

BELIEVE

LIVING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE
TO BECOME LIKE JESUS



CHURCH
I believe the church is God's primary way
to accomplish his purposes on earth.
Ephesians 4:15



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

May 21, 2023 – Ascension Sunday

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

“Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord” (Psalm 68:32). Let us join together in worship before our Creator. With open hearts we welcome all who have come to the house of the Lord.

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship

* Song “Maker in Whom We Live” #88, vs. 1

Leader: Our reading today comes as an adaptation of Psalm 68.
Beloved, let us worship God!

People: **Let us give praise to God, the one who rides upon the clouds!**

Leader: Parent to orphans and Protector of widows,

People: **God gives the desolate a home and leads the imprisoned into prosperity.**

Leader: As God led the Israelites through the wilderness and provided for them,

People: **we too find our dwelling in God’s goodness and provision.**

Leader: The Rider in the heavens speaks throughout creation;

People: **We gather to listen and ascribe the power to God!**

ALL: **Awesome is God in the sanctuary of creation! Blessed be God! Amen.**

* Song “Blessed Be Your Name” on screen (#3002)

* Passing the Peace of Christ

Opportunities to Serve

Anthem “Down to the River to Pray” Choir

Recognition and Introduction of our High School Graduates

Prayer of Blessing for our Graduates

God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless our graduates as they now finish their course of study. We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way. Walk with these graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away any anxiety and confusion of purpose. Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Children’s Moment

Scripture Lesson Genesis 12:1-4; Ephesians 4:15 (NRSV)

Response “Bind Us Together” #2226

* Gospel Lesson Matthew 16:13-18 (NRSV)

Sermon “What Is the Church?” Pastor Christopher Leistra
Believe, Chapter 6

Message Response “One Bread, One Body” #620

– Stewards of Faith –

Giving with a Thankful Heart

Offering our Gifts for Ministry

Offertory Music (as we present our gifts for ministry)

* *Doxology* #95

* *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

– Sending Forth –

* *Benediction*

* *Hymn of Going Forth* "Together We Serve" #2175

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

Welcome to worship! Everyone is invited for coffee and treats, both before and after the 9:00 worship service at the Wells 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: The family of Leota Dahl; the farmers; 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

Today, we recognize our high school graduates. Please congratulate them following worship and enjoy coffee and a roll with them after the 9:00 service.

- Hunter Bruckhoff, son of Doug & Roxanne Bruckhoff, USC High School.
- Kayla Lackey, daughter of Eric Lackey & Dezeray Lackey, USC High School.
- Jadyn Luetkeke, son of Jeremie & Tina Lutteke, Alden-Conger High School.
- Grace Niebuhr, daughter of Sharon Parriott & Todd Niebuhr, USC High School.

Children’s Focus Group meeting this Wednesday on May 24 at 6:30. Parents and church family members who have the desire to rejuvenate a children’s program, please come to a meeting on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30pm where we will talk and share ideas about forming a Wednesday kids program and how to make it happen.

May 28 is last day to collect Conference Love Offering & UMCOR/MMDC donations – 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% 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.

Use the special “Love Offering” envelopes in the pew pockets. Checks should be written out to Open Doors UMC and write “Conference Love Offering” in the memo line. You may also donate online at www.opendoorsumc.org/giving.

UMCOR & Midwest Mission Distribution Center Collections – There will be an MMDC truck at Annual Conference in St. Cloud to collect local church’s donations of kits, cleaning supplies, diapers, and other items. There is a handout on the back table that lists what goes into each kit, as well as other info about how to order these things online. Partial kits are needed as well as complete kits. MMDC also has a list of current needs: shampoo, liquid laundry detergent, liquid dish soap and liquid household cleaner. Deadline for having items here to be brought to Annual Conference is May 28.

Registrations due May 28 for 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 or pick one up on the back table. Registration due date is next Sunday, May 28.



Pentecost is next Sunday. Let's have some fun with it and everyone wear something RED! We also like to decorate in red for Pentecost Sunday. If you have any red geraniums or other flowers that you would like to share that day, please bring them into the church by Wednesday evening, May 24.



So God Made a Mother is a brand new best-selling book containing a powerfully emotional collection of short essays written by women of all ages and stages. Kirstyn Wegner of Wells has an essay published in the book. A copy has been purchased for the church library and is available to check out. Please abide by the two-week checkout period to allow others to be able to check it out.



Offering Plates – We have resumed passing the offering plates now that we are out of the pandemic and getting back to normal. 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!

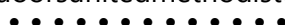


Serve Wednesdays. One Wednesday a month during the summer will be designated as Serve Wednesday. If anyone has any work projects at their home that they would like to have done but need help with, we will do our best to line people up to do that for you. And if there are any men, women, or youth who would like to work together to do these projects, let us know. The work will be done in the evenings, from 6:00 to dark and the anticipated dates are June 21, July 26, and August 16. Contact John Kruse at 507-995-1224 or the church office at 507-553-5453 if you have projects you would like to have done or if you would like to be on a Serve Team.



May is Double Donation Month – Join iGive.com and shop at 1900+ online stores to help support Open Doors with 2X the normal donation! Each store will donate a percentage of your purchase amount at no cost or risk to you.

Check it out at www.iGive.com/opendoorsunitedmethodistchurch



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 21 / Graduate Recognition Day

- W 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Coffee
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 6:30pm USC Baccalaureate

Tuesday, May 23

- W 9:30-12 Clergy Annual Conference session (online)
- 1:00pm Painting class

Wednesday, May 24

- W 9:00am Staff meeting
- 9:00am Community prayer
- 10:00am Community Bible study
- 10:30am Worship at Shepherd's Inn
- W 5:45pm Praise Team
- 6:30pm Children's Focus Group meeting

Thursday, May 25

- 7:30am Youth Breakfast at Youngblom's

Sunday, May 28 / Pentecost

- W 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Coffee

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

- Preacher Mr. Timothy "TJ" Lewis
- Organists.....Jan Johanson
- Scripture Reader..... Grace Niebuhr
- Acolytes..... tbd
- Offering2 volunteers, please
- A/VSarah Hankerson, Don Stenzel
- Projection..... Karen Stenzel

Birthdays This Week:

- May 21 Kirt Gossen, Jennifer Jackson, Taylor Musser
- May 27 Tom Cain

Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

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