

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY - SPECIAL OFFERING

Human Relations Day is a special Sunday across our denomination, focused on fostering better relationships and supporting community and youth outreach. Your gifts support important programs like Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation. Thanks to the generosity of United Methodists, over \$250,000 was raised last year to support vital ministries through the Human Relations Day.

UMMMC will recognize Human Relations Day **THIS WEEKEND (January 19, 2025)** and we will receive a special offering at each campus.

UMMMC NEXT STEPS - FOUNDATIONS & FUTURES

The new year brings new opportunities, and we're excited to take the next step in shaping the future of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County. Join us on **Saturday, January 25, from 10 AM to 12PM** as we come together to define the values that ground us and inspire our vision moving forward.

This is more than just a meeting—it's a chance to be part of something transformative. Your voice matters as we seek to build a strong foundation rooted in our shared faith and commitment to making a real difference in our community and beyond.

Whether you've been worshipping at one of our campuses for decades, or are just beginning your journey with UMMC, we invite you to bring your unique perspective and passion to this important work. Together, we'll dream boldly, reflect deeply, and chart a course for the future that reflects who we are and who God is calling us to be.

We hope to see you there. Let's build something beautiful—together.

WESLEY CAKE AUCTION & ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Mark your calendars! The annual FSU Wesley Cake Auction, supporting the spring mission trip, is happening on Sunday, February 9. To ensure everyone can enjoy both the delicious lunch and the fun of the auction, we will **hold one combined worship service at 10AM at First Church.**

After worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a meal and the opportunity to bid on some amazing cakes and goodies—all for a great cause. Let's come together to support our students and their mission work. See you there!

LOST AND FOUND

We have accumulated a rather large collection of "lost and found" items under and on the coat rack across from the nametags. Please check and see if any of the items belong to you. All items remaining at the end of the month will be donated to a local charity.

NEWSPAPERS FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL!

Beth Bejcek is collecting lots of newspapers (they need 2,000!) to use as props for the upcoming middle school musical, Newsies. If you can donate, please bring newspapers to the church and leave them under the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

9AM - Worship Celebration @ Paris UMC
10AM - Worship Celebration @ First Church
Fellowship / Coffee Hour Immediately Following Worship
11AM - Worship Celebration @ Third Ave UMC

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 - OFFICE CLOSED

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
6:30PM - Ministry Team Strategic Planning Mtg @ First Church
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
7:30PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22 - OFFICE CLOSED

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave
7PM - Choir Rehearsal @ First Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

10AM - "Foundations and Futures" Discussion @ First Church
11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

Looking Ahead

- February 8, 10AM - Crafting with a Cause @ First Church
- February 9, 10AM - All Campus Worship @ First Church
- February 9, 11AM - FSU Wesley Lunch and Cake Auction

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!

Week of January 19 - January 25, 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

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
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Order of Worship - January 19, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow Him.
We are here to say yes to His call.

True life is found in Christ alone.
We commit to follow Him with all our hearts.

Let us worship the One who leads us to life!

* **Hymn** - "The Summons", TFWS #2130

Children's Message

Choral Anthem - "Revival" (Congregational Response Projected)

Scripture Reading - Luke 9:23-25 (NRSVUE)
The word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn - "Breathe on Me, Breath of God", UMH #420

Message - "All In"

The Lord's Prayer

* **"The Doxology"**, UMH #95

* **Hymn** - "Here I Am, Lord", UMH #593

* **Benediction & Postlude**

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

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

Altar flowers are given in honor of our Nursery volunteers

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - January 19

Reader: Marlene Rodgers
Ushers: Mike and Jana Pisani
Greeter: Pete Jensen
Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock, Shelby Fate
Nursery: Katie Wheeler, Tom Wheeler
Fellowship Host: Denise Cosper

Serving Next Week - January 26

Reader: Rick Hult
Ushers: Rex and Cheryl Richardson
Greeter: Kathi Parker
Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock, Brenda Chaffee
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Arnold Parrish
Fellowship Host: Marlene Rodgers

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

This week, we reflect on Jesus' invitation to follow Him fully by denying ourselves, taking up our cross daily, and trusting Him with every part of our lives (Luke 9:23-25). Discipleship isn't always easy, but it's the path to discovering the life God has created us to live—a life of purpose, joy, and eternal significance.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

1. What is one thing I may need to let go of to follow Jesus more fully?
2. How can I make space in my daily life to prioritize Jesus and His mission?
3. What does "taking up my cross" look like in the choices I face this week?
4. How can I trust Jesus more in areas where I feel uncertain or afraid?

A PRAYER TO PRAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Lord Jesus, Help me to follow You with my whole heart. Teach me to let go of what holds me back and trust You in every step I take. Give me the courage to take up my cross daily and live for Your glory. May my life reflect Your love, grace, and purpose in all I do. Amen.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Living fully for Jesus means making intentional choices every day to put Him first. It's not always easy, but it's always worth it. Remember that God's strength is with you, His love sustains you, and His purpose is greater than anything the world can offer. Take small steps of faith this week and trust that Jesus will lead you to the life He has promised.

NEW SERIES, "PRACTICING FAITH" BEGINS NEXT WEEK

In a fast-paced and often chaotic world, it can be challenging to focus on the practices that nurture our relationship with God. This six-week sermon series, Practicing Faith, invites us to cultivate spiritual habits that draw us closer to God and align our lives with divine priorities. Each week explores a foundational practice of faith, offering practical insights and encouragement to live out our discipleship in meaningful ways.

- The Rhythm of Prayer (Matthew 6:5-13) – January 26
- The Joy of Simplicity (Matthew 6:19-24) – February 2
- The Discipline of Community (Acts 2:42-47) – February 9
- Delighting in the Scripture (Psalm 119:105-112) – February 16
- Resting in God's Presence (Exodus 20:8-11) – February 23
- Serving as Jesus Served (John 13:12-17) – March 2

Through this series, we invite you to reflect, commit, and act—developing habits that nurture your faith and draw you closer to God's heart. Together, let us practice faith in ways that transform our lives and the world around us.

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!