



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELLS CAMPUS

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

KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3rd 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 | Web Site: www.opendoorsumc.org

March 12, 2023 – Lent 3

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

May God's gift of his only Son – and eternal life in him – fill us with peace as we worship him.

– Gathering in Faith –

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

** Call to Worship*

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Leader: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

People: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

** Song* "Change My Heart, O God" #2152

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

People: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

People: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

** Song* "Blessed Assurance" #369, vs. 1

** Passing the Peace of Christ*

Opportunities to Serve

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Scripture Lesson

Acts 22:6-16, Ephesians 2:13-14 (NRSV)

** Hymn*

"You Are My King" (W) on screen (#3102)

"O Lord, You're Beautiful" (K) #2064

** Gospel Lesson*

Luke 15:11-25 (NRSV)

Sermon

"Reconciliation" Rev. Christopher Leistra

Message Response

"We Are the Church" #558, vs. 1, 2 & 4

– 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* "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#557, vs. 1-3

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

Friends in Christ, it's a joy to be with you today for worship! Please welcome one another with a sign of Christ's peace. 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: Wanda Kothlow as she recovers from heart transplant surgery on February 15. **There is a sheet of paper on the back table (W) to write a greeting to her on.** Her address while in Rochester is Wanda Kothlow, 724 2nd St SW, Room 246, Rochester, MN 55902. Also, Wanda is asking us to keep her donor family in your prayers.

Bev Niebuhr and Joan Christian; 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

Lenten Study – We are studying the book *Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross*, same book that Pastor Chris's sermon series follows. Each week the class meets on **Tuesdays at 9:00 at Open Doors-Wells Campus**. Coffee time will follow from 10:00-11:00 at church. Everyone is invited.

Lenten Offering will go to Red Bird Mission, the mission that Open Doors supports. Red Bird Mission, Inc. provides ministries for critical needs in the isolated, rural distressed area of the Appalachian Mountains. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, rugged mountainous terrain, PLUS recovery from the flood of July 2022, provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission and Clinic strives to meet these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.

To give to Red Bird Mission through the Lenten offering, please use the special Lenten envelopes in the pew pockets, or online at www.opendoorsumc.org/giving

Wednesday Night Supper – Enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! The "Green" menu this week, March 15: **Irish Sliders, Rainbow Veggies, Dessert, Leprechaun Punch.** Serving will be from 5:00-6:15 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. March 29 is open yet. Thanks!

Easter Breakfast Meeting this morning – 6th-9th grade students and a parent should plan to be at the Easter Breakfast meeting today after worship to start planning the Easter Breakfast on April 9. Please meet in the back of the sanctuary.

Holy Week Soup Supper – The Soup Supper that got snowed out on Ash Wednesday will now be on Wednesday, April 5. The supper will be followed by an ecumenical Holy Week worship service in the sanctuary. Please sign up on the clipboard if you are willing to make a crockpot of soup.

March 19 is UMCOR Sunday – Next Sunday we will collect a special offering for United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable in the US and around the globe. Once a year, on UMCOR Sunday, United Methodists collect a special offering that is

Holy Week Worship Schedule		
April 2	9:00am-W	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
	11:00am-K	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
April 5	5:00pm-W	Soup Supper
	6:30pm-W	Holy Week Worship with Communion & handwashing, symbolic of the Upper Room
April 7	7:00pm-W	Good Friday Worship
April 9	7:00am-W	Sonrise Worship with the youth
	7:45am-W	Easter Breakfast
	9:00am-W	Easter worship
	11:00am-K	Easter worship

used to cover UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

Please use the "Special Sundays" envelopes (there are some near the offering chest), or indicate "UMCOR Sunday" in your check memo line or envelope.

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Surveys due March 19 – Please don't wait to fill it out – you can place it in the collection box in the back (please return your unused reply envelope as well) or use the reply envelope to mail your completed survey to the office. After results are tabulated, we will schedule some "Focus Group" meetings to discuss.

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9th-12th Grade Winter Retreat – It's time to register! Invite a couple friends! The retreat will be held 4:00pm March 19 to 1:00pm March 20 at Wilderness Prayer Center, \$25 (make checks out to Wells Assembly). You can register with Amy at The WAY on Wednesday nights, or online at <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/6824705>.

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Sign up for camp this year! Check out the Camp Minnesota brochure or visit the website at campminnesota.org. Minnesota has three beautiful UM camp facilities. There are camps for all interests and all ages, for families, elementary, middle school, high school, and grandparents. For Early Bird Camp Store Credit, registrations need to be in by April 30. Open Doors has scholarships available. Contact the church office.

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Hunger Facts: Rising inflation and the end of various Covid-19 support programs are keeping the charitable food system running at or beyond capacity . . .

- Nationwide, 21.4% of households reported some level of food insecurity in 2022, up 6% from 2021.
- 9.3% of Minnesotans had incomes below the poverty line in 2021, up from 9% in 2019. This included 10.4% of Minnesota's children.
- A record-breaking 5.5 million visits were made to food shelves during 2022 in Minnesota, up nearly 50% from 2021. 47% of food shelf visitors in 2022 were seeking food assistance for the first time.

March Campaign for Wells Area Food Shelf – Stretch your donations to the Wells Area Food Shelf and Kiester Food Pantry by donating during the March Campaign. Financial donations go further due to access to Channel One Food Bank and discount purchasing programs. You can give directly, or through Open Doors UMC through April 9.

Little Red Food Pantry, an ongoing ministry of Open Doors, is always in need of food and/or financial donations. Please place food that is able to handle outside temperatures either in the tubs in the entryways or directly in the little red food pantry. Financial donations marked for the Little Red Food Pantry can go in the offering.

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I will be out of the office through March 22. While I am gone, Karen Stenzel is filling in. If you need any assistance, you may contact either her in the office or Pastor Chris at 920-765-3665.

– Sarah Hankerson

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Eligible Thrivent Financial members have until March 31, 2023, to direct any remaining 2022 Choice Dollars. After that date, the 2022 Choice Dollars expire. Through the Thrivent Choice® program, eligible members have the power to recommend where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable grant funds annually, including [Open Doors United Methodist Church](#). Act soon, before Choice Dollars expire! Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice today.

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Genesis Classical Academy – Wondering which educational setting is best for your children? Genesis Classical Academy is a nondenominational Christian Classical Academy in Winnebago, MN enrolling students in Preschool through Grade 12 for next year. The school currently educates 119 students from a 40-mile radius of Winnebago. Visit us at our **Open House on Tuesday, March 14 from 6:00-7:30 pm** at 620 1st Ave SW, Winnebago. Tour our facility, meet our staff and other families, and explore whether a Christian classical education is right for your family! For more information or to schedule a private tour, call 507-893-3600.

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Wells Firefighters Pancake Breakfast – March 19, 7:30am-12:00; Pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, coffee; \$10/\$5 12 & under.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 12 (DST begins)

- W** 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Easter Breakfast meeting
- 10:00am Sunday School / Coffee
- K** 11:00am Worship

Tuesday, March 14

- W** 9:00-10am Lenten study at church
- 10:00am Coffee with Pastor at church
- W** 1:00pm Painting Class
- 4:00pm Community Chimes

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

- W** 10:00am Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Sunday, March 19–UMCOR Sunday

- W** 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Sunday School / Coffee
- 12:00pm Hunter Bruckhoff Eagle Ceremony
- K** 11:00am Worship

Sunday-Monday, March 19-20

- Grades 9-12 Winter Retreat at Wilderness Prayer Center

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.

There are still plenty of tickets!

The Skit Guys are Tommy Woodard and Eddie James. They use humor to break down walls for God's truth to enter. Since their high-school days, they've been writing and performing hilarious and poignant skits live and on camera. Tommy and Eddie have traveled the world performing for families at events, churches, and conferences. Their SkitGuys.com website has grown into a treasured media resource for families, pastors and churches.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

- Pastor Rev. Christopher Leistra
- Organists ...Jan Johanson (W), Staci Thompson (K)
- Acolyte.....Makinlee Gossen
- Scripture Reader Ryen Gossen
- A/V Sabrina Hankerson
- Projection Brett Hankerson

Birthdays This Week:

- March 12Jaunice Gerber, Joy Krosschell
- March 15Kara Christianson, Deb Lackey, Sarah Hankerson, Bronson Musser
- March 17Pat Hamson
- March 18.....Kenlie Cords