



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELLS CAMPUS

595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097
507-553-5453 | opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net
Worship: 9:00 am | Coffee: 8:30 & 10:00 am

KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3rd 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 | Web Site: www.opendoorsumc.org

December 19, 2021 – Advent 4

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

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

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* "Angels from the Realms of Glory" #220, vs 1 & 2

Advent Lighting Ceremony

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 praise.

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: During Advent we remember God's future promises.

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we wait upon the promises of the Lord. The **second candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to watch for God's presence with expectant eyes and anxious hearts. The **third candle** reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the promised Savior. As we light the **fourth candle**, we are reminded that Advent is a time to give praise for what God has done, for what God is currently doing and for what God will bring to completion. As the light of Advent grows brighter, it reminds us that we move closer to receiving the gift of a Savior.

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, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light or your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7, 40:3-4 (NRSV)

* *Hymn*

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

#206

* *Gospel Lesson*

* Matthew 5:17-18 (NRSV)

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

Sermon "The Coming Messiah" Pastor Chris Leistra
Message Response "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" #213, vs 1-3

– 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 –

- * *Benediction*
- * *Hymn of Going Forth* "Jesus, the Light of the World" on screen (#3056)
- * *Postlude – The Church Scatters for Ministry . . .*

Keep in your prayers this week: The family of Carrell Bathke whose funeral was last Monday; Wanda Kothlow recuperating at home. Those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses: Sue Schuster, Rita Bebler, Joan Christian, Michelle Viesselman (Kent & Diane’s daughter-in-law), Alan Yokiel, Bebo Getchell. Tornado victims; those in the military and their families; and all others dealing with loss, poor health, pain, or family crisis.

Announcements

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.

.....

A gift from Carrell Bathke – There are left over dove pins from Carrell’s funeral which was held last Monday. She wanted the children to have what was left, so please, help yourself to a pin, and chocolate covered peanuts. There are two poinsettia plants and a cut flower arrangement from her funeral that are on display in the chancel, as well.

.....

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 just two more readers at the 7:30 pm Wells service. Contact Jan Johanson at 553-5272 or wellsumcmusic@gmail.com or Sarah Hankerson in the church office.

.....

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.

.....

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.

.....

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 final one will be posted this Tuesday afternoon. Feel free to post comments and questions and be a discussion starter!

.....

Poinsettias – Thank you to those who have given poinsettias to decorate our sanctuaries during this Advent season. If you plan to have a plant brought to the church, please arrange for delivery

this week and let the church office know so that it can be printed in the bulletin.

.....
Coffee with Pastor Chris Pastor Chris invites you to join him for coffee and conversation this Tuesday, December 21, and each Tuesday after (except for Dec. 29), from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at The Bean, downtown Wells south of the Theater.

.....
UNITE ::Youth Christmas Party that was cancelled last Wednesday will be rescheduled for Wednesday, December 29 at 6:30 pm at The Bean. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited.

.....
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 on December 23 from noon to 6pm and on Christmas Eve from 10am-12pm. Volunteers can sign up for open time slots by going to 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!

.....
There will be Sunday School for any children who are here today. But no Sunday School will be scheduled for December 26 or January 2.

.....
Worship at Kiester will move to the Upper Room beginning January 2.

.....
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!

.....
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.

.....
To give assistance in Kentucky: Please continue to hold victims, survivors and relief workers in your prayers and make a gift to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. You can give directly to <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/901670/> or make a check out to Open Doors UMC and write "UMCOR Disaster Response" in the memo line.

.....
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

.....
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

The last day to donate and be counted for this year's taxes is [postmarked by] December 31; however, our church office will be closed on December 31, so please have donations to the office by noon on December 30 in order to be deposited.

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.

.....

Rides to Church – If you, or anyone you know, would like a ride to either of the Christmas Eve services, or to Sunday morning worship this winter, please call the office and we can get a ride arranged for you. For Sundays, please call by Friday morning. Also, anyone who would be willing to pick up riders, please let the office know.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 21

- 9-11am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean

Wednesday, December 22

- W** 9:30am Staff meeting
- 5:45 pm Praise Team practice

Friday, December 24

- W** 4:00pm Worship – Designed with children in mind
- K** 5:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols
- W** 7:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS - Wells

- Pastor Rev. Christopher Leistra
- Organist Jan Johanson
- Scripture Reader Pat Coy
- Cross Bearer Wyatt Haugh
- Acolytes Kaydra Haugh
- A/V Sarah Hankerson, Kaylynn Healey
- Projection Martin Healey

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 (90)
- Dec. 26 Bev Niebuhr, Aaron Johnson, Faye Lackey

Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

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