

# 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 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve – 4:00 pm

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

### A Family Christmas Service

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

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship as we hear “good news of great joy”: “Unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11, ESV).

#### – Gathering in Faith –

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

\* Advent Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #234, vs. 1-3

Advent Lighting Ceremony “Lift Up Your Eyes”

Litany Trevor Haugh Family

One: For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

One: For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

One: For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

One: For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

Candle Lighting – The Light of Christ

Tonight we light all the candles as we open our eyes to the glory of Christ’s birth. As we light the **first candle**, we celebrate the hope that transcends our hurting world. The **second candle** celebrates the peace that tears the veil of hostility and division. The **third candle** celebrates the love that covers our guilt. As we light the **fourth candle**, we celebrate the joy that can dry every tear. The flame of the **Christ candle** opens our eyes to God’s everlasting light, as we celebrate the way to worship Christ, our newborn King.

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.

One: Let us pray together:

All: Lord Jesus, tonight we join the angelic choir proclaiming glory to God in the highest. In a world where people seek the perfect gift to give, we rejoice because you’ve already given it. As you lit up the sky that first Christmas, continue to illuminate our world with your presence. We pray on this Christmas Eve that you will guide our every step, hear our every prayer, and delight in every praise as we come and worship Christ, our newborn King. Amen.

**– We Listen to God’s Word –**

*A Christmas Fantasy: "Sleepover at the Stable"*

By Douglas J. Eboch

Donkey–Pr. Chris Leistra, Goat–Doug Hankerson, Mule–Britney Haugh, Cow–Katie Hueper, Sheep–Sandy Youngblom, Chickens–Sally Roesler, Joyce Frederick, Jan Johanson

*LESSONS & CAROLS – The Christmas Story According to Luke*

*Tonight is the night we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let us hear again the glad story of how God chose to come among us and to keep the promises that he made to the world – promises to Abraham and Sarah – to Moses and Miriam – and to David and all the prophets – the promises to raise up an everlasting king and in him to bless the world and open the gates of heaven to all who believe in him and trust in his word.*

Song: "Winter Snow" Praise Team  
By Audrey Assad

First Lesson: *Jesus’ Birth* ..... Luke 2:1-7 ..... Kent Viesselman

Carol: "Away in a Manger" # 217, vs 1

Second Lesson: *Angels* ..... Luke 2:8-14 ..... Teal Leistra

Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" # 240, vs 1

Third Lesson: *Shepherds*..... Luke 2:15-20 ..... Sarah Hankerson

Carol: "The First Noel" # 245, vs 1

Fourth Lesson: *Wise Men*..... Matthew 2:1-11 .....Pr. Chris Leistra

Song: "Star of Wonder" Katie Hueper  
By David Heller and JJ Heller

**– We Respond to God’s Word –**

*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 and The Lord’s Prayer*

*The Light of Christ*

The Light of the World has come to give us his light for our lives. While we sing the next Christmas Carol, the aisle and window candles will be lit.

Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" # 239

Christmas Reflection Pastor Chris Leistra

**– Sending Forth –**

\* *Benediction*

\* *Hymn for Going Forth* "Let There Be Peace on Earth" # 431

\* *Postlude – Go in peace with the love of Jesus in your heart.*

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**We welcome small children** – help yourself to the "Busy Bags" in the back. The nursery is open for your convenience. It is located on the south side of the entryway. 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**

**Thank you** for worshiping with us tonight. May you have a blessed Christmas. Thank you also to everyone who participated in this service in some way - whether through music, or readings, or projection graphics, or lighting candles - it has truly made this worship the experience of being the family of God together.

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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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**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**, in our new kitchen. 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 5:00-6:15 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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**Kitchen Campaign Update:** With donations for the kitchen remodel 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!!! If you have a moment and haven't seen the beautiful make-over, you should go to the basement to take a look.

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**Worship services in Kiester** will continue through January and take place in the basement. However; On January 1 and 22, we will have joint services in Wells. January 1st will be a Wesley Covenant service and January 22 is the Annual Meeting. So, plan on church in Kiester at 11:00 on January 8, 15, & 29.

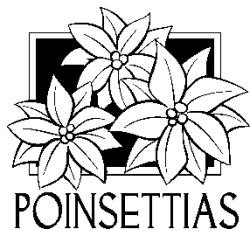
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**Jan./Feb. Upper Room** daily devotionals are available to pick up in the entryway or north hall. Start your new year off right with daily devotions.

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**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. (They will NOT be meeting December 28.)

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*aring the beautiful poinsettias!*

**Given By**

Diane & Elizabeth Bathke, .....  
Mike & Christine Buer & Family  
Margaret Courrier .....  
Roesler Families .....  
Sherry Asmus  
Sarah & Doug Hankerson

**In Memory of**

Edgar & Carrell Bathke and  
other Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Ralph & Wilma Roesler

*(And others not known at time of printing.)*

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**Painting Class** – We're going to continue with the painting class after Christmas and are hoping a few more people will take the opportunity and join the group. The class meets on Mondays in the basement Youth Room at the Wells Campus from 9-11am. Jim Dalton teaches the class. It is open to acrylic or watercolor painters. Your supplies for the first day are provided so you can see if it is something you want to continue and invest in. Hope to see you there!

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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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**Sunday School** –Sunday School classes will not meet on December 25 or January 1.

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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 Bricelyn, and the Kremer House in Minnesota Lake.  
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**Christmas Eve** – Saturday, Dec. 24

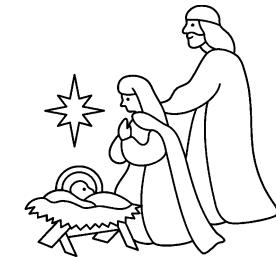
4:00 p.m. in Wells – Family Service

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.



**Christmas  
Worship  
Schedule**

**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 evening Lessons & Carols service.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**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).

**Monday, December 26**

Office Closed for Holiday  
**W** 9:00am Painting class

**Tuesday, December 27**

9:00am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean  
5:00pm Jamaica Mission Team meeting at Youngblom's

**Wednesday, December 28**

**W** 9:00am Staff meeting  
10:30am Worship at The Shepherd's Inn

**Sunday, January 1**

**WK** 9:00am JOINT Worship in Wells  
10:00am Coffee

**Monday, January 2**

Office Closed for Holiday  
**W** 9:00am Painting class

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Pastor.....Rev. Christopher Leistra  
Organists.....Jan Johanson  
Greeters/Ushers.....Dean & Sandy Youngblom  
Praise Team.....Anne Feist, Kastie Hueper  
Acolytes.....Kaydra Haugh  
Cross Bearer.....tbd  
Advent Candles.....Trevor Haugh Family  
A/V.....Don Stenzel  
Projection.....Karen Stenzel

**Birthdays This Week:**

Dec. 25 .....Barb Halvorsen  
Dec. 26 .....Beverly Niebuhr, Aaron Johnson,  
Faye Lackey  
Dec. 29 .....Olivia Bird  
Dec. 31 .....Cindy Hagen  
Jan. 1 .....Elizabeth Bathke