



## 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  
Coffee: 10:00 am | Worship: 11:00 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)

December 18, 2022 – Advent 4

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

*God, I pray for all who are lonely in this season, or exhausted, or grieving.  
Give them the courage of Mary as you fill them with the Holy Spirit.*

### – Gathering in Faith –

*Gathering Music*

*Welcome & Announcements*

\* *Advent Carol* "The First Noel" #245, vs. 1-3

*Advent Lighting Ceremony* "Lift Up Your Eyes"

*Musical Introduction – Praise Team sings verse, then the congregation sings response:*

(Sung Response) **Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;**

**with radiant hope, illuminate the night.**

**Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,**

**lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.**

*Litany – The Light of Joy*

Anne Feist

Reader: During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

**People: Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

Reader: For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:

**People: Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

Reader: For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow, God's word speaks:

**People: Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

Reader: For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's word speaks:

**People: Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

*Candle Lighting – The Light of Joy*

This morning we light four candles. When the darkness of life feels overwhelming, the **first candle** ignites our hope in God's unfailing truth. When the chaos of life seems all-consuming, the light of the **second candle** reveals the Prince of Peace. When humanity responds with senseless acts and hurtful words, the light of the **third candle** radiates God's command to love as we have been loved. The **fourth candle** reminds us that no matter what our circumstances, there is joy in the coming Christ who opens our eyes to the everlasting light.

*Sung Response (same as above)*

Reader: Let us pray together:

**All: Gracious God, we thank you for the way you have guided us throughout our Advent journey. As we move closer to the celebration of your birth we sense the wonder and joy. Continue to break into the dark areas of our world as you open our eyes to your hope, peace, love and joy all around us. By your light, guide us as we walk in faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\* *Passing the Peace of Christ*

*Opportunities to Serve*

*Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer*

**- Hearing Our Faith Story -**

<i>Scripture Lesson</i>	Psalm 30 (NRSV)	
* <i>Hymn</i>	"Come, Emmanuel"	On screen (#3130)
* <i>Gospel Lesson</i>	Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)	
<i>Sermon</i>	"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes" Series, Week #4	
	"When Joy Is Our Song"	Rev. Christopher Leistra
<i>Message Response</i>	"Somebody Build a Manger"	Choir

**- Stewards of Faith -**

*Giving with a Thankful Heart*

Offering may be placed in the green chest (W)/offering plate (K) 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 -**

* <i>Benediction</i>		
* <i>Hymn of Going Forth</i>	"Angels from the Realms of Glory"	#220, vs. 1-3

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**With Mary we sing:** "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47, NIV). Welcome to worship. 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:** Bev Niebuhr and Joan Christian with cancer; Alan Yokiel; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; all those serving in the military and their families.

**Announcements**

**Join the Advent Study on Tuesday mornings** – *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes – Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch* study group meets at The Bean, downtown Wells, on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., followed by "Coffee with Pastor Chris." This coming Tuesday will wrap up the study.

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**The Advent offering** this year will be staying close to home and helping people right here in Faribault County who are at the poverty level and in an emergency situation. Through the Salvation Army, we can directly reach people who need emergency financial assistance with lodging, rent, heat and utilities, gas, car repairs, or emergency prescriptions. Make someone's life a bit easier with an Advent offering to the Salvation Army of Faribault County. Make your checks out to Open Doors UMC and use the special Advent offering envelopes or write "Advent Offering" in the check memo line.

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**Mitten Tree:** We are collecting gifts of hats, mittens & scarves for the less fortunate. At Kiester, there is a basket to place your gifts and in Wells, you can decorate the lobby "Mitten Tree." They'll go to USC and Semcac.

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**There will be Sunday School** for any children who are here today. But no Sunday School will be scheduled for December 25 or January 1.

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**Wednesday Night Suppers are coming back!** Yes, enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! The first night will be **Wednesday, January 11**. John & Melissa Kruse will start us out as cooks and a schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway for others to volunteer to cook. 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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**Christmas Eve Readers** – Would you be willing to read a scripture passage during our “Lessons and Carols” 4:00pm Christmas Eve worship? We are looking for just two more readers. And for the 7:30pm service, we are needing a couple or family to light the Advent candles at the 7:30pm service. Contact Jan Johanson at [wellsomcmusic@gmail.com](mailto:wellsomcmusic@gmail.com) or 553-5272, or Sarah Hankerson in the church office.

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**Poinsettias** – We would welcome poinsettias—any color—to decorate our sanctuaries during this Advent season. They may be given in memory of a loved one or just to celebrate the season. If you plan to have a plant brought to the church, please let the church office know by December 20 so that it can be printed in the bulletin.

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**Kitchen Campaign Update:** With donations for the kitchen received to date and some pledges scheduled to come in over the next year, WE HAVE REACHED OUT GOAL of \$25,000!!! THANK YOU EVERYONE who has contributed!!!

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**Jan./Feb. Upper Room** daily devotionals are available to pick up in the entryway or north hall. Start your new year off right with daily devotions.

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**The WAY** – Don’t miss this Wednesday’s Youth Group! It’s a Christmas Dance Party! With a DJ! Invite your friends and come to USC this Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6:30!

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**“Unfrozen” Wednesday after-school kids program for grades 2-5** Do you want to meet a savior this Christmas? *UnFrozen* 4-Week series (Wednesdays 11/30-12/21) teaches kids that Jesus was born to melt away the old and bring new life and a new kingdom. UnFrozen will include a snack, skits, lessons, crafts & games and run from 3:15-5:00. Contact Sarah Hankerson for questions, to help, or to sign up your kids.

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**2023 Pledges** – If you have not turned in your 2023 financial commitment card, please do so today. You may put them in the offering chest. Extra forms are available.

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**Community Prayer Group and Bible Study** – Prayer is powerful, renewing, and healing. There is a group that meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for prayer in the Hospitality Room of Open Doors UMC and you are invited. Following prayer at 10:00, there is a community Bible Study that is open to all, as well. They are studying the book of John. Just bring your Bible.

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**Christmas Eve** – Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00 p.m. in Wells – Family Service

5:30 p.m. in Kiester – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion

7:30 p.m. in Wells – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion. This service will be live-streamed to Open Doors UMC Facebook, website, and YouTube.

**Christmas Day** – Sunday, Dec. 25

9:00 a.m. Online. No in-person worship, instead, a Christmas worship service will be pre-recorded and available to watch at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube and our website [www.opendoorsumc.org](http://www.opendoorsumc.org). Reflect on Christ’s birth in the comfort of your home with family around.

**Bevcomm Cable Schedule, Ch 990:**

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 11:00am & 8:00pm will be the Christmas Day recorded service.

Friday, Dec. 30, 6:00pm will be the Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service.



**Christmas  
Worship  
Schedule**

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**UHD Hospice** invites you to **Light Up A Life** throughout the month of December. Remember your Loved One and support Hospice by purchasing a bulb for the local Hospice Memorial Tree. Donation forms are available at each church. The local trees are at Broadway Apartments in Wells, Bud's Café in Briceyn, and the Kremer House in Minnesota Lake.

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

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**Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed** – RING A BELL...HELP CHANGE A LIFE  
Bell Ringers are needed for **Friday, December 23, 12-6pm and 10am-12 on December 24** at Marketplace Foods. Volunteers can sign up for open time slots to ring the bell by going to [www.RegisterToRing.com](http://www.RegisterToRing.com) or by contacting Sarah Hankerson at 507-317-4322. Donations to the Red Kettle Campaign in Wells will go to The Salvation Army of Faribault County helping our neighbors in need in our community. This is the only Red Kettle in Faribault County, so it's important to have ringers! Live ringers GREATLY increase the donations. Thanks for considering it ... and for your donations!

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**Wells VFW Auxiliary Breakfast Buffet**, Sunday, Dec. 18, 7:30-11:30am. Scrambled eggs, sausage, seasoned potatoes, biscuits & gravy, pancakes. Proceeds go to Five Sisters Project.

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**Jan./Feb. Upper Room** daily devotionals are available to pick up in the entryway or north hall. Start your new year off right with daily devotions.

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**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sunday, December 18–Advent 4**

- W** 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Sunday School / Coffee
- K** 10:00am Coffee
- 11:00am Worship

**Monday, December 19**

- W** 9:00am Painting class

**Tuesday, December 20**

- 9:00am Grinch study group at The Bean
- 10:00am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean

**Wednesday, December 21**

- W** 9:30am Staff meeting
- 9:00am Community prayer
- 10:00am Community Bible study
- 6:30pm The WAY Christmas Party at USC

**Saturday, December 24–Christmas Eve**

- W** 4:00pm Worship – Family Oriented
- K** 5:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols with Communion
- W** 7:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols with Communion

**Sunday, December 25–Christmas Day**

- 9:00am Worship – Pre-recorded and available on YouTube and [www.opendoorsumc.net](http://www.opendoorsumc.net).  
No in-person worship.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

- Pastor.....Rev. Christopher Leistra
- Organists..... Jan Johanson
- Acolytes..... Makinlee Gossen
- Cross Bearer..... tbd
- Advent Candles.....Anne Feist
- Scripture Reader.....Martin Healey
- A/V..... Don Stenzel, Sarah Hankerson
- Projection..... Karen Stenzel

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**Birthdays This Week:**

- Dec. 19 ..... Roy Hueper
- Dec. 20 ..... Kyley Bullerman
- Dec. 21 ..... Tom Bixby
- Dec. 22 ..... Hunter Bruckhoff, Deb Johnson
- Dec. 25 ..... Barb Halvorsen

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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)

**Live Stream:** Sundays at 9:00am on Facebook, YouTube and [www.opendoorsumc.org](http://www.opendoorsumc.org).