

MAKING ROOM FOR EVERY GENERATION IN WORSHIP

Exciting Changes in Our Children's Ministry!

We're making some exciting changes to how we welcome and engage children in the worship life of our congregation!

As part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing faith across generations, our nursery will now welcome children from infancy through kindergarten. This provides our youngest children with a welcoming, age-appropriate environment where they can learn, play, and experience God's love.

We're also delighted to welcome Catherine Kloack as our new Nursery Supervisor! Catherine brings wonderful gifts, enthusiasm, and fresh energy to this ministry. Her leadership comes at an exciting time as we rethink how we nurture our youngest members and support the families who are part of our church community. We're grateful to have Catherine joining us as we take these next steps toward making our congregation an even more welcoming place for children and families!

For our elementary-aged children and older youth, we're taking a new approach by encouraging their participation in congregational worship. We are developing Worship Activity Kits that will offer age-appropriate activities and opportunities to engage with the themes, stories, and experiences of worship. Pastor Jeremy and Paden are also having conversations about how we can intentionally create meaningful opportunities for our youth to serve and lead during worship.

Why are we making this change? Because we believe children aren't just the future of the church. They are an important part of the church right now!

There is something powerful about generations worshiping together. Children learn the language and rhythms of faith by participating in the life of the congregation. They hear familiar prayers, sing alongside adults, encounter scripture, and discover what it means to belong to a community of faith. And just as importantly, the adults around them are enriched by their presence, curiosity, leadership, questions, and enthusiasm.

We recognize that children experience worship differently than adults, and that's okay! Our goal isn't to expect children to sit perfectly still or remain silent. It's to create an environment where they feel welcome, included, and valued as participants in our shared life of faith.

And we're not stopping here! We're also having conversations about additional changes we can make to our worship spaces, ministries, and congregational life to become even more welcoming to children and families. We want to listen, learn, and explore new possibilities so that families of all shapes and sizes can experience a genuine sense of belonging in our church. These conversations are just beginning, and we're excited about where they might lead!

These changes are part of a larger effort to strengthen connections between generations and help our children develop a lasting sense of belonging in the church.

We invite everyone in the congregation to embrace this new chapter with encouragement, patience, and joy. After all, a church that makes room for children is a church investing in the faith of generations yet to come.

Together, we're creating a church where every generation belongs!

What's Happening

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 - ELECTION DAY

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

We're pleased to announce that our new church directories are now available for pickup! Directories are a wonderful resource for staying connected with one another and strengthening relationships across our church family. Directories are available at First Church in the Fellowship Hall and at Paris at the back of the sanctuary. To ensure that every family has an opportunity to receive a copy, we ask that you *please only take one directory per household*. Thank you for helping us stay connected as one church family!

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!

GOOD COMPANY @ THE LIBRARY

Sometimes it really does take a village! 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.

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
linda@ummecosta.org - (231) 631-4380

Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 796-7771 ext 2 / (231) 224-6545

Week of November 1 - November 7

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
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 1, 2026

Prelude

Choral Introit

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship (Reader / *People*)

We gather to remember those whose lives have shaped our own.
We give thanks for their love, their courage, and their faith.

Though their voices may be silent, their stories continue to echo through our lives.
We carry their memories with gratitude and their legacy with hope.

Together with the saints of every generation,
we worship the God whose love never ends. Amen.

* Hymn - “For All The Saints” - UMH 711

Children’s Message

Remembering the Saints

Choral Anthem -

New Testament Reading - Hebrews 11:1–13 (NRSVUE)
The word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Message - “Echoes: Remembering Their Faith”

Celebration of Holy Communion

* Doxology, UMH 95

* Hymn - “Sing with All the Saints in Glory” - UMH 702, vss. 1-3

* Blessing and Sending

* Hymn - “Sing with All the Saints in Glory” - UMH 702, vs. 4

Postlude

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Altar flowers are given in celebration of Rex & Cheryl Richardson’s 57th Anniversary.

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to First Church, the downtown campus of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County - we’re so glad you’re here! This is a community where every person belongs, every story matters, and every question is welcome. If you’re new or exploring, we’d love to get to know you. You can learn more about who we are and find helpful information for your first visit at bigrapidsfirst.org.

Need directions? Curious about something? Our welcome team is nearby and ready to help. Truly, we’re delighted to worship with you today.

NOTES:



Check In Here

SERVING TODAY - NOVEMBER 1

Reader: Emmanuel Jadhav
Ushers: Pat & Marion Williamson
Greeter: Nancy Spedowski
Communion Assistants: Toinette Wicks, Denise Cosper, Shirley Jernstadt
Nursery: Catherine Kloack, Paden Clevenger
Fellowship Host: Brenda Chaffee
Choir Director: Linda Rinehart
Accompanist: Kathy Bell
Organist: Shirley Jernstadt
Tech Team: Ken Draves, Gary Poole
Preacher: Rev. Jeremy Wicks

SERVING NEXT WEEK - NOVEMBER 8

Reader: Rick Hult
Ushers: Colin & Roberta Cline
Greeter: Pete Jensen
Nursery: Catherine Kloack, Julie Tessin
Fellowship Host: Denise Cosper

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

On All Saints Sunday, we pause to remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us. The names listed below have been lovingly shared by members of our congregation in remembrance of family, friends, and others whose lives have touched their own.

Each name represents a life, a story, and a love that continues to echo through the generations. As we remember these individuals, we give thanks for the ways they shaped our lives and for the enduring connections that remain even in their absence.

May we honor their memory not only in the speaking of their names, but also in the love, kindness, and faithfulness we carry forward.

David Ayriess
Greta Boldt
Debbie Carley
Bill Connell Sr.
Bill Connell Jr.
Helen Critchfield
Patsy Eisler
Beverly Ellis
Darlene Hahn
Nancy Horan
Stanley Kool
Hawk Maddox
Brenda Miller
Charlene Nowland
Janet Reinking
Sandy Shaw
Don Supenski
Bill Ward
Kim Willmer Sr.
Kim Willmer Jr.
Raymond Willmer

As we remember these beloved individuals, we also hold in our hearts all whose names are not spoken or written here.

We remember those around the world who have lost their lives because of their faith, and those who have suffered and died because religion was used to justify hatred, exclusion, oppression, and violence. We remember those whose lives were cut short by war, injustice, poverty, and prejudice, and those whose stories have been forgotten or whose names were never known.

All are precious in the eyes of God. On this All Saints Sunday, may our remembrance be more than an act of looking back. May it deepen our commitment to building a world where every life is valued, every person's dignity is honored, and love has the final word.

Your generosity makes a difference! To avoid any confusion in our giving systems, please make your checks out to **First Church. Thank you for your continued support!**