

HELP KEEP OUR CAMPUSES BEAUTIFUL!

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes the opportunity to care for the outdoor spaces that welcome our church family and community. We are looking for volunteers to join our Landscape Team, a group dedicated to ensuring our properties are well maintained and inviting. Each campus will have its own team, working alongside the Director of Building and Property to care for the grounds at the location they attend. At First Church, the team will also oversee the care of the Memorial Garden.

If you enjoy working outside, tending to flower beds, or helping keep our spaces neat and welcoming, this is a great way to serve! Volunteers will work as their schedules allow, making it an easy and flexible way to get involved. Interested? Let us know! Contact the church office for more information. Let's work together to care for our church grounds and create spaces of beauty and peace for all.

WILD WEDNESDAY - COMING SOON!

Julie is working hard to finish up planning this summer's Wild Wednesday program, "Camp Chaos!", and will be seeking volunteers SOON to help make it happen! If you're ready to jump in already, talk with Julie :)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Below you will find the list of current employment opportunities @ UMMMC. One of our best tools for recruiting people is YOU - please share the postings with those in your circles who might be interested, or who might know someone who is interested. Prayers are appreciated during this process!

...Director of Congregational Care - ummecosta.org/job-care

...Director of Music Ministry - ummecosta.org/job-music

...Young Adult Summer Intern - ummecosta.org/job-intern25

MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

The work of the church doesn't happen in a vacuum—it happens when passionate people come together, share ideas, and step boldly into ministry. That's why we're inviting YOU to be part of the conversation! On Tuesday, April 8, at 7 PM, we'll gather at First Church for a Ministry Team Meeting open to ALL CAMPUSES. If you care about how we reach our community, welcome others with radical hospitality, and nurture families and children in faith, this is your opportunity to get involved. Whether you're already serving in these areas or just curious about how you can make a difference, we need your voice at the table. Come ready to dream, plan, and take action as we continue the vital work of community outreach, hospitality, and family ministry. Your ideas and passion can help shape how we serve and share Christ's love in Mecosta County and beyond. No experience required, just a heart for ministry! Mark your calendar and join us. Let's build something meaningful together. See you there!

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

9:00AM - Worship Celebration @ Paris Campus

10AM - Worship Celebration @ First Church Campus

First Campus Meeting and Potluck Immediately Following Worship

11AM - Worship Celebration @ Third Ave Campus

MONDAY, MARCH 31

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

7PM - Book Study - "Entering the Passion of Jesus" @ United Church

7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ First Church

7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

7PM - Book Study - "Sacred Resistance" @ First Church / ZOOM

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

Birthdays and anniversaries are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you notice someone is missing from our list, please call the office (231) 796-7771 and speak with Barb.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor / Campus Pastor @ First Church
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 224-6545

Ray Setlock - Associate Pastor / Campus Pastor @ Paris & Third Ave
ray@ummecosta.org - (231) 224-6520

Julie Setlock - Director of Family Ministry
julie@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

Barbara Erb - Director of Administrative Services
General administration, building use, maintenance needs, supplies, equipment purchases, and financial questions - call Barb!
barbara@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

Week of March 30 - April 5, 2025

Family News



UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES OF MECOSTA COUNTY

304 ELM STREET, BIG RAPIDS MI 49307 / (231) 796-7771 / WWW.UMMECOSTA.ORG

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRIDAY, 9AM - 3PM

Director of Administrative Services: Barbara Erb (barbara@ummecosta.org)

PARIS UMC

109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
Worship @ 9AM

FIRST CHURCH

304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
www.bigrapidsfirst.org
Worship @ 10AM
Fellowship @ 11AM

THIRD AVENUE UMC

226 North Third Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Worship @ 11AM

Order of Worship - March 30, 2025

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Come, people of God, bring your mustard-seed faith, small but full of possibility.

We come, trusting that even the smallest acts of faith can transform the world.

The Kin-dom of God is like yeast in the dough—working, rising, unseen but unstoppable.

We come, believing that God is at work, even in the ordinary and unnoticed moments of our lives.

The Spirit of God invites us to plant, to nurture, and to trust in the slow but certain growth of the Kin-dom.

We come with open hearts, ready to worship, ready to grow, and ready to be part of God's great work.

Let us worship the God who multiplies our faith, who brings life from small beginnings, and who calls us to trust in the power of the unseen.

We worship with joy, with hope, and with expectation. Amen!

*Song - "Graves Into Gardens"

Children's Message

Scripture Reading - Matthew 13:31-33 (NRSVUE)

Hymn - "Seek Ye First", UMH #405

Message - "Stories That Shape Us: The Mustard Seed & The Yeast"

Song - "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

*"The Doxology", UMH #95

*Hymn - "Hymn of Promise", UMH #707, vs. 1-2

*Benediction

*Hymn - "Hymn of Promise", UMH #707, vs. 3

Postlude

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren St Lobby immediately following service.

NOTES:



Check In Here

SERVING TODAY - MARCH 30

Reader: Doug Fitzgerald
Ushers: Rex and Cheryl Richardson
Greeter: Pat Little
Children's Sunday School: Thomas Wheeler, Julie Setlock
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Kati Wheeler
Fellowship Host: FAMILY MEETING & POTLUCK

SERVING NEXT WEEK - APRIL 6

Reader: Barbara Ross
Ushers: Joann Haist, Pat and Marion Williamson
Greeter: Nancy Spedowski
Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock, Shelby Fate
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Paige Madden
Fellowship Host: Marlene Rodgers

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist Church, an inclusive and affirming congregation (you can read our welcome statement here: bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome) - we are so happy you're here! If this is your first visit, or you're not familiar with us, check out our "First Visit" page @ bigrapidsfirst.org/firstvisit.

If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

This week, we reflect on Jesus' parables of the mustard seed and the yeast (Matthew 13:31-33). These simple stories remind us that God's Kin-dom doesn't come with spectacle but through small, faithful acts that grow beyond what we can imagine. Just as a tiny seed becomes a great tree and a small amount of yeast transforms the dough, our everyday choices—words of encouragement, acts of kindness, steps of faith—carry the power to change lives and expand God's Kin-dom.

Reflection Questions

- Where have I seen small acts of faith make a big difference in my life or in someone else's?
- What small but faithful step is God calling me to take this week?
- How can I trust that God is at work even when I don't see immediate results?

A Prayer for This Week

God of small beginnings, you take what is tiny and make it great. Help me to trust that even my smallest acts of love, faith, and kindness matter in Your Kin-dom. Give me eyes to see where You are working and courage to plant seeds of hope, knowing that You bring the growth. Amen.

Final Thought

This week, don't underestimate what God can do through you. A simple act, a kind word, a prayerful moment—these are the seeds that God uses to grow something far greater than we can see. Keep planting, keep trusting, and watch how God moves!

COMING UP NEXT SUNDAY (FOR REAL THIS TIME!)

Two men walk into the temple to pray—one boasts about his goodness, the other simply asks for mercy. Which one does God honor?

Join us next Sunday as we see Jesus flip expectations and remind us that true righteousness isn't about looking good on the outside—it's about having a humble, honest heart before God. We'll explore what it means to let go of self-righteousness and embrace the grace that transforms. Let's come before God with open hearts—together. See you Sunday!

MARCH PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY NEEDS LIST:

- toilet paper (individually wrapped)
- paper towel (individually wrapped)
- sponges
- powdered Laundry Detergent
- cleaning powder
- band-aids
- adult Toothpaste
- shampoo
- conditioner
- bar soap

Your generosity makes a difference! To avoid any confusion in our giving systems, please make your checks out to your local campus. Thank you for your continued support!