GRATEFUL TO BE YOUR PASTOR

As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm mindful of how grateful I am to be your pastor and for the people I get to do ministry with here at United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County. Our staff and volunteers put a lot of care into preparing music for worship, helping our children feel at home in church, providing exceptional welcome and hospitality, and making sure there's a place at the table for a neighbor who comes for a meal. Thank you for the time you give and for the care you show one another.

Some of you have wondered how I'm managing my time with seminary and everything else on my calendar. It's a fair question. My weeks are full. Along with preaching, managing staff, and tending to the day-to-day life of the church, I spend time getting to know people in our community, writing grants, and talking with potential partners about ministries we might take on together. I feel blessed that all of that is part of being your pastor.

I continue to hold Fridays sacred as my Sabbath. Keeping that day for rest is one way I take care of myself. I've been fighting some kind of crud the last couple of weeks, and I'm looking forward to surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome, either later this year or early next year. Overall, though, I feel rested, and life is good.

You've encouraged me as I work toward my Master of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary and pursue ordination. You're family to me, so I'm proud to share a little news with you. I'm heading into finals week with a 4.0! I'm glad the semester is wrapping up, too. I'm taking J-term off, which gives me six full weeks without classes before spring term starts toward the end of January.

I'd appreciate your prayers as I prepare for my provisional ordination interview in early 2027. Thank you for cheering me on and for all the ways you've made this a church where I feel cared for, too.

- Pastor Jeremy

FRIENDSGIVING AT PARIS

Join us at our Paris campus on Sunday, November 22, for Friendsgiving! This gathering is an opportunity to celebrate the friendships, shared ministry, and everyday acts of kindness that make our church community special. Bring a friend and come ready to enjoy fellowship with familiar faces and get to know someone new. Maybe you've been part of the Paris congregation for years or are visiting for the first time, we hope you'll join us. Your presence is part of what makes this a community worth celebrating!

HELP US PREPARE FOR ADVENT @ PARIS

Join us on Saturday, November 28, at 10:30 a.m. for Hanging the Greens as we decorate our worship space for Advent and Christmas! Come lend a hand, enjoy some conversation, and help us prepare a welcoming place for the season ahead.

GATHER AROUND THE TABLE—AND THE TREE!

Join us at First Church on Sunday, November 29, immediately after worship for a family meeting, potluck, and Christmas tree decorating! Bring a dish to share and an ornament that symbolizes your family to add to our church Christmas tree. Your ornament might reflect a favorite memory, a meaningful tradition, or something you enjoy together.

Sharing a meal gives us time to catch up, meet someone new, and strengthen the relationships that make us a church family. As we gather for conversation and decorate the tree, we'll celebrate the many people and stories that belong within the Body of Christ. Whether you've been part of this congregation for decades or have only recently joined us, we hope you'll stay and participate. There's a place for you at the table!

What's Happening

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
9AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus
Coffee / Fellowship Immediately Following Worship

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING. YOUR STAFF TEAM IS STILL AVAILABLE AS NEEDED.

SAVE THE DATE! ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 12

Mark your calendars! Our Adult Christmas Party is coming up on Saturday, December 12, and we hope you'll plan to join us! The Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, enjoy some fellowship, share a few laughs, and celebrate the joy of the season together. More details are coming soon, so for now, save the date and plan to be part of the celebration!

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS: ADOPT A FAMILY

This Christmas, our church is participating in Christmas Blessings: Adopt A Family. We'll be helping two local families with six children between them. In one household, a parent cares for a child with special needs and takes part in the child's regular therapy appointments. Both families have little room in their budgets for gifts this year. Together, we can ease that worry and give the parents the joy of watching their children unwrap something picked just for them.

Information is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please consider choosing one requested item and returning it unwrapped by mid-December. If you'd enjoy shopping with someone, invite a friend or bring the kids and let them help choose a gift.

Once the gifts are in, we'll check both families' lists, fill in any gaps, and gather for a wrapping day. We want all six children to have something they'll be excited to open on Christmas morning. Thank you for helping make that happen!

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Barbara Erb - Director of Administrative Services
barbara@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771 ext. 1

Kathy Bell - Director of Congregational Care
kathy@ummecosta.org - (231) 224-6177 / (231) 796-7771 ext. 3

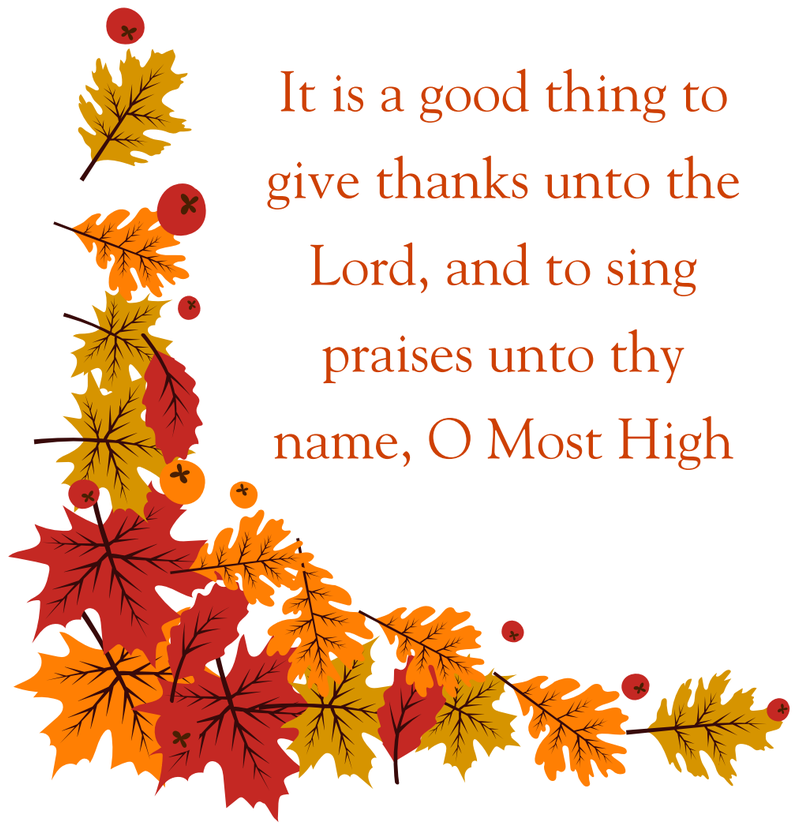
Paden Clevenger - Director of Family Ministries & Community Outreach
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Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 796-7771 ext 2 / (231) 224-6545

Week of November 22 - November 28

Family News



It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High

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
PASTOR AND MINISTRY STAFF AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

NORTH CAMPUS - PARIS
109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
ummecosta.org/paris

Worship Gathering in-person
Sundays @ 9:00AM

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS - FIRST
304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
bigrapidsfirst.org

Worship Gathering in-person and
live online, Sundays @ 10AM
www.facebook.com/brfumc

Services Archived Weekly:
www.youtube.com/@brfumc

Order of Worship - November 22, 2026

"This is the Day" Call and Response - *Gordon Mallett*

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - *Ed Mallett*

*** Call to Worship** (Reader / *People*)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord;
To sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;
At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

*** Hymn**

Praises and Prayers
Prayers and Praises of the People
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading - Psalm 92:1-2 & 1 Corinthians 15:57
The word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Message - *"Give Thanks, for He is Good!"*

*** Doxology**, UMH 95

*** Hymn**

*** Blessing and Sending**

Postlude

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Welcome to Paris!

Welcome to Paris, the North Campus of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County - we're so glad you're here! This is a place where faith feels like family, where neighbors become friends, and where we learn and grow together in Christ's love.

Whether you're visiting, returning, or looking for a church home, you are welcome here. Come as you are, bring your questions and your hopes, and make yourself at home.

If you need anything or have questions, our church family is here to help. We're blessed to have you with us today.

NOTES:

Check In Here

If you came prepared to give today, please place your offering in the plate on the rail at the front of the sanctuary. Your generosity makes a difference!

To avoid any confusion in our giving systems, please make your checks out to Paris UMC or UMMMC. Thank you for your continued support!

GIVE THANKS, FOR HE IS GOOD!

Devotions for November 22–28, 2026
Psalm 92:1–2 and 1 Corinthians 15:57

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | A VOICE BESIDE YOU
As we sing today, listen for a voice near yours. On a day when gratitude is hard to put into words, someone else can carry the tune. *God, thank you for the people who sing with me. Amen.*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | MORNING PRAYER
Psalm 92 invites us to speak of God's love in the morning. As you put your feet on the floor, take a breath and let this be your first prayer. *God, you already love me as this day begins. Amen.*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | SAY IT OUT LOUD
Think of someone who made an ordinary day easier. Tell them what you remember. A simple "I was glad you sat with me" can mean a great deal. *God, give me the words to thank someone today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | WHEN SOMEONE IS MISSING
In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul gives thanks because Christ is risen. If you're missing someone this week, there's room in that Easter hope to say their name and have a good cry. *Risen Christ, hold the people we miss close to you. Amen.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | AT THE TABLE
Before you eat today, pause over one thing on your plate. Consider whose hands helped bring it to your table. *God, thank you for this food and for the people whose work feeds me. Amen.*



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | PASS IT ALONG
Maybe someone sent you home with leftovers or called when you needed company. What kindness have you received this week that you could offer someone today? *God, help me share what someone has so freely given me. Amen.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 | AN EVENING PRAYER
Psalm 92 ends its opening invitation with God's faithfulness at night. Before you turn out the light, remember one moment from this week you want to bring to God. *Faithful God, you were with me then. Stay close as I rest. Amen.*