

SPECIAL OFFERING - UMCOR

Throughout October, we will be receiving a special offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to support their critical work in responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. UMCOR is resourcing volunteer teams, local churches, and annual conferences to bring relief and long-term recovery to affected communities. Every dollar given goes directly to support these efforts, as UMCOR's administrative costs are covered separately. Contributions can be made during Sunday worship, online, or by sending your gift to the church office, marked "UMCOR Offering."

ALL CAMPUS WORSHIP & POTLUCK - TODAY!

October 6 is World Communion Sunday, and in celebration all UMMMC campuses will gather for worship at 10AM at First Church. Worship will be followed by our first "Family Meeting and Potluck".

UMMMC ON THE ROAD - DEADLINE IS TODAY!!!

You are invited to join your siblings from all of our campuses for a road trip to Gerald R Ford Museum in Grand Rapids on Thursday October 24, 2024. Vans will leave First Church @ 9AM and return at 3PM. The cost of the trip is \$17 per person, and that covers all expenses related to the trip. Today is the final day to register for the trip! RSVP to the office by calling 231-796-7771.

OCTOBER FOCUS: PERSONAL CARE PANTRY ITEMS

Items can be placed in the collection bin in Fellowship Hall.

This month we are collecting:

- Laundry Detergent (64 oz. or smaller)
- Dish Soap
- Body Wash
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 3

We will be remembering those saints who have passed in the last year during worship on November 3rd. If you have a loved one you'd like honored, please email or call Barb in the church office by October 31.

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist, 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 online @ www.bigrapidsfirst.org/firstvisit. Here you will find information about what to expect in worship, where to park, options for kids, and maybe mostly importantly - the location of the bathrooms! If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 - ALL CAMPUSES @ FIRST CHURCH

10AM - Worship Celebration & Communion
11AM - Family Meeting & Potluck

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

10AM - "Genesis for Normal People" Study @ First Church
12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
7PM - "Genesis for Normal People" Study @ First Church

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

12PM / 7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ First Church
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

6AM / 12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

10AM - Crafting with a Cause @ First Church (*see below for details*)
11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

Mark Your Calendar

- **UMMMC Church Conference** (*all members have voice and vote*) - October 27 @ 2:30 pm, hosted by Reed City UMC.
- **Family Movie Night** - November 1 @ 6PM, "Inside Out 2"
- **Chili Cook Off!** - November 3, immediately after worship! More details in next week's newsletter!

CRAFTING WITH A CAUSE - OCTOBER 12 @ FIRST

Join us for our next Crafting with a Cause event on Saturday, October 12th 10AM - 1PM) as we come together to make a difference in our community! This time, we'll be tying blankets and creating cards for shut-ins to send some Halloween cheer. **We are also collecting deodorant (stick and spray), hair bands, dry shampoo, body wash and feminine hygiene products to support students in our area.** Donations can be dropped off in the basket under the community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Let's show our love through creativity and care for those in need. See you there and bring a friend!

Week of October 6 - October 12

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

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

First Church Campus
Rev. Jeremy Wicks
O (231) 796-7771
C (231) 224-6545
jeremy@ummecosta.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Paris / Third Ave Campuses
Pastor Ray Setlock
O (231) 796-7771
C (231) 224-6520
ray@ummecosta.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Congregational Care
Rev. Kaye Patton
O (231) 796-7771
C (765) 661-3750
kaye@ummecosta.org

Order of Worship - October 6, 2024

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

Jesus invites us to break bread together, to share in His radical love and boundless grace.

We come to be nourished, to be healed, and to be united.

At this table, no one is excluded. In Christ, we find a home where all are embraced.

We come with open hearts, ready to love as Jesus loves, ready to break bread together as one body.

Let us come with joy and gratitude, for we are welcomed into Christ's community of love.

We come to worship, to break bread, and to be transformed by God's grace.

* Hymn - "Come, Share the Lord", TFWS # 2269

Children's Message

Special Music - "Crowded Table", Denise Cospers & Kathy Bell

Scripture Reading - Luke 22:14-20 & Acts 2:42:47 (NRSVUE)
The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn - "Let Us Break Bread Together", UMH #618

Message - "Break Bread Like Jesus"

Celebration of Communion

* "The Doxology", UMH #95

* Hymn - "One Bread, One Body", UMH #620

* Benediction & Postlude

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

Altar Flowers are in honor of our Pastor's Spouses - Thank you for supporting them in ways that make it possible for them to do the work of the Church!

Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren St Lobby immediately after worship.

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - October 6

Reader: Denise Cospers

Ushers: Pat & Marion Williamson

Greeter: Denise Jefts

Children's Sunday School: Larisa Draves, Bev Wesche

"Families Remember God" Deuteronomy 6:4-9 MISSION

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Katie Aris

Fellowship Host: OUR AWESOME POTLUCK TEAM!!!

Serving Next Week - October 13

Reader: Marlene Rodgers

Ushers: Mike & Jana Pisani

Greeter: Pete Jensen

Children's Sunday School: Trisha Jadhav, Brenda Chaffee

Godly Play - "The Greatest Commandment"

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Kati Wheeler

Fellowship Host: Denise Jefts

Think About It

Breaking bread like Jesus is about more than just sharing a meal—it's about participating in a profound act of grace. Communion reflects Jesus' radical inclusivity, unity, and commitment to justice, all of which are central to our Wesleyan heritage. Through communion, we are reminded that faith isn't just a personal journey but one that calls us to love and serve others. As we reflect on this teaching, we begin to see how the act of breaking bread can shape the way we live in the world, inviting us to embody Christ's love in all we do.

AS YOU REFLECT THIS WEEK:

As you go about your week, think about the deeper meaning of breaking bread. Every meal you share, every moment of connection you experience, can be an opportunity to live out the values of radical hospitality, unity, and justice. Communion isn't something that happens just at church; it's a way of life, inviting us to extend Christ's love to everyone we meet.

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

- Who in my life, community, or world needs to be invited to my table—whether literally or figuratively?
- How can I create more unity in my relationships, especially with those I disagree with or feel distanced from?
- In what ways does my faith call me to work for justice in my community? How can I help feed the hungry, care for the marginalized, or stand up for the oppressed?
- How does the sacrament of communion remind me of the interconnectedness of faith and action, both personally and socially?

APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED:

This week, take a moment to intentionally break bread with someone who is different from you—someone who might feel excluded or marginalized. Whether it's sharing a meal, a conversation, or simply offering a kind gesture, reflect on how you can embody the love of Jesus by welcoming others into your life. Also, consider small acts of justice you can participate in—whether donating to a food pantry, volunteering, or advocating for those in need.

FINAL THOUGHT:

Communion reminds us that we are all part of something bigger, united in Christ's love. As John Wesley taught, our faith is lived out in both personal devotion and social action. When we break bread, we commit to building a world that reflects Jesus' love—where all are welcome, unity is fostered, and justice is pursued. Let's continue that work this week, one shared table at a time.