

CRAFTING WITH A CAUSE

Crafting With A Cause will be meeting on Saturday, October 17th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at First Church, followed by going out for lunch from noon to 1 pm. They will be assembling door hanger decorations for our church shut-ins and for the residents of Evergreen Terrace.

All are welcome to attend. Please bring a pair of scissors and a glue gun if you have them. Thank you!

CELEBRATING LAITY SUNDAY – OCTOBER 18

On Sunday, October 18, we will celebrate Laity Sunday, a special opportunity to recognize and give thanks for the many ways laypeople live out their faith through service, leadership, and ministry.

In the United Methodist tradition, we believe that ministry belongs to all of us—not just pastors and church staff! Every person has unique gifts and a calling to participate in God's transforming work in the world. Whether through leading worship, serving meals, caring for neighbors, teaching, volunteering, or simply extending kindness and compassion, our laity are the heart of our shared ministry.

Join us for worship on October 18 as we celebrate the gifts of our congregation, give thanks for those who faithfully serve, and renew our commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ in our community and beyond.

Together, we are the church, and together, we make a difference!

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP - WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM

Are you caring for a spouse, parent, child, family member, or friend? Whether you provide care for an aging loved one, someone with an illness or disability, or a person facing a season of need, you don't have to do it alone. We are exploring the possibility of starting a **Caregivers Support Group** - a welcoming place to share experiences, encourage one another, pray together, and find support along the caregiving journey. All types of caregiving are welcome. Would you be interested in participating? We'd love to hear from you as we gauge interest and determine what would be most helpful. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Bell or Barbara Erb in the church office.

TAKE A “BOO BREAK” THIS HALLOWEEN!

Halloween can be wonderfully chaotic, and sometimes everyone needs a little break! Join us for Boo Break on Saturday, October 31, from 11 AM–2 PM at First Church (304 Elm Street, Big Rapids). Stop by The Boo Cauldron for free hot cocoa, coffee, and apple cider! Enjoy a spooky craft, snap a picture at our Halloween photo backdrop, and take a break from the festivities. Everything is free, and everyone is welcome!

Volunteers are needed! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall at First Church or contact Barb in the church office by phone or email. Boo Break is a fun way to share hospitality, connect with our neighbors, and make Halloween a little sweeter. Come join the fun!

What's Happening

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus
10AM - Worship Design Team @ Downtown Campus
12PM - Ladies Lunch @ Panera Bread (Big Rapids)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

10AM - Choir Rehearsal
11:30AM - Good Company @ Big Rapids Public Library
12PM - Table Talk @ Downtown Campus

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

10AM - Crafting With A Cause @ Downtown Campus

GOOD COMPANY @ THE LIBRARY

Sometimes it really does take a village! Beginning Wednesday, October 7, adults with young children are invited to join us for Good Company @ the Library at the Big Rapids Community Library.

Come for Mr. Howard's Storytime from 11–11:45 AM, then stick around for Good Company from 11:45 AM–12:15 PM. While the kids play, adults can enjoy an iced coffee, a sweet treat, and some relaxed conversation with other parents, grandparents, caregivers, and community members. No program, no pressure—just a chance to meet people, enjoy some good company, and build a little more community together.

For more information, or to volunteer to serve, contact Paden at paden@ummecosta.org.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, offering a simple opportunity to pause and express gratitude for the pastors who help lead, care for, and walk alongside their congregations. Here at UMMC, we invite you to take a moment this month to share a note, card, email, or word of encouragement with Pastor Jeremy. Ministry includes far more than what happens on Sunday mornings, and a few thoughtful words of appreciation can go a long way.

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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Linda Rinehart - Director of Choral Music
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Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 796-7771 ext 2 / (231) 224-6545

Week of October 11 - October 17, 2026



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 - October 11, 2026

“This is the Day” Call and Response - Gordon Mallett

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

* Call to Worship (Reader / People)

Jesus calls us to love God with all that we are.
And to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Not only the neighbors we know,
but the neighbors we overlook, avoid, or do not yet understand.

God opens our eyes to the people along the road.
God opens our hearts to compassion.

Come, let us worship the One who teaches us how to love.
And let us become neighbors to one another and to the world.

* Hymn

Praises and Prayers

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

Scripture Reading - Luke 10:25–37 (NRSVUE)
The word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Message - “Ask Me Anything (Jesus Edition): Who is my neighbor?”

* 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!

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

This Sunday, we begin Ask Me Anything: The Jesus Edition with one of the most familiar questions asked of Jesus: “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus never gives the lawyer a neat definition. Instead, he tells a story about a wounded man and an unexpected Samaritan who stops, shows compassion, and becomes a neighbor through action.

By the end of the story, Jesus has shifted the question. The issue is no longer simply, “Who qualifies as my neighbor?” but, “Am I willing to become one?”

That question is not only personal; it is churchwide. What kind of neighbor is UMMMC becoming in Mecosta County? Are we known for what happens inside our buildings, or for the way we notice, welcome, listen, serve, and show up in the lives of people around us?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Who is easy for you to see as a neighbor? Who is harder to notice?
- Where do you see people in our community being overlooked or left on the margins?
- What might it look like for our church to become an even better neighbor?

WAYS TO LIVE IT OUT

- Pay attention. Notice someone you might normally pass by.
- Cross one boundary. Have a conversation with someone whose life is different from yours.
- Share what you see. If you notice a need in our community, bring it into conversation with others in the church.
- Become a neighbor. Ask each day, “How can I respond with compassion?”

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of compassion, open our eyes to the people we too easily pass by. Make us a church that listens, welcomes, serves, and shows up. Teach us to become faithful neighbors in this community and to join your work of healing, mercy, and justice. Amen.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 1

On Sunday, November 1, we will observe All Saints Day, a sacred time in the life of the church when we pause to remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us. During worship, we will honor the saints whose love, faith, and presence have shaped our lives and continue to inspire us.

As part of our service, we will share a special time of remembrance, reading aloud the names of loved ones who have died. If you have someone you would like remembered during worship, please call or email Barbara Erb in the church office to have their name included.

Together, we will celebrate the gift of their lives, give thanks for the love that endures beyond death, and remember that we remain connected as one communion of saints through the grace and love of God.