



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: 11:00 am | Coffee: 10:00 am

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

April 30, 2023 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

*Jesus, Good Shepherd, as you lead,
help me know your voice better each day and eagerly follow you.*

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship

* Song "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #381, vs.1

Leader: The 23rd Psalm is one of the best-known psalms. Many of you may have memorized this in the past, learning the King James version. Today we will be using the New Living Translation. The new phrases may help us see and hear things in a new way.

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

People: He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

Leader: He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

People: Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

People: Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

* Song "Your Grace Is Enough" on screen (#3106)

Leader: *Let us pray: Oh God, you are a mighty God! You overturn evil. You hand out justice and blessings. For you, the impossible is possible.*

When you brought Jesus back from the dead, you did so to show us just how powerful you are and how much you love us. You sent the Good Shepherd to show us the way to please you. You sent the Good Shepherd to show us how to love one another.

Continue to guide us, O Mighty God. Do not take your hand from us. Send into our lives people who are like angels to watch over us, to keep us from harming others or being harmed. Make us your angels. Make us one people with the entire world, united by the blood and love of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Passing the Peace of Christ

Opportunities to Serve

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Scripture Lesson

1 Peter 2:19-25 (NRSV)

Response

"Blessed Be the Name" (W)

Choir

"His Name is Wonderful" (K)

#174

* Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-10 (NRSV)

Sermon "The Gate" Rev. Christopher Leistra
Message Response "Lead Me, Guide Me" #2214

– Stewards of Faith –

Giving with a Thankful Heart
Offertory Music (as we present our gifts for ministry)
Offering our Gifts for Ministry

- * *Doxology* #95
- * *Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)*

Almighty and forgiving God, we your unworthy servants give you most humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness, to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that our hearts may be thankful, and that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

– Sending Forth –

- * *Benediction*
- * *Hymn of Going Forth* "Since Jesus Came into My Heart" #2140, vs. 1-4
- * *Postlude – The Church Scatters for Ministry . . .*

With the psalmist we proclaim, "You prepare a table before me ... my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5, NRSV). Welcome to worship as we praise and thank the Lord our Shepherd. 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: Leota Dahl; Alan Yokiel; all others who are dealing with health issues; for the people and work of Red Bird Mission; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; the victims of natural disasters all around the world; all those serving in the military and their families.

Announcements

Survey meeting TODAY – Find out the results of the church survey and begin a discussion of what to do with the information we've gathered. We will use the Hospitality Room for this meeting. This will begin right after worship so Pastor can take part before leaving for worship at Kiester. (The Treasures & More meeting has been moved to May 7.) **Board Meeting** – There will also be a very short Board meeting in the Meeting Room immediately after worship, before the survey meeting.

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Wednesday Night Suppers – The menu this week, May 3: **Tater Tot Hotdish** served by the **Huepers**. Serving will be from 5:00-6:15 and we'll ask for a free-will donation. Invite your friends! May 17 will be a POTLUCK meal! Come as you are, bring what you are able. This will be the last Wednesday meal this season, so let's make it big!

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Treasures & More meeting – May 7. Open Doors Treasures & More will be held this fall, October 7 & 8, 2023. Be thinking now and throughout the summer of what you can donate to sell at this fundraiser – something homemade or from your garden, handcrafted arts, collectibles, or delicious eats. Working together as a church family to put on this large event is rewarding and fun. Your help with organizing the event is needed now! **A meeting will be held**

Sunday, May 7 at 10:00am after worship. Please come to the meeting or contact Linda Bakken if you're interested in helping but unable to attend.



Volunteers needed, please!

1. The Church Board is looking for someone to mow the church and parsonage lawns in Wells for this year's mowing season. The church does own a Craftsman push mower, which is stored on the premises and is available to use if preferred. The person doing the mowing would need to also trim as needed to keep the lawns looking well-maintained.
2. We are also looking for someone to mow the Walnut Lake Cemetery. This is about 2 acres of mostly open lawn about 1-1/2 miles south of the Pink Schoolhouse on Cty Rd 21. A rider and trailer would be needed for this.

If you, or anyone you know, would feel called to volunteer your time and service to our church in any of these ways, please reply or call the church office. Thanks!!



Graduates – Do you have a child, grandchild, or other relative graduating from high school, college or other educational institution this spring? To be included in the June graduation issue of the OneWay, please contact the church office by May 18 and give the student's name, relationship to you, school name & city, degree or major if appropriate.



Offering Plates – We stopped passing the offering plates during the pandemic, but now that everything is back to normal, we have resumed passing the plates. Many of you give electronically now, so if you feel better about placing something in the plates, there are "I give electronically" cards in the pew pockets that you can drop in the offering plate.

Offering Stewards – Each Sunday, we will be asking for two people to help pass the offering plates. They will take the plates from Pastor Chris, go down the center aisle towards the back, passing the plates to each pew row. A third and fourth volunteer could also get up and assist in passing the plates from the outside aisles. When all have been collected, both people will return to the front of the sanctuary together, where Pastor will be waiting to take the plates from you, then you can return to your seats. It's a small thing, but thank you very much for stepping up and willingly offering your service!



Next Sunday, May 7, the first Sunday of the month, we will be collecting food and/or a monetary offering for the Little Red Food Pantry. Each week the pantry gets regular usage and the food supply dwindles down. Please donate so that this Open Doors ministry can keep helping those who are hungry in a confidential and caring way.



Conference Love Offering – Minnesota Annual Conference is coming up May 31-June 1. That means that churches all across Minnesota will begin collecting donations for the Conference Love Offering. Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as an expression of our gratitude for God's blessings in our lives. Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God's extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

60% of the Love Offering will fund a new grant that will support churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities.

30% of the Love Offering will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: Mental Health Connect, Mental Health Minnesota, and Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health.

Finally, 10% of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.



Vacation Bible School – We're going to experiment with a new format for VBS this year. It will be a "Wells Area" VBS including children and leaders from Wells Assembly of God, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Covenant Life, and Open Doors UMC. We're excited about how fun it can be for our kids, the huge outreach this can have in our town and about working together! It will be held 9:30-11:00am on June 5-8 at Thompson Park (rain location is Open Doors). You can download a registration form from our website. Registration due date is May 28.



May/June Upper Room devotionals are available to pick up. \$1.25 for regular print or \$1.50 for large print.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 30

- W** 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Sunday School / Coffee
- 10:00am Survey Results meeting & short Board meeting

K 11:00am Worship

April 23-May 3

General Conference of the UMC

Tuesday, May 2

10am-2pm Licensed Local Pastor Retreat in Mankato

- W** 1:00pm Painting class
- 4:00pm Community chimes

Wednesday, May 3

- 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

Sunday, May 7

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor..... Rev. Christopher Leistra
 Organists.. Jan Johanson (W), Staci Thompson (K)
 Scripture Reader..... Sharon Miller
 Acolytes Kylin & Kenlie Cords
 Offering..... 2 volunteers, please
 A/V Sarah Hankerson, Don Stenzel
 Projection Karen Stenzel

Birthdays This Week:

April 30.....Diane Viesselman
 May 1Trevor Kibler
 May 2David Garver
 May 3Linda Willaby
 May 4Brian Lau
 May 5Renee Burns, Ryan Johnson
 May 6Teagan Lutteke

Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

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