of socks – reminds people that they are not forgotten. Donations of hygiene products, socks and underwear (male and female, L-5X); shoes (men's 9-14); and gift cards are appreciated. Place in collection tub in the entryway. Last Sunday to collect is **November 14**.

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All-District Charge/Church Conference – **Tuesday, November 16, from 6:30-8:00pm** via Zoom. The business of the annual Church Conference will be handled within the context of worship presided by DS Rev. Fred Vanderwerf.

In addition to the Charge/Church Conference, there are opportunities for pastors and laity to sign up for two pre-recorded workshops. Church leaders are encouraged to watch one or both at a time convenient for them. **Workshop #1:** Reach With Missional Communities with church planter Rev. Rachel Gilmore; and **Workshop #2:** Rags to Riches: Inspire and Empower Generosity with conference staff Sheri Meister and Jeff Pospisil.

For complete information on the charge conference, workshops and registration, go to www.minnesotaumc.org/eventdetail/15685419. Please register by **November 14**, or ask Sarah or Pastor Chris for assistance. Registered participants will receive the links to join the Zoom conference the day before.

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Coffee with Pastor Chris – After a long hiatus due to uncertainty around Covid and the status of the Bean Coffee Club, I am happy to say that I will be starting "Coffee with the Pastor" again on November 16th, 9-11 am, and would like to invite you all to come and enjoy some stimulating conversation. We'll go back to meeting every Tuesday morning, except for November 23 and December 28. I'll have the coffee going and all you have to do is come and have a cup and some conversation. As a note, The Bean isn't technically open, so I will only have regular coffee. – Pastor Chris

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Pledge Sunday will be November 21. Financial commitment cards will be mailed out next week. With an attitude of thankfulness, please think about your church and how you can support its work and ministries in the coming year. Can you increase your level of giving for next year? If you're not already tithing (giving 10% to the church), could you reach a little closer this year? Please prayerfully fill out your pledge card and bring it to church on November 21. Thanks!

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Looking for someone who could be Acolyte Coordinator . . . Being here on Sunday mornings (Sept-May) to help with candle-lighting sticks, making sure they are working properly and have enough wick, lighting the flame, preparing a schedule. Please contact Sarah in the church office if this is something you can do that takes very little effort or time outside of Sunday mornings.

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Youth Group will meet this Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 5:30 with Pastor Chris, Barbara Roberts, and Kim Meyer. Thanks everyone for helping out! (Confirmation students will get a pizza supper.)

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Operation Christmas Child – **Shoeboxes are due next week, Nov. 14!** Giving a shoebox filled with fun and thoughtful gifts is a tangible expression of God's love to a child who probably won't get any other gift this year. Plus, it is a tool for telling the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. To take part in this mission, pick up a brochure on the back table that includes instructions, box labels and shipping envelope. Information and tips can also be found in your OneWay newsletter and at www.operationchristmaschild.com.

Plus, you can fill a shoebox right online without having to go to a store! Scan this QR code or use this link to go to the Open Doors UMC Goal page to build your box.



<https://sampur.se/3vzbAGE> It's super easy! In just a few easy clicks online, select items you want to send. Samaritan's Purse will pack and ship the gift for you for a suggested donation of \$25, which covers the contents, shipping, and other projected costs.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 7, All Saints Sunday

K 8:00am Worship w/Communion
9:00am Coffee

W 9:30am Worship w/Communion
10:30am Coffee / Sunday School
10:30am Discipleship Pathways

Monday, November 8

6:30pm Ministry Council via Zoom

Wednesday, November 10

W 9:30am Staff meeting
10:30 am Worship at Parkview

W 4:30pm Confirmation class
5:30pm Youth Group
5:45 pm Praise Team practice

Sunday, November 14

K 8:00am Worship
9:00am Coffee

W 9:30am Worship w/ New Members & Baptisms
10:30am Coffee / Sunday School
10:30am Discipleship Pathways

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS - Wells

Pastor..... Rev. Christopher Leistra
Organist..... Jan Johanson
Scripture Reader..... Alice Oleson
AcolytesOctober Roberts & Madison Meyer
Communion Preparer..... Carol Draheim
A/V..... Sarah Hankerson, Don Stenzel
Projection..... Karen Stenzel
Greeters Alice Oleson

Birthdays This Week:

November 9 Reese Druckenmiller
November 10..... Amber Schuster, Jim Durfee,
Roger Hamson
November 13..... Juanita Beyer (96), Gavin Bird
November 14..... Faith Wedin

Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

Tuesday: 11:00 am & 8:00 pm (Bevcomm ch 990)
Friday: 6:00 pm (Bevcomm ch 990);