

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!

FEBRUARY PERSONAL CARE PANTRY NEEDS

- Bar soap
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Hand warmers
- adult gloves
- powder cleaner
- powder laundry detergent

Items can be placed on the table in the back of the sanctuary at Paris / Third Ave and in the collection box in Fellowship Hall at First Church.

FOUNDATIONS AND FUTURES MEETING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in last Saturday's gathering! Your energy, ideas, and passion for the future of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County made this gathering a meaningful and inspiring step forward. We had some incredible discussions as we explored ways to shape our ministry and mission in 2025 and beyond. Here are a few of the exciting ideas that were presented during the brainstorming sessions:

- Spiritual Grandparenting
- Shower Trailer Ministry
- Playdate-Style Meetups for Parents and Kids
- Young Adults Group
- Young Professionals Networking Group
- Children's Version of Crafting with a Cause
- School Break Programming
- Congregational Needs Survey
- Grief Support Group

These ideas reflect the heart of who we are as a church—rooted in love, committed to our community, and focused on making a real difference.

The next step will be asking our staff and volunteer teams to further explore these ideas, and if actionable, setting clear goals for how we can bring them to life. If you feel called to contribute to one of these ministry areas or have additional ideas, let Pastor Jeremy know!

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
7:00PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

10AM - Crafting with a Cause @ First Church
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.

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 February 2 - February 8, 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
kaye@ummecosta.org

Order of Worship - February 2, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace

*Call to Worship

In a world full of noise and clutter, Jesus calls us to a simpler way.

We come seeking the joy and freedom found in God's presence.

Jesus tells us that where your treasure is, your heart will be also.

Let our hearts be fixed on God's eternal priorities—love, grace, and peace.

Come, let us worship the One who fills us with purpose and joy.

We lift our voices to God, who is our treasure, our hope, and our light. Amen.

***Hymn** - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee", UMH #89

Children's Message

Scripture Reading - Matthew 6:19-24 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn - "I Surrender All", UMH #354

Message - "Practicing Faith: The Joy of Simplicity"

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

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

***Hymn** - "How Great Thou Art", UMH #77, vs. 1-3

*Benediction

***Hymn** - "How Great Thou Art", UMH #77, vs. 4

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 Ushers.

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - February 2

Reader: Suzette Compton

Ushers: Pat and Marion Williamson

Greeter: Nancy Spedowski

Children's Sunday School: Thomas Wheeler, Shelby Fate

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Liberty Beam

Fellowship Host: Marlene Rodgers

Serving Next Week - February 9

Reader: Carol Hillman

Ushers: Colin and Roberta Cline

Greeter: Pete Jensen

Children's Sunday School: Thomas Wheeler, Laurie Daniels

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Kati Wheeler

Fellowship Host: FSU WESLEY CAKE AUCTION

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

In a world that constantly pushes us to want more, buy more, and do more, it's easy to feel weighed down and distracted. Jesus reminds us that true joy and purpose come not from the things we own or achieve but from the treasures we store in heaven—things like love, generosity, and faithfulness. This week, take time to step back and reflect on the things that matter most. What would it look like to simplify your life so you can focus on God's priorities and experience the freedom and joy that come from a faith-centered life?

Questions to Consider

- What are the "treasures" in your life that take up most of your time, energy, or attention?
- How might simplifying your schedule, possessions, or priorities help you draw closer to God?
- What steps can you take this week to invest in heavenly treasures, like showing love, practicing generosity, or spending time in prayer?
- What does it mean for your heart to follow your treasure? How is this reflected in your daily life?

A Prayer to Pray Throughout the Week

God of abundance, help me to release the things that distract me from You. Teach me to trust in Your provision and to seek treasures that align with Your will. Simplify my heart and mind so I can focus on loving You and serving others. Guide me to live with joy, clarity, and purpose in Your presence. Amen.

Final Thoughts

Simplicity isn't about losing—it's about gaining more space for God to work in your life. As you focus on heavenly treasures, may you find the joy and freedom that come from living a life centered on God's eternal priorities.

SNEAK PEEK: WEEK 3 - THE DISCIPLINE OF COMMUNITY

Do you ever wonder why being part of a church family matters? Next Sunday, we'll explore how authentic relationships within the faith community help us grow spiritually, support one another, and carry out God's mission together. Based on Acts 2:42-47, we'll discover the joy and strength found in living life together.

Don't miss this powerful reminder of the beauty of community!

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!