



# OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WELLS CAMPUS

595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097  
 507-553-5453 | [opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net](mailto:opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net)  
 Worship: 9:00 am | Coffee: 8:30 & 10:00 am

## KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Kiester, MN 56051  
 507-294-3300  
 Coffee: 10:00 am | Worship: 11:00 am

Pastor: Chris Leistra | Office Phone: 507-553-5453;  
 Cell Phone: 920-765-3665 | Email: [pastorumc@bevcomm.net](mailto:pastorumc@bevcomm.net) | Web Site: [www.opendoorsumc.org](http://www.opendoorsumc.org)

January 29, 2023 – Epiphany 4

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

*“Wrap us in your warm love on this winter day, O God,  
 as we gather to praise you and hear your Word.”*

### – Gathering in Faith –

*Gathering Music*

*Welcome & Announcements*

\* *Call to Worship*

Psalm 15

Leader: Who may worship in Your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

\* *Song* “Sanctuary” #2164

Leader: Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.

**People: Those who refuse to slander others or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.**

\* *Song* “Praise You” #2003

Leader: Those who despise persistent sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord and keep their promises even when it hurts.

**People: Those who do not charge interest on the money they lend, and who refuse to accept bribes to testify against the innocent.**

**ALL: Such people will stand firm forever.**

\* *Song* “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” #101, vs. 1 & 4

\* *Passing the Peace of Christ*

*Opportunities to Serve*

*Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer*

### – Hearing Our Faith Story –

*Scripture Lesson*

Exodus 14:5-30 (NRSV)

\* *Hymn*

“Wade in the Water” (W)

#2107

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (K)

#127

\* *Gospel Lesson*

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

*Sermon*

“The Cost of Not Being Able to Let Go”

– *Fourth in a series on Exodus*

Rev. Christopher Leistra

*Message Response*

“Cry of My Heart”

#2165

### – 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* "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus "

#2129

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

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**Welcome!** We gather in Jesus' name to answer God's call: "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God" (Micah 6:8). Everyone is invited for coffee and treats, both before and after the 9:00 worship service at the Wells Campus and before the 11:00 am service at the Kiester Campus.

**The nursery** is available for parents to use during worship on Sunday mornings. The nursery is on the south side of the entryway next to the restroom. The TV may be turned on to watch the service.

**Keep in your prayers this week:** Sally Musser, for healing following knee replacement surgery; Betty Culbertson healing after removal of some skin cancer; Bev Niebuhr starting chemo; Alan Yokiell; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; all those serving in the military and their families.

**Announcements**

**Today, there is a Treasures & More meeting** at 10:00 after worship at the Wells Campus. Anyone who would like to be involved in this updated Country Store event is welcome to join in. Let's see how we can make this fundraiser even bigger and better and have a fun time doing it. Get a cup of coffee and meet at the rear of the sanctuary.

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**Listening Sessions** Pastor Chris will be available from 10:00-10:30am after worship on each Sunday in February for listening to what your thoughts and ideas are about new things we could do together at Open Doors. He'll be in the back of the sanctuary. Please join him! If it doesn't work out to meet at church, give him a call and set up an appointment to talk.

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**Join the Painting Class! Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** – There was a nice sized group last week! More people = more fun! Come join us! The class meets on Tuesdays in the basement Youth Room at the Wells Campus from 1-3pm. Jim Dalton teaches the class. It is open to acrylic or watercolor painters, novice or experienced. Your supplies for the first day are provided so you can see if it is something you want to continue and invest in. The next session will be January 31 at 1:00. Hope to see you there!

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**Wednesday Night Supper this week - February 1!** Enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! This is a great time for casual visiting and getting to know everyone better. **The menu this week: Chicken Nuggets with sauces, mashed potatoes & gravy, and corn.** Serving will be from 5:00-6:15 each Wednesday and we'll ask for a free-will donation. Invite your friends or meet them here! Choir members & youth, come for supper before practice or The WAY. **And please consider volunteering as a Wednesday night cook!** The sign-up sheet is on the clipboard or on the bulletin board in the entryway. Thanks!

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**Soup Supper for Ash Wednesday** – On Ash Wednesday, we'd like to have a variety of soups for supper and are asking for volunteers to bring a crockpot of soup. Please sign up on the clipboard on the back table and what kind of soup you would be willing to bring.

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**Next Sunday, Feb. 5,** the first Sunday of the month, we will be collecting a food and/or monetary offering for the Little Red Food Pantry. During the winter, some good things to donate are: breakfast cereal (small packages), instant oatmeal packets, dried soup mixes, boxed potatoes & pasta, ramen, dried fruits, tuna in oil, breakfast/snack bars, fruit squeeze pouches, and during this very cold spell–frozen entrees & vegetables (for frozen food, please put directly outside or in the basement freezer and let Sarah know).

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**February 12 will be Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.** We'll be collecting monetary and food donations for the Wells Area Food Shelf. Bring a can or a dollar to help feed the hungry in our community!

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**The camp brochures have arrived!** Pick yours up today! There are camps for all ages, for families, elementary, middle school, high school, and grandparents. Open Doors has scholarships available. Contact the church office.



**Community Prayer Group and Bible Study** – Prayer is powerful, renewing, and healing – our way to fellowship with God. There is a group that meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for prayer in the Hospitality Room of Open Doors UMC and you are invited. Following prayer at 10:00, there is a community Bible Study that is open to all, as well. They are studying the book of John. Just bring your Bible.



**Jumpin' Jehosafats** will be putting on a concert on Sunday, February 19, at Hope United Methodist Church in Blue Earth. The Jumpin' Jehosafats have been blending traditional jazz and Gospel for more than 35 years, raising money for charity and lifting spirits. The Mission Team at Hope UMC will be hosting a pot-luck dinner at 6:00 pm followed by the concert at 7:00. A free-will offering will go towards missions.



**Meet our new bishop, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, on Feb. 12.** Bishop Lanette will be having a series of gatherings across Minnesota so she can “be where our people are, hear their hopes and dreams for our conference, and see the places they live, love, and worship.” All Minnesota United Methodists are invited to come meet Bishop Lanette, hear some of her story, worship together, enjoy warm hospitality and good conversation and leave with a renewed sense of hope for the future. The gathering in our area will be February 12, 2:00-4:00 pm at Hilltop UMC in Mankato. Contact the office if you'd like to go and car pool.



**Annual Meeting packets** are on the table in the entryway by the Upper Rooms if you would like a copy. Look for the green cover.



**Caregiver Support** – Interfaith Caregivers has a couple offerings at Open Doors UMC for people who are caregivers of a loved one. One is an **on-going support group** that meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in The Meeting Room. The next group meeting will be **February 9**. The other is a 6-week workshop coming up **March 2-April 6** called “**Powerful Tools for Caregivers**.” At this workshop, you will learn ways to reduce stress, improve your confidence, learn new skills and strategies, and balance your life. This is open to the public and will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Hospitality Room. The suggested contribution for “Powerful Tools” is \$25. Please call 507-526-4684 to register.



### **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

#### **Sunday, January 29**

**W** 9:00am Worship  
10:00am Sunday School / Coffee  
10:00am Treasures & More meeting

**K** 11:00am Worship

#### **Tuesday, January 31**

9:00-11am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean  
**W** 1:00pm Painting Class  
4:00pm Community Chimes

#### **Wednesday, February 1**

**W** 9:30am Staff meeting  
9:00am Community prayer  
10:00am Community Bible study  
5:00-6:15 Supper  
5:45pm Praise Team  
6:30pm Choir  
6:30pm The WAY Youth Group at USC

#### **Sunday, February 5**

**W** 9:00am Worship  
10:00am Sunday School / Coffee  
10:00am Listening Session w/ Pr Chris  
**K** 11:00am Worship

### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Pastor.....Rev. Christopher Leistra  
Organist (W) ..... Jan Johanson  
Organist (K) .....Staci Thompson  
Acolyte..... tbd  
Scripture Reader .....Doug Hankerson  
A/V..... Kaylynn Healey, Sarah Hankerson  
Projection..... Martin Healey

### **Birthdays This Week:**

January 29 ..... Ben Musser, Sr.  
January 30 ..... Karen Stenzel  
February 1 ..... Kristin Petersen  
February 3 ..... Miles Kruse  
February 4 ..... Rachel Schroeder, Audrey  
Henkel  
February 5 ..... Nate Roberts

### **Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:**

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

**Live Stream:** Sundays at 9:00am on Facebook, YouTube and [www.opendoorsumc.org](http://www.opendoorsumc.org).

## **Walk to Emmaus – February in Fairmont**

Men's Walk – Thursday night, Feb. 16 – Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19  
Women's Walk – Thursday night, Feb. 23 – Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26

### **Emmaus – A Journey with Christ**

*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them...  
Luke 24:15*

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful invitation from a sponsor – or someone who has walked the journey before you. Just as Christ walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, a sponsor walks with both you and Christ to ensure you don't walk alone in this journey. There are several in our church family who are ready to be your sponsor!

**Who should go to an Emmaus weekend?** Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination whose aim is for the development of Christian leaders who:

- Attend a local church
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives
- May have unanswered questions about their faith
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner

**What happens on this 3-day weekend?** You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed to the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others.

**If you have an interest** in going or have questions, there are many in our church who have gone in the past and would love to talk with you: Don & Karen Stenzel, Sarah & Doug Hankerson, Sandy Youngblom, Deb Lackey, Sally Yokiell, Nancy Mueller, Pat Coy, Diane Viesselman. Staci Thompson is a great resource, as well. She will be co-music director for the Women's Walk. You can reach her at 507-525-0937 (C) or 526-5141 (H).