

A DAY TO CELEBRATE!

We've got two wonderful reasons to gather as a church family on Sunday, July 13—and we hope you'll join us for both!

During worship at First Church, we'll honor Diane Parrish, who is retiring after nearly 16 years of faithfully caring for the littlest ones in our church as Nursery Supervisor. A reception will follow worship, in Fellowship Hall. Help us thank Diane by bringing a card or note of gratitude—or drop it off at the church office by July 13.

Later that day, we'll gather again at 1:00 PM at the Paris Campus for a sweet time of connection at our All-Campus Ice Cream Social. No program. No agenda. Just ice cream, good conversation, and the joy of being together. Whether you've been part of UMMMC for years or are just finding your place, you are welcome here.

FINAL CAMP CHAOS IS JULY 16!

It's hard to believe, but the final night of Camp Chaos is almost here! On Tuesday, July 16, we'll wrap up this wild, wonderful journey with one more evening of fun, faith, and connection.

We are so grateful to the incredible volunteers who have made each week a joy—offering their time, energy, and creativity to help kids encounter the love of Jesus in the middle of the chaos. Thank you for making this ministry possible!

Everyone is invited to join us on the 16th as we close out Camp Chaos with gratitude and celebration. Whether you've been here every week or are joining us for the first time, there's still room for you at the party!

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.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 13

9:00AM - Worship @ Paris Campus  
10:00AM - Worship @ First Church Campus  
11AM - Retirement Celebration for Diane Parrish @ First Church  
11AM - Worship @ Third Ave Campus  
1PM - Ice Cream Social @ Paris Campus

MONDAY, JULY 14

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, JULY 15

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave  
5:30PM - Wild Wednesday Family Party! @ First Church

THURSDAY, JULY 17

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

FRIDAY, JULY 18

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, JULY 19

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 put in the basket in Fellowship Hall, under the bulletin boards.

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Julie Setlock - Director of Family Ministry  
julie@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

Kathy Bell - Director of Congregational Care  
kathy@ummecosta.org - (231) 224-6177

Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor / Campus Pastor @ First  
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 224-6545

Week of July 13 - July 19, 2025

Family News

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS - GOD WITH US



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 13, 2025

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

### \* Call to Worship

Come, all who are weary— all who carry questions, doubts, griefs, and hopes too heavy to hold alone.

*We come to meet the One who understands. We come to the Christ who has walked this road before us.*

God did not stay far off in unreachable glory but drew near in the person of Jesus—fully divine, fully human.

*He knew laughter and loneliness, joy and pain. He knows what it is to be us.*

So come—just as you are. Not to impress, not to perform, but to be met by love.

*We come to worship the God who gets us, and who is still with us— Emmanuel, God with us.*

Let us worship with hope, for Christ meets us here.

\* **Hymn** - “To God Be the Glory”, UMH #98

## Retirement Recognition

## Special Presentation

**Scripture Reading** - Philippians 2:5-8 & Hebrews 4:14-16 (NRSVUE)  
The word of God, for the people of God. *Thanks be to God!*

**Hymn** - “Jesus, Remember Me”, UMH #488

**Message** - “The Humanity of Jesus: God With Us”

## Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord’s Prayer

\* **“The Doxology”**, UMH #95

\* **Hymn** - “Lord of the Dance”, UMH #261, vs. 1 - 4

## \* Benediction

\* **Hymn** - “Lord of the Dance”, UMH #261, vs. 5

## Postlude

\*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

*Altar flowers are given in honor of our Camp Chaos Volunteers*

## NOTES:



Check In Here

## SERVING TODAY - JULY 13

Reader: Marlene Rodgers  
Ushers: Colin and Roberta Cline  
Greeter: Pete Jensen  
Nursery: Beth Bejcek, Liberty Beam  
Sunday School: Larisa Draves, Brenda Chaffee  
Fellowship Host: Marlene Rodgers

## SERVING NEXT WEEK - JULY 20

Preacher: Ray Setlock  
Reader: Doug Fitzgerald  
Ushers: Mike and Jana Pisani  
Greeter: Kathi Parker  
Nursery: Paige Madden, TBD  
Sunday School: Kathi Parker, Laurie Daniels  
Fellowship Host: Pat Little

## 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](http://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](http://bigrapidsfirst.org/firstvisit).

If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

## THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

Jesus didn't just understand humanity from a distance—He became human. The One who breathed stars into being also knew what it felt like to be exhausted, to be tempted, to laugh with friends and weep at gravesides.

In Jesus, we don't meet a God who asks us to transcend our humanity to find holiness. We meet a God who sanctifies the ordinary and walks beside us in the dirt, the sweat, the beauty, and the ache of life.

The humanity of Jesus isn't a theological footnote—it's the heart of the good news. It means that your emotions, your struggles, your story, your body—all of it—is not outside God's concern. It is where God shows up.

## Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to you that Jesus experienced pain, joy, grief, and longing—just like you?
- When have you been tempted to hide your full self from God? What would it look like to bring it all instead?
- How might recognizing Jesus' full humanity change the way you see others—and their dignity, struggle, and sacred worth?

## Prayer for This Week

God-With-Us, you did not stay far off, wrapped in glory and unbothered by the mess. You entered our story—our flesh, our fatigue, our fears—and called it holy ground. Help us to see our own lives through your eyes: worthy of love, full of meaning, and never beyond your reach. Teach us to walk with others as you walk with us—with empathy, grace, and presence. Amen.

## Final Thought

Jesus didn't just come to rescue humanity—He came to join it. And that means no part of your life is too small, too messy, or too human to be sacred.

## NEXT WEEK - JULY 20 - SPECIAL OFFERING

Get ready to make some noise! On Sunday, July 20, 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!

**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!**