



**“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”**

Matthew 16:24, NRSV



## 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: 9:30 am | Coffee: 9:00 & 10:30 am

### KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:pastorumc@bevcomm.net) | Web Site: [www.opendoorsumc.org](http://www.opendoorsumc.org)

September 3, 2023 – Pentecost 14

**Please turn off or silence your cell phone.**

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

*As we transition from summer to fall, God leads us, steady in love and care, even as our seasons change. Let us worship.*

### – Gathering in Faith –

*Gathering Music*

*Welcome & Announcements*

\* *Call to Worship*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

**People: Sing to him sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

\* *Song* “Holy, Holy, Holy” #64, vs. 1, 2 & 4

Leader: Followers of Christ, God calls us just as we are to live as truth-tellers and gospel-bringers in the world.

**People: God we know you call us, and still we ask, “Who am I that you would call me?”**

Leader: Like Moses standing before the burning bush, convinced of his unworthiness to lead your people out of bondage, we ask,

**People: “Who am I that you would call me?”**

Leader: Like Peter who thought he got it right only to realize that who Jesus is doesn’t meet his expectations of who a Savior should be, we ask,

**People: “Who am I that you would call me?”**

Leader: As we raise this question to God today, we open our hearts to receive God’s answer:

**ALL: You are my beloved children. You are my disciples. You are my people called to share the love of God for the transformation of the world. Amen.**

\* *Song* “The Summons” #2130, vs. 1, 3 & 4

Leader: Let us pray together:

**ALL: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.**

\* *Passing the Peace of Christ*

*Opportunities to Serve*

*Pastoral Prayer*

### – Hearing Our Faith Story –

*Scripture Lesson* Romans 12:9-21 (NRSV)

*Scripture Song* “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” #2171

\* *Gospel Lesson* Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV)

**– Stewards of Faith –**

*Giving with a Thankful Heart*

*Offering our Gifts for Ministry*

*Offertory Music (as we present our gifts for ministry)*

\* *Doxology* #95

\* *Breakthrough Prayer (Take a colored print from the back table to pray this at home.)*

One: Despite hardship, our ancestors dared to dream God-sized dreams.

**Many: Praise God for hope-filled dreams.**

One: Do it again, Lord. Dream big dreams through us today!

**Many: Praise God for new dreams for our generation.**

One: Invisible God, be visible through our faith today.

**Many: Praise God who empowers us with faith to see what others miss.**

One: Almighty God, bless us in our God-sized dreaming. Fill our minds and hearts with the possibilities of tomorrow and help us do the work today that helps us reach those dreams.

**Many: We will get involved in the dreaming and the work of ministry for the sake of God's mission and to make the possible real, for your glory, Almighty God.**

**All: Come now, Lord, and fulfill your dreams in us today!**

*Communion Song* "In Remembrance of Me" #2254, vs. 1-3

*The Great Thanksgiving* pg. 9

*The Lord's Prayer (unison)* #895

*Receiving the Gifts of Bread and Cup*

*You are invited to come forward to receive this gift of God's love in Christ as instructed by the pastor. 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 return to your seats by the side aisles. If coming forward is difficult for you, signal the communion servers who come to the back of the sanctuary – they will be happy to bring communion to you. Thank you.*

*Prayer after Receiving*

**– Sending Forth –**

\* *Benediction*

\* *Hymn of Going Forth* "Let It Be Said of Us" #53

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

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**Welcome to worship this Labor Day weekend!** The Lord gives a wide array of talents and knowledge to us all so we may serve one another through both paid and unpaid work. Thanks be to God! 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:** Students and school personnel as they go back to class; Aurora Blank; Jaunice Gerber; Marge Mutschler; Alan Yokieli; all others who are dealing with health issues; the people in Maui and victims of recent storms in Florida, California, Texas, and Mexico; 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

**Activity Schedule for this Fall** – Elementary classes will be held on **Wednesdays** after school, followed by a short family-style **worship** at 5:00 and **supper** from 5:30-6:30. **Confirmation class** will be held at 6:30 on Wednesdays beginning Oct. 4. There will also be **Sunday School** class for preschool, kindergarten, and older students on Sunday mornings starting Oct. 1.

The **WAY** youth group has some exciting news. They are moving their meetings to Sunday evenings from 6-8pm and will have their own space at the former Covenant Life Church, now called The Well Ministry Center, on Hwy 109 (290 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE). Look forward to a bigger, better year! Invite all your friends to go!

Some starting dates to keep in mind:

The WAY Youth Group: **next Sunday**, September 10, at The Well Ministry Center on Hwy 109

DELTA Club Wed. after-school program for grades 1-5: September 13, 3:15-5:00

Wednesday worship: September 13, 5:00pm

Wednesday suppers: September 13. 5:30-6:30pm

Sunday School class for preschool on up: October 1

Bible Sunday for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders: October 1

Confirmation class: Wednesday, October 4, 6:30pm

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**Announcing . . . DELTA Club** will be the afterschool elementary program beginning **September 13!** DELTA is a program of Pioneer Clubs®. We'll be running it for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but it's flexible for all ages, so Kindergarteners and 6<sup>th</sup> graders can come, too. There will be large group and age-specific group time that includes Bible Exploration, life-skill activities and games. Kids can ride the USC town bus from school to church and first have snack. From 3:30-5:00 they'll be in DELTA. Pastor Chris and Sarah Hankerson will be the lead teachers. The cost is \$25 per child for the year. Scholarships are available if requested. Registration forms are going out to every family and are on the church website. Kids are welcome to invite friends. **Registrations are due asap.** Please contact Sarah if your child will be attending.

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**Table Sale!** We have ten 3'x8' brown tables with Formica® tops for sale, first come first served. Asking price is \$20 each and you haul it away. They are on display in the basement this morning.

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**Choir practice starts this week!** The choir will gather again for practices beginning this Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30pm. New members are wanted! It's an enjoyable respite from a busy week. Also, we're always looking for new voices and instrumentalists for the **Praise Team**. They will be changing their practice time to 6:00pm on Wednesdays, beginning September 6.

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**Chime Choir** – You're invited to come try out the Community Chime Choir. They will begin meeting Tuesday, September 19 at 4:00pm. If there are enough Open Doors members who would like to play together, a Tuesday evening practice time will be arranged for a church bell choir. Please contact Jan Johanson and let her know where you would like to plug in.

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**Looking for Photo Day volunteers** Could you serve as a host or hostess during the two days of photography on September 11 and 12? Duties would be to sign people in, have them fill out a Sit Ticket and shipping label, have them double check their contact info on the roster for inclusion in the directory, and generally be of service to the photographers and those being photographed. See Shari Petersen or Sarah Hankerson to sign up for the shift(s) you would like. *Thank you!*

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**Asking for Helpers and Dessert Makers for Wednesday Suppers** which will begin September 13. Jennifer Jackson will be our regular weekly cook this year, planning the meals, doing the shopping and cooking. She will need some help with serving, clean-up, and general kitchen assistance, so that is where we will be asking for volunteers. Also, volunteers can provide desserts each week. A sign-up sheet for the fall term is on a clipboard on the back table for volunteering. Please consider serving in this way!

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**Treasures & More, October 7-8** – Please keep our Treasures & More sale in mind over the next month. For this to be the best fundraiser event ever, we need everyone's help and support, and lots of items! Be thinking about what you can donate to our many departments: Bakery, Canned Goods & Produce, Crafts & Woodworking, Collectibles, Plants, Baby Place, Wearables, Jewelry,

Rugs, Holiday, and new this year – Halloween costumes. Store hours will be on Saturday, October 7, from 9:00am-1:00pm and Sunday following worship until 11:30 am. During the sale on Saturday, there will be brunch served for a free-will offering. The menu will be egg bake, rolls, fruit, and coffee. Volunteers are asked to sign up to make cinnamon or caramel rolls. All proceeds will go towards mission & outreach. If you can offer your time or talents, or have questions, please contact Linda Bakken (sales) or Joyce Frederick (brunch).

**Garden Produce Table** Bring your garden abundance for sharing & place on the table in the narthex. People may help themselves to whatever is brought in. Optional donations, and left-over produce, will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf or the Little Red Food Pantry.

**Upper Rooms** – The September/October Upper Room Devotionals are available for you to pick up. \$1.25 for regular print, \$1.50 for large print.

**Little Red Food Pantry** – Thank you to those who have been donating food for the NEW Little Red Food Pantry! We could use a constant supply of food coming in, though, because the need is great. Please help out as you are able. These are popular and go fast: canned meat and 1-can meals like pasta with meat & stew, instant potatoes, canned fruit & vegetables, soup, oatmeal packets, granola bars, juice, personal hygiene items. Food may be placed in the collection tub in the entryways or put directly in the pantry. Items with little or no preparation needed are best. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Gifts are welcome all month long. Also, there is a basket under the cupboard for garden produce and *anyone and everyone* is welcome to take from there.

**The Community Prayer and Bible Study Group**, called “Wellspring”, has a change of place and time. They will be meeting at the new Well Ministry Center (the former Covenant Life Church). They will still meet on Wednesdays, but the prayer time will begin at 10:00am and the Bible study at 11:00.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sunday, September 3**

**W** 9:00am Worship w/Communion  
10:00am Coffee

**Monday, September 4**

LABOR DAY – Office closed

**Tuesday, September 5**

9-11am Coffee at The Bean  
**W** 1:00pm Painting Class

**Wednesday, September 6**

**W** 9:30am Staff meeting  
10:00am Wellspring prayer at The Well Ministry Center  
11:00am Wellspring Bible study at The Well Ministry Center

**Thurs. & Fri., September 7 & 8**

**W** 7:30am-3:00pm Preschool Screening

**Sunday, September 10**

7:00 am Farming of Yesteryear Worship  
**W** 9:00am Worship  
10:00am Coffee  
6:00pm The WAY at The Well Ministry Center

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Pastor .....Rev. Christopher Leistra  
Organist.....Jan Johanson  
Scripture Reader.....Ryen Gossen  
Communion Servers ... Joyce Frederick, Alice Oleson  
Offering .....2 volunteers, please  
A/V ..... Sarah Hankerson  
Projection ..... Brett Hankerson

**Birthdays This Week:**

September 3..... David Roberts  
September 5..... Barbara Roberts, Terry Thisius  
September 6..... Shari Petersen  
September 10.... Richard Bebler, Eli Torrez

**Cable Schedule of Wells’ Sunday Service:**

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