



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELLS CAMPUS

595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097

507-553-5453

Worship: 9:00 am

KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3rd St., Kiester, MN 56051

507-294-3300

Worship: 10:30 am

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

September 12, 2021 – Pentecost 16

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

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

Who do I say you are, Jesus? (Mark 8:27). Help me trust and follow you as the Messiah who modeled self-sacrifice for the sake of others.

– Gathering in Faith –

Greeting & Announcements

* *Call to Worship and Praise*

Leader: Today as we come together in worship, let us consider the wonders that God has created, and our place in His creation. From Psalm 19 we hear:

The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship.

Song “God of Wonders” On screen (#3034)

Leader: Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies.

People: **Yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world.**

Song “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” #152, vs. 1 & 3

Leader: The sun lives in the heavens, where God placed it. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

People: **The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.**

Song “Alleluia” #186, vs. 1

Leader: We have come here today not because we are clever but because God welcomes the slow learners.

People: **We have come here not because we are wise, but because God loves us in spite of our folly.**

Leader: We have come knowing that the greatest persons will be found among those who humbly serve like Jesus did, and that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth will come from those who see themselves as little children in Christ’s school.

People: **O Lord, open up our minds and our hearts and enable our lives to declare your praise.**

Blessing of the Backpacks

One: God of all knowledge and wisdom, Bless these backpacks and each student that will carry them every day of this school year.

All: **As students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each day.**

One: Help them to do their best, guide them to make right choices, and remind them that your love and presence are always with them. Fill them with curiosity, understanding, respect for their teachers, and care and compassion for other students.



All Help us encourage our children and understand the challenges and fear of failure that can come with each new school year.

Help us to comfort and care for these students as parents, mentors, family members, Church family, and friends.

One: We give thanks for teachers, administrators, and staff that work with children each day, and ask a blessing on the briefcases and totes of the teachers and administrators

All May these teachers and staff be reminded that this congregation supports them in their roles, and surrounds them with our love and care.

One: Help the teachers and administrators care for every student, find the best in each one, and understand those who have special needs. Give them patience and strength to never give up, and assurance that you are always with them.

All In your love and mercy, surround our children and our schools with your protection that they may be safe places for all who enter. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Opportunities to Serve

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Scripture Reading James 3:1-12 (NRSV)

Hymn "Lord, Speak to Me" #463

* *Gospel Reading* Mark 8:27-38 (NRSV)

One: The Word of God for the people of God. All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Be Careful" Pastor Chris Leistra

Message Response "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" #2129

– Stewards of Faith –

Giving with a Thankful Heart

Offering may be placed in the green chest 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 (unison)*

* *Hymn of Going Forth* "Lift High the Cross" #159

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

Keep in your prayers this week: All those effected by Hurricanes Henri and Ida; the people of Afghanistan and Haiti. The family of Sue Rucker. Those fighting Covid, cancer and other serious illnesses: Todd Anerson (Carol Tibodeaus's son), Joan Christian, Michelle Viesselman (Kent & Diane's daughter-in-law), Sue Schuster, Alan Yokiell, Bebo Getchell. Our missionaries Gordon & Ardell Graner as they finish out their final month as missionaries. Those in the military and their families; and all others dealing with loss, poor health, pain, or family crisis.

Announcements

Sunday School and Pioneer Club teachers needed! Will you teach Sunday School or Pioneer Club this year? We're looking for teachers for all ages of Sunday School and Pioneer Clubs and helpers for Pioneer Clubs. Please be praying for people to step up, and listen if God is nudging YOU! Contact Sarah in the church office if you'd like to volunteer or have questions. We are

looking at beginning Sunday School classes on October 3. The start-up of Pioneer Clubs will depend on whether we have leaders or not.

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TODAY – A meeting for the new class of Confirmation students (Class of 2022) **and their parents** will be after worship at 10:15am in the basement fellowship hall. This is for students in grades 7 & 8 or older. We will go over curriculum, schedules, and expectations. It is important for the student and at least one parent or adult family member to attend. Get a cup of coffee and meet us there.

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Wednesday, Sept. 22 – Confirmation Class of 2021 meeting and class photo promptly at 6:00. Please come a bit early and be dressed and in your gown by 6:00!

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Wednesday, Sept. 22 – Parent/student meeting for everyone in grades 7-12 at 6:30pm in the basement. We will be discussing and planning what the future of Youth Group will look like. It is important for the continuation of our youth program for at least one parent/guardian to attend. We will be discussing and planning what the future of our Youth Group could look like. It is important for the continuation of our youth program that at least one parent/guardian attend this meeting. Anyone else who is interested in getting involved with our youth and assuring that we have a great program for them is invited as well. If the situation changes, we'll let you know.

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Jason Gray Concert for Five Sisters Project – The Five Sisters Project is hosting a benefit concert with local artist Josh Edwards opening for International Christian Recording Artist Jason Gray to benefit their outreach to women and families in crisis. It will be held at Crossroads Church, 3402 Hoeger Lane, Albert Lea at 7pm on Sunday, October 24. Tickets can be purchased on the Five Sisters' website www.fivesistersproject.com. If the concert is a sell-out, the concert can be livestreamed internationally and that could be a huge help in their fund raising efforts! So, won't you consider purchasing a ticket and enjoy an exciting night with Jason Gray! HURRY, as tickets are going fast!

This benefit event has two ticket options:

Option 1: Savory meal with the best seats for the concert – \$60. Dinner seating will begin at 5:30 and the meal served at 6.

Option 2: Concert only tickets are \$25. Concert starts at 7. Doors open at 6.

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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.

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Choir info – At this time, there is not a determined "start date" for our choir and bell choir. Watch bulletins, OneWay, and email for updates. Please contact Jan Johanson with any questions or concerns.

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Urgent Call for UMCOR Cleaning Kits – The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Midwest Mission Distribution Center have put out an urgent call for cleaning kits (formerly called flood buckets) and other items in response to the recent natural disasters in Louisiana, Northeast, and Haiti. A truck will be parked at Hope UMC in Blue Earth to pick up donations. Please have them to church by September 19.

Supplies needed for UMCOR Cleaning Kits include: (individual items are OK, but filled buckets are preferred.)

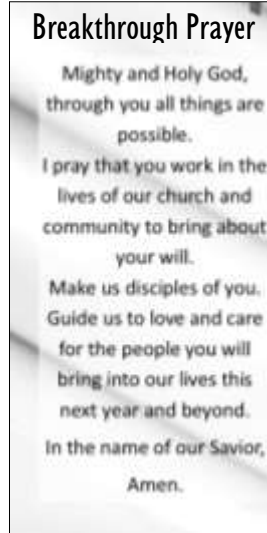
- One (standard) five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35"h x 12.19"w x 12.1"d). No screw lids.
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (no sprays)
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener
- One 6-14 oz. pump insect repellent
- One scrub brush
- 18 re-usable cleaning wipes removed from packaging (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels)
- Five scouring pads removed from packaging (no stainless-steel pads with soap in them)

- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags removed from packaging (33-45 gallon)
- Five N95 dust masks (no surgical masks)
- Two pairs kitchen gloves removed from packaging
- One pair work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)

Supplies needed for Haiti include:

- Liquid laundry detergent – 32-64 oz.
- Liquid household cleaner – 16-40 oz.
- Liquid dish soap – 14-32 oz.
- Scrub brushes
- Toilet paper
- Baby wipes
- Diapers for children and adults
- Blankets (can be gently used)

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SEPTEMBER MISSION

Five Sisters Project

The Five Sisters Project in downtown Wells serves women in crisis. This past January, they accomplished their goal of building emergency housing and have served over 15 women and their children since opening. They have helped clients with long term housing solutions, furnishings, small appliances, Christian Counseling services, Bible studies, vehicles, and many, many other things that have helped their clients move forward at a very challenging time in their lives.

The Five Sisters Project is our Mission of the Month for September. Below is a list of items they use on a continuous basis for their clients. Please participate in this hands-on mission by purchasing any of these items and placing in the designated collection tub in the entryway. Thank you!

ON-GOING NEEDS LIST

Paper towels	Acrylic paints	Trash bags - kitchen and large
Toilet paper	Canvasses to paint	Gallon storage bags Light bulbs
Facial tissue	Craft scissors	Small laundry baskets
Office supplies	Gel pens & markers	Laundry detergent
Copy paper	Hand soap	Grocery or gas gift cards
Postage	Dishwasher soap	Portable file box with office supplies
Bottled water	Dish soap	Plastic totes, gallon totes
K-cups, tea	AA & 9V batteries	Bed bug mattress protector/twin & queen
Lint roller	Cleaning supplies	Bed bug pillow protectors
First Aid kits	Toilet bowl cleaner	Flameless battery operated candles

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, September 12

- 7:00am Worship at Farming of Yesteryear
- W** 9:00am JOINT Worship
- W** 10:00am Coffee
- 10:15am Confirmation mtg. for Class of '22

Monday, September 13

- W** 6:30am Ministry Council

Wednesday, September 15

- W** 9:30am Staff meeting
- 6:30pm SPRC Zoom meeting

Thursday, September 16

- W** 6:30pm Finance meeting
- 7:15pm Ad Council

Sunday, September 19

- W** 9:30am Coffee
- 10:30am JOINT Worship on the lawn
- 12:00pm Lunch at Thompson Park
- 1:00pm Games

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS - Wells

- Pastor Rev. Chris Leistra
 - Organist..... Jan Johanson
 - Scripture Reader..... Tammy Bullerman
 - Projection..... Karen Stenzel
 - AV Don Stenzel, Sarah Hankerson
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Birthdays This Week:

- Sept. 12..... Melissa Nappin, Adam Frederick
 - Sept. 14..... David Elmer, Tanya Bird
 - Sept. 17..... Clare Kruse, Becky Woolverton
 - Sept. 19..... Doug Bruckhoff, Jason Roberts,
Ruth Roesler
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Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

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