



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WELLS CAMPUS
 595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097
 507-553-5453 | opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net
 Worship: 9:30 am | Coffee: 9:00 & 10:30 am

KIESTER CAMPUS
 116 N. 3rd St., Kiester, MN 56051
 507-294-3300
 Worship: 8:00 am | Coffee: 9:00 am

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

December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve 7:30pm

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

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

A warm and joyous welcome to all this Christmas Eve! As we worship together, may you experience the assurance that Jesus, whose first earthly home was a stable, is at home in your heart.

– We Gather to Celebrate –

Welcome

* *Opening Carol* "Joy to the World" # 246

Advent Lighting Ceremony

Praise team: All creation lies in waiting, in the stillness of the night,
 With hope anticipating the Advent of Eternal Light.

Leader: Advent is a time to proclaim.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: Tonight we light all of the candles. . . .

**All Sing: We proclaim with hope for the morning Light,
 for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.
 We proclaim with joy for the Savior's birth;
 we proclaim with hope for peace on earth, peace on earth.**

Leader: Let us pray: God in heaven, we thank you for guiding us through our Advent journey. Through waiting, watching, preparing, and praising, we are now ready to proclaim. Help us receive the glory of Christmas, as we celebrate and rejoice that you have come to us through the gift of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

– The Birth of the Savior –

Introduction

Tonight is the night we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let us hear again the glad story of how God chose to come among us and to keep the promises that he made to the world – promises to Abraham and Sarah – to Moses and Miriam – and to David and all the prophets – the promises to raise up an everlasting king and in him to bless the world and open the gates of heaven to all who believe in him and trust in his word.

Piano duet: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Grace Niebuhr, Jan Johanson

FIRST LESSON:..... Luke 1:26-38 Pat Coy

	<i>The Angel Visits Mary</i>	
Piano solo:	"Breath of Heaven"	Grace Niebuhr
SECOND LESSON:	Luke 1:39-45	Alice Oleson
	<i>Mary and Elizabeth</i>	
Carol:	"What Child Is This?"	# 219, vs 1-2
THIRD LESSON:	Luke 2:1-7	Doug Hankerson
	<i>The Birth in Bethlehem</i>	
Song:	"Rock-A-Bye, My Dear Little Boy"	Praise Team
FOURTH LESSON:	Luke 2:8-14	Ryen Gossen
	<i>The Angels and the Shepherds</i>	
Carol:	"Angels We Have Heard on High"	# 238, vs 1
FIFTH LESSON:	Luke 2:15-20	Jaiden Gossen
	<i>The Shepherds Worship</i>	
Carol:	"Angels We Have Heard on High"	# 238, vs 2-4
SIXTH LESSON:	Matthew 2:1-11	Kent Viesselman
	<i>The Gifts of the Magi</i>	
Song:	"How Many Kings"	Praise Team
SEVENTH LESSON:	John 1:1-14	Pastor Chris Leistra
	<i>The Word Made Flesh</i>	
Carol:	"O Come, All Ye Faithful"	# 234, vs 1-2

– We Respond to God’s Word –

Giving with a Thankful Heart

Offering may be placed in the green chest at the back of the sanctuary at this time, or on your way in or as you leave. *Thank you!*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (page 9) and The Lord’s Prayer (page 895)

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. Everyone 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

The Lighting of the Candles

The Light of the World has come to give us his light for our lives.

While we sing the next Christmas Carol, the aisle candles will be lit. Glow-stick candles will be passed out to all. To activate, bend the candle until you hear a crack and give it a little shake. On the last stanza of each verse of "Silent Night, Holy Night," please raise your candle high.

Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" # 239

Christmas Reflection Pastor Chris Leistra

* *Benediction*

* *Hymn for Going Forth* "Let There Be Peace on Earth" # 431

* *Postlude – Go in peace with the love of Jesus in your heart.*

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Thank you – members, guests, visitors – for worshipping with us tonight. May you have a blessed Christmas. Thank you also to everyone who participated in this service in some way - whether through music, or readings, or lighting candles – it has truly made this worship the experience of being the family of God together.

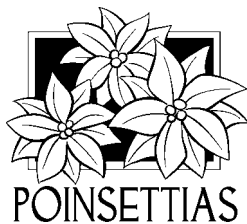
We welcome small children – help yourself to the “Busy Bags” in the back. The nursery is open for your convenience. It is located on the south side of the entryway.

Keep in your prayers this week: All who are coping with or healing from physical ailments; especially Anne Feist following knee surgery, Wanda Kothlow recuperating at home; Alan Yokiell; Sue Schuster, Rita Bebler, Joan Christian, Michelle Viesselman (Kent & Diane’s daughter-in-law), and Bebo Getchell in their fight against cancer; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; all those serving in the military and their families and others away from home, especially during the holiday season.

E-Giving options for holiday visitors & members! During the holiday season, we extend a warm welcome to visiting families and friends. We offer convenient electronic giving options that help you make donations on a one-time or recurring basis. 1) Vanco Mobile is a free mobile app that lets you can give anytime, anywhere, right from your smartphone! You can choose whether to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to set up recurring donations, store payment information for future gifts and view giving history. 2) Online giving at www.opendoorsumc.org where you can also choose to give a one-time donation or set up an account for secure, convenient frequent giving.

Thank you for your generosity, and Merry Christmas from all of us!

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<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Diane and Elizabeth Bathke and Mike & Christine Buer & Family.....	Carrell Bathke
Margaret Courier.....	Loved Ones
Roesler Families.....	Ralph & Wilma Roesler and Loved Ones
Deb Johnson.....	Charlie Johnson
Kara & Jay Christianson.....	Their Parents
Dave & Mary Loveless.....	Loved Ones
<i>(And others not known at time of printing.)</i>	

Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary festive for this Christmas-time. Feel free to take your plant home with you any time after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

Announcements

Our Advent mission offering benefits Communities Fighting Student Hunger backpack program at USC and St. Casimir’s. Please use the special Advent Offering envelopes or write Advent Offering in the memo line of your check made out to Open Doors UMC.

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Wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone and their families!

- Adult Class – Resumes January 2.
- Sunday School Classes – Resumes January 9.
- Bevcomm Cable Services:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Fri., Dec. 24, 6pm | Dec. 12 Children’s Christmas Program |
| Tues., Dec. 28, 11am & 8:00 pm | Christmas Eve 7:30 service |
| Fri., Dec. 31, 6pm | Sunday, December 26 service |
| Tues., January 4, 11am & 8:00 pm | Sunday, January 2 service |

Note: If anyone without cable service would like to borrow a DVD recording, they are available for loan from the church library.

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Worship at Kiester will move to the Upper Room beginning January 2.

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Coffee with Pastor Chris Pastor Chris invites you to join him for coffee and conversation each Tuesday, resuming January 4, from 9:00-11:00am at The Bean, 135 S Broadway, Wells.

UNITE ::Youth Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 29 at 6:30 pm at The Bean. All youth from the community in grades 6-12 are invited.

Offering envelopes are ready for you to pick up in the entryway. If you would like a box and you don't find your name, contact Sarah in the church office. Envelopes are also available for your children upon request.

Blood Drive – Monday, Jan. 3, 10:30-6:30 at the Wells American Legion. Give the gift of life!

Rides to Church – If you, or anyone you know, would like a ride to Sunday morning worship this winter, please call the office and we can get a ride arranged for you. For Sundays, please call by Friday morning. Also, anyone who would be willing to pick up riders, please let the office know.

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Wednesday Night Suppers are coming back! Yes, enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! John & Melissa Kruse have volunteered to cook for all of January. We will be asking for other volunteers for February and beyond. Serving will be from 5:00-6:00 each Wednesday and we'll ask for a free-will donation. Invite your friends or meet them here! And please consider volunteering as a Wednesday night cook!

Menu for January 5: Spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread.

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To give assistance in Kentucky: Please continue to hold victims, survivors and relief workers in your prayers and make a gift to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. You can give directly to <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/901670/> or make a check out to Open Doors UMC and write "UMCOR Disaster Response" in the memo line.

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Year-End Giving: There are many ways you can give to your church that both helps the church in huge ways, while at the same time may offer considerable tax advantage to you. Gifts offering possible tax advantages to you while helping the church could include:

- Gifts of Commodities (corn, soybeans)
- Gifts of Cash
- Marketable Securities
- Bequests and Beneficiary Designations under revocable trusts, life insurance policies, commercial annuities, retirement plans
- Charitable Remainder Trusts or Charitable Lead Trusts

The last day to donate and be counted for this year's taxes is [postmarked by] December 31; however, our church office will be closed on December 31, so please have donations to the office by noon on December 30 in order to be deposited.

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Dear United Methodist Church Family – Thank you to the women of the church for helping serve the meal at Carrell Bathke's funeral. A special thank you to Pastor Chris, Jan Johanson, Sarah & Doug Hankerson, Sandy and Dean Youngblom. Thank you for all of your prayers and cards, flowers and memorials. We appreciate all that you did. Carrell will be deeply missed.

~ Sincerely, Carrell Bathke Family

A gift from Carrell Bathke – There are dove pins from Carrell's funeral. She wanted the children to have what was left, so please, help yourself to a pin.

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Thank you for the cute card and kind words. Merry Christmas to all of you. ~ Jan Carlson

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Christmas Eve, December 24

- W** 4:00pm Worship – Designed with children in mind
- K** 5:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols w/ Communion
- W** 7:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols w/ Communion

Sunday, December 26

- K** 8:00am Worship
- 9:00am Coffee
- W** 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Coffee

Monday, December 27

Office is Closed

Friday, December 31

Office is Closed

Sunday, January 2, 2022

- K** 8:00am Worship
- 9:00am Coffee
- W** 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Coffee (No Sunday School)
- 10:30am Discipleship Pathways

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS – Wells 7:30pm

Pastor Rev. Christopher Leistra
Organist Jan Johanson
Praise Team Sherry Asmus, Deb Lackey
Cross Bearer Jaiden Gossen
Acolytes.....Makinlee Gossen, October Roberts
Aisle Candle LightersDave & Shari Petersen
A/V Sarah and Sabrina Hankerson
Projection Brett Hankerson

Birthdays This Week:

Dec. 25..... Barb Halvorsen (90)
Dec. 26..... Bev Niebuhr, Aaron Johnson,
Faye Lackey
Dec. 29..... Olivia Bird
Dec. 31..... Cindy Hagen
Jan. 1 Elizabeth Bathke
Jan. 2 Wes Mortenson

