



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 14, 2021 – Pentecost 25

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

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

Welcome to Open Doors United Methodist Church as we worship in the name of the Creator, the Savior and the life-giving Spirit. Amen.

– Gathering in Faith –

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

* *Call to Worship and Praise*

Song "You Are My All in All" On Screen (#3040)

Leader: The next song has been around for a while, and many of you may have sung it in other settings. It is not very difficult, and parts get repeated several times, so you may want to join in as you become familiar. Whatever you choose, whether to sing, or just listen, may it be a time of praise and worship for you.

Song "Shout to the North" On Screen (#3042)

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: God of all creation, we come with grateful hearts that you have envisioned a universe that reflect your magnificent glory. We gather today, not only as your created beings, but as your covenant people. We are loved by you and called by you to this house of worship. Thank you for the living presence of Jesus Christ, who transforms our human attempts at prayer and praise into divine worship that pleases you. Thank you for your Spirit who empowers our worship. We give you glory for who you are, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and for all that you have done. Amen.

Song "Mighty to Save" On Screen (#3038)

Opportunities to Serve

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Scripture Lesson Judges 16:28-31 (NRSV)
2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)

* *Hymn* "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #2158, vs 1 & 2

* *Gospel Lesson* * Matthew 8:23-27 (NRSV)

One: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Samson – God's Power is Shown Even in Our Messiness"
Pastor Chris Leistra

Message Response "Something Beautiful" #394

– 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

– Sending Forth –

* *Benediction*

* *Hymn of Going Forth* “Grace Greater than All Our Sin” #365, vs 1, 2, 4

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

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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.

Announcements

Pledge Sunday will be next Sunday, November 21. Financial commitment cards were mailed out last Friday. 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, or return it by mail, email, or drop-off. Thank you!

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The Pie Auction is next 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? Please have your pies in the basement by 9:30 that day. Sandy Youngblom’s cousin, Darwin Hall, will be the auctioneer.

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

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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 4 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 wellsomcmusic@gmail.com or phone 553-5077.

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ALL members of any leadership team (Ad Council, Ministry Council, Trustees, Finance, SPRC, Trust Fund) are invited to the Ad Council meeting tomorrow, November 15, when Pastor Chris will go over the new leadership structure for 2022. The meeting is in-person at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room.

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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. 17, at 5:30 with Pastor Chris and Barbara Roberts. Thanks everyone for helping out! (Confirmation students will get a pizza supper.)

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Operation Christmas Child – Shoeboxes are due TODAY, Nov. 14! Thanks to all who have already brought in a shoebox gift! You will make a needy child somewhere in the world very happy! **If you forgot yours today or aren't quite finished**, if you have them here by this Tuesday, Nov. 16, they can still be brought to the drop-off location in Mankato with the rest. Any questions about filling a box or the shipping donation, check out www.operationchristmaschild.com or look at the brochures we have.

ONLINE OPTION: 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> You have until November 21 to help us reach our goal. 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.



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Advent/Christmas Worship It's time to begin organizing for Advent and Christmas worship services, with only 2 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 (wellsumcmusic@gmail.com) or by phone (553-5077). She would love to hear from you, with any questions or concerns, or just to check in.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 14

- K** 8:00am Worship
- 9:00am Coffee
- W** 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Coffee / Sunday School
- 10:30am Discipleship Pathways

Monday, November 15

- W** 6:30pm Ad Council in person

Tuesday, November 16

- 9-11am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean
- 6:30-8pm All-District Church/Charge
Conference via Zoom

Wednesday, November 17

- Newsletter Deadline
- W** 9:30am Staff meeting
- 4:30pm Confirmation class
- 5:30pm Youth Group
- 5:45 pm Praise Team practice
- 6:30 pm Unite Youth at Wells Assembly of
God Church

Sunday, November 21

- Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due
- K** 8:00am Worship
- 9:00am Coffee
- W** 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Coffee / Sunday School
- 10:45am **PIE AUCTION**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS - Wells

- Pastor Rev. Christopher Leistra
- Organist Jan Johanson
- Scripture Reader Steve Burns
- Acolytes Olivia Bird, Chloe Bullerman
- A/V Sabrina Hankerson, Sarah Hankerson
- Projection Brett Hankerson

Birthdays This Week:

- November 14 Faith Wedin
- November 15 Dean Kaiser
- November 18 Marion Redman (97), Ashley
Feist, Thomas Johanson

Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

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