



# 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: 9:00 am | Coffee: 8:30 & 10:00 am

## KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Kiester, MN 56051  
507-294-3300  
Worship: 10:30 am | Coffee: 9:45 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)

December 12, 2021 – Advent 3

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

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

*In this Advent time of waiting, I wait now to hear a word from you, dear Lord. Amen.*

### – Gathering in Faith –

*Gathering Music*

*Welcome & Announcements*

\* *Advent Carol* "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #224

*Advent Lighting Ceremony* Brian & Tammy Bullerman Family

Praise team: All creation lies in waiting, in the stillness of the night,  
With hope anticipating the Advent of Eternal Light.

Leader: Advent is a time to prepare.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

Leader: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

Leader: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

Leader: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

Leader: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

Leader: This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord. We wait for the unfolding of God's plan in accordance with God's time. The **second candle** reminds us that Advent is also a time to watch. During Advent, we eagerly watch for God's presence and work in our world. As we light the **third candle**, we also remember that Advent is a time to prepare. During Advent, we prepare ourselves in heart, soul and strength to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Let each of us ask God to prepare us to celebrate the glory of Christmas.

**All Sing: We prepare in hope for the morning Light,  
(W) for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.**

**We prepare with joy for the Savior's birth;  
we prepare in hope for peace on earth, peace on earth.**

Leader: Let us pray: God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do. Amen.

*Carol* "Like a Child" #2092

*Pastoral Prayer / Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**– Children’s Christmas Program –**

**Pre-school and Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students Video**

Landon Bathke, Charlotte Leistra, Roy Hueper, Regan Cords, Layna Bathke, Maci Hueper

*Recitation: "Christmas Bells Are Ringing" Songs: "Ten Little Angels," "Bells Are Ringing"*

*\* Carol (please stand)*

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230, vs. 1 & 2*

*\* The Birth of Jesus in the Scriptures*

Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

**1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students**

Maci Hueper, Sawyer Bird, Harper Bird, Noah Leistra, Kenlie Cords, Makinlee Gossen

*Play: "The Special Baby"*

*Song: "Mary, Mary, What You Gonna Call that Baby?"*

*\* Carol (please stand)*

*"Away in a Manger" #217*

*\* The Visit of the Wise Men in the Scriptures*

Matthew 2:1-12

**1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Three Wise 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys**

*"Follow the Star"*

Wiseman 1.....	Kolt Bullerman	Information Officer.....	Harper Bird
Wiseman 2.....	Wyatt Haugh	Information Officer.....	Makinlee Gossen
Wiseman 3.....	Gavin Bird	Mary.....	Elyse Bird
Herod.....	Olivia Bird	Joseph.....	Chloe Bullerman
Page.....	Kaydra Haugh		
Chorus.....	Kylin Cords, Ben Christianson, Kenlie Cords, Noah Leistra, Sawyer Bird		

*\* Benediction*

*\* Carol "Joy to the World" #246, vs 1 & 2*

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

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**Thank you** to all teachers and helpers who worked with the kids:

Jan Johanson–Director, Deb Lackey, Joyce Frederick, Sarah Hankerson, Tanya Bird, Tammy Bullerman, Jaiden Gossen, and October Roberts.

And thank you to all the parents who helped with lines at home and got kids to practices.

And thank you to Glenn Johanson and LaMar Johnson for set and stage construction.

**Keep in your prayers this week:** The family of Carrell Bathke; Wanda Kothlow in St. Mary’s, Rochester. Those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses: Sue Schuster, Rita Bebler, Joan Christian, Michelle Viesselman (Kent & Diane’s daughter-in-law), Alan Yokiell, Bebo Getchell. Those in the military and their families; and all others dealing with loss, poor health, pain, or family crisis.

**Announcements**

**Following the Christmas Program**, you’re all invited to the basement for coffee, cider, and a large array of Christmas cookies. There’ll also be Christmas tree ornament and card crafts for youngsters of all ages to make to give to the residents at Parkview Care Center. This can be a fun multi-generational project – getting the parents and grandparents involved with the children to make something that will spread holiday cheer to someone in the nursing home.

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**Our sympathies to the family of Carrell Bathke** who passed away on December 5 at the Austin hospital. Visitation will be today, December 12, from 2:00-5:00 at Bruss-Heitner Funeral Home

and an hour before the service at church. Her funeral service is Monday, Dec. 13 at 11:00 am at Open Doors UMC. Burial will be at Dunbar Memorial Cemetery. Please keep her family – Diane, Christine, Elizabeth – in your prayers.

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**We will be having three Christmas Eve services again this year, at 4:00 and 7:30 in Wells and 5:30 in Kiester.**

The 4:00 worship is a family-friendly. The 5:30 and 7:30 worship will be a traditional service with lessons and carols. Any one you attend will be special and a time to remember and cherish. Each service will feature a special candlelight segment with everyone getting a glow-stick candle. Invite all those you know to worship with us on this day to celebrate our Savior's birth.

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**Christmas Eve Readers** – Would you be willing to read a scripture passage during our traditional "Lessons and Carols" Christmas Eve worship? We are looking for seven readers at the 5:30 pm Kiester service and three readers at the 7:30 pm Wells service. Contact Jan Johanson at 553-5272 or [wellsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:wellsmusic@gmail.com) or Sarah Hankerson in the church office.

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**Our Advent mission offering** will stay local this year, benefiting Communities Fighting Student Hunger backpack program at USC and St. Casimir's. We will collect this all month long. Please use the special Advent Offering envelopes or write Advent Offering in the memo line of your check made out to Open Doors UMC.

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**Offering envelopes** are ready for you to pick up in the entryway. If you would like a box and you don't find your name, contact Sarah in the church office. Envelopes are also available for your children upon request.

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**The Heart That Grew Three Sizes – *finding faith in the story of The Grinch*.** Listen to Pastors Chris and David Leistra as they discuss Dr. Seuss's beloved movie and book *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, using Matt Rawle's study as reference. You can find it linked to Open Door's Facebook page and website. There will be four videos over four weeks, the first went online last Wednesday and will continue with a new video posted each Tuesday afternoon. Feel free to post comments and questions and be a discussion starter!

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**Poinsettias** – We would welcome poinsettias—any color—to decorate our sanctuaries during this Advent season. If you plan to have a plant brought to the church, please arrange for delivery anytime during Advent. Let the church office know by December 15 if you are sharing a plant so that it can be printed in the bulletin.

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**Coffee with Pastor Chris** Pastor Chris invites you to join him for coffee and conversation this Tuesday, December 14, and each Tuesday after (except for Dec. 29), from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at The Bean, downtown Wells south of the Theater.

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**Youth Group** will not meet this Wednesday, December 15, so that they may go to the community youth group – UNITE ::Youth – for their Christmas party at The Bean at 6:30 pm. The next Youth Group night will be January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

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**Wednesday Night Suppers are coming back!** Yes, enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! John & Melissa Kruse have volunteered to cook for all of January. We will be asking for other volunteers for February and beyond. Serving will be from 5:00-6:00 each Wednesday and we'll ask for a free-will donation. Invite your friends or meet them here! And please consider volunteering as a Wednesday night cook!

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**Bell Ringers are needed for The Salvation Army Red Kettle!** If you'd like to help change lives and know it's helping local folks, sign up for a shift or two to ring the bell at Wells Marketplace. Bell Ringers will be posted each Friday and Saturday until Christmas and also Thursday & Friday, December 23 & 24. The shifts are 2 hours and run from 12noon to 6pm. Volunteers can sign up for open time slots by going to [www.RegisterToRing.com](http://www.RegisterToRing.com) or by contacting Sarah Hankerson at 507-317-4322 or 553-5453. Sign up with a friend or two and spread the giving spirit of Christmas!

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**UHD Hospice** invites you to **Light Up A Life**. Remember your Loved One and support Hospice by purchasing a bulb for the local Hospice Memorial Tree. Donation forms are available at each church.



**Don't forget to do your online Christmas shopping** through **iGive.com!** There are 2,200+ participating retailers, all donating a percentage of your purchase to our church. (You must designate Open Doors United Methodist Church.) Some popular retailers are Walmart, CVS, Chewy, GameStop, Shutterfly, JCPenney, Macys, . . . check them all out at [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) then start iGiving at: [www.iGive.com/OpenDoorsUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.iGive.com/OpenDoorsUnitedMethodistChurch). \* Join today and make your first purchase by 1/1/22 and iGive will pay a \$5 bonus to our cause! **Shop-Save-Support!**



**Compassionate Gifts** Consider giving Christmas gifts from Heifer International, Samaritan's Purse, Compassion International, or donations to UMCOR, or any one of the hundreds of UMC missions found at [www.advance.umcor.org](http://www.advance.umcor.org)



**Year-End Giving:** There are many ways you can give to your church that both helps the church in huge ways, while at the same time may offer considerable tax advantage to you. Gifts offering possible tax advantages to you while helping the church could include:

- Gifts of Commodities (corn, soybeans)
- Gifts of Cash
- Marketable Securities
- Bequests and Beneficiary Designations under revocable trusts, life insurance policies, commercial annuities, retirement plans
- Charitable Remainder Trusts or Charitable Lead Trusts

**Besides gifts to the church, consider gifts to our church cemetery,** Dunbar Memorial Cemetery. The church cemetery does not receive any financial support from Open Doors. Rather, it is self-supported from the interest earned by investing the money received when people reserve a plot. However, when interest income and lawn mowing expenses don't match, we can run into problems. Consider a cash gift to Dunbar Memorial Cemetery this year. Or reserve a plot for yourself. A single lot is \$250 and a double lot is \$500. Contact Sarah Hankerson, Caretaker, if interested.



**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sunday, December 12**

- W** 9:30am JOINT Worship, Children's Christmas Program
- 10:30am Coffee & Christmas Craft party

**Tuesday, December 14**

- 9-11am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean

**Wednesday, December 15**

- W** 9:30am Staff meeting
- 5:45 pm Praise Team practice
- 6:30pm UNITE ::YOUTH Christmas Party at The Bean

**Thursday, December 16**

- W** 6:00pm Finance meeting
- 6:30pm Ad Council meeting

**Sunday, December 19**

- K** 8:00am Worship
- 9:00am Coffee
- W** 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Coffee / Sunday School

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS - Wells**

- Pastor ..... Rev. Christopher Leistra
- Organist ..... Jan Johanson
- Scripture Reader..... Kent Viesselman
- Cross Bearer ..... Kaydra Haugh
- Acolytes.....Chloe Bullerman, Olivia Bird
- A/V ..... Sarah Hankerson, Kaylynn Healey
- Projection .....Karen Stenzel

**Birthdays This Week:**

- Dec. 13..... John Meyer
- Dec. 14..... Steve Burns
- Dec. 15..... Charlotte Leistra
- Dec. 16..... Carole Schreiber
- Dec. 17..... Jennifer Wedin
- Dec. 19..... Roy Hueper

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

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

