

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.

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!

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.

What's Happening

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

12PM - 6PM - Red Cross Blood Drive @ Downtown Campus

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

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 UMMMC, 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 18 - October 24, 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 18, 2026

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

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

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

We come carrying stories of grace, hurt, mercy, and memory.
God meets us with compassion.

We come knowing forgiveness is not always simple,
and healing does not happen on command.

Still, Christ invites us beyond resentment and scorekeeping.
Grace has been given to us; grace can keep shaping us.

Here, we remember that mercy is stronger than vengeance,
and that love can make a way toward freedom.

Come, let us worship the God whose grace meets us first.
And let us open ourselves to the difficult, healing work of mercy.

*** Hymn**

Praises and Prayers

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

Scripture Reading - Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSVUE)

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

Hymn

Message - “How many times must I forgive?” - Kate Hanna

*** 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 UMMMMC. Thank you for your continued support!

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY

This Sunday is Laity Appreciation Sunday, and although I will not be with you in person at Paris, I do not want the day to pass without saying clearly how grateful I am for the many ways you serve.

The ministry of the church has never belonged exclusively to pastors. It belongs to the whole people of God. Every time someone prepares the sanctuary, welcomes a neighbor, helps with worship, offers care to someone who is hurting, gives generously, serves behind the scenes, prays faithfully, solves a problem, or simply notices what needs to be done and does it, ministry is happening.

At Paris, so much of that ministry happens quietly and faithfully. It happens because people show up, care for one another, tend to the needs of the church, and help create a community where people can worship, belong, and grow. Some of that work is visible every Sunday. Much of it is not. All of it matters.

So on Laity Appreciation Sunday, please hear this from me: thank you. Thank you for your time, your gifts, your prayers, your generosity, your leadership, and your care for one another. Thank you for continuing to be the church not only when we gather for worship, but throughout the week in your homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and community.

My prayer is that we continue to remember that each of us has a part in the work God is doing. We do not all serve in the same way, and we are not all called to the same tasks, but every gift matters. May we continue to co-operate with the Holy Spirit, encourage one another, and faithfully share the love of Christ wherever we are.

With gratitude for each of you,
Pastor Jeremy