

SOUL CIRCLE WELCOME GATHERING
Loss touches us in many ways – the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, loss of health, identity, employment, or a life dream. Whatever your experience, you do not have to grieve alone.

We invite you to join us for a SOUL CIRCLE Welcome Gathering, where you can learn more about our supportive group that offers understanding, compassion, and community for those navigating grief in all its forms.

Date: Thursday, August 14
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: First Church Campus, UMMMC
Contact: Kathy Bell with any questions

This meeting is to simply share information – no pressure, no commitment. Whether your loss is recent or years behind you, SOUL offers a space to be heard, supported, and gently guided toward healing.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

ITEMS NEEDED - CRAFTING WITH A CAUSE
The Crafting with a Cause group is in need of personal hygiene items for the Big Rapids Virtual School and Big Rapids High School counseling offices. Items needed are listed below and can be placed in the gray donation bin under the community notice bulletin board in Fellowship Hall at First Church. Thank you for your help as we work together to assist young people in need.

- Body wash (Men's and Women's)
- Deodorant (Men's and Women's)
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Combs
- Feminine hygiene products

JULY 20 - SPECIAL OFFERING
Get ready to make some noise! Today we will receive a Noisy Offering to support the Heifer Project, the amazing cause the kids at Camp Chaos have been learning about this summer.

Through fun, faith-filled nights, our campers have explored how Jesus meets us in the midst of chaos—and how we can respond with care and compassion. The Heifer Project empowers families around the world by providing livestock, education, and resources to help end hunger and poverty.

Bring your spare change (or dollar bills) and join us in supporting this life-changing mission. Let's make some holy noise together!

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 20
9:00AM - Worship @ Paris Campus
10:00AM - Worship @ First Church Campus
Fellowship & Coffee immediately After Worship, Fellowship Hall
11AM - Worship @ Third Ave Campus

MONDAY, JULY 21
12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, JULY 22
12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave
6PM - Praise Band Rehearsal @ First Church

THURSDAY, JULY 24
5:30PM - Community Dinner @ First
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

FRIDAY, JULY 25
12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, JULY 26
11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

**NOTE - THERE IS NO EUCHRE NIGHT THIS MONTH
(WE'LL BE BACK SOON, THOUGH)**

JULY PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY NEEDS LIST:
Donated items can be left in the back of the sanctuary

• Deodorant	• Body Wash
• Paper Towel	• Cleaning Products
• Toilet Paper	• Laundry detergent
• Feminine Hygiene Products	• Adult Toothpaste
• Shampoo & Conditioners	

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Barbara Erb - Director of Administrative Services
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Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor / Campus Pastor @ First
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Week of July 20 - July 26, 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

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

Worship Gathering
Sundays @ 9AM

**FIRST CHURCH
CAMPUS**
304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
bigrapidsfirst.org

Worship Gathering
in-person and online
Sundays @ 10AM

THIRD AVE CAMPUS
226 North Third Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307
ummecosta.org/third

Worship Gathering
Sundays @ 11AM

Order of Worship - July 20, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs

Know that the Lord is God

*It is He who made us, and we are His, we are His People,
the sheep of His pasture.*

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise

Give thanks to Him and praise His name

For the Lord is good and His love endures forever.

His faithfulness continues through all generations.

* Hymn - “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” - UMH #110

Praises and Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer - UMH #895

Scripture Reading - Acts 9:36-42

The word of God, for the people of God. *Thanks be to God!*

Hymn - “Give Thanks” - TFWS #2036

Message - “Who Is Dorcas”, Kate Hanna

Offering

* “*The Doxology*”, UMH #95

* Hymn - “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” - UMH #664

* Benediction

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

NOTES:



Check In Here

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

In a quiet corner of Acts, we meet Dorcas—also called Tabitha—a woman so full of love, generosity, and service that her community couldn’t bear to let her go.

She didn’t make headlines. She didn’t write letters to churches. But she clothed the vulnerable, stitched dignity into the seams of her handiwork, and embodied the compassion of Christ in every thread.

When she died, her community wept—not just because she was gone, but because her presence had been a living testimony of love in action. And when Peter came, they didn’t show him her theology. They showed him her sewing.

Dorcas reminds us that the Spirit of God is just as present in simple acts of care as in dramatic miracles. That resurrection can look like a life that ripples far beyond itself. And that being remembered for love might just be the holiest legacy of all.

Reflection Questions

- What simple acts of kindness have left a lasting impact on you?
- In what ways are you using your gifts—however ordinary they may seem—to love others well?
- How might your life, like Dorcas’s, become a witness to resurrection?

Prayer for This Week

God of quiet saints and compassionate seamstresses, remind us that no act of love is too small to matter. Weave our lives into something beautiful—something that brings comfort, dignity, and hope to those around us. Teach us to live with the kind of presence that makes the world a little softer, a little braver, and a little more like your kingdom. Amen.

Final Thought

You don’t have to be famous to be faithful. You don’t have to be loud to be powerful. You just have to show up in love—again and again. Just like Dorcas.

SWEET CONNECTIONS AT THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Whether you came for the sundaes, the fellowship, or a little of both, we’re so glad you showed up! Thanks to everyone who attended, and special thanks to our volunteers who scooped, set up, cleaned up, and made the day possible.

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!