

HOLY WEEK / EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

We invite you to walk through Holy Week with us as we reflect on Christ's journey to the cross and the joy of resurrection morning. Please note the change in location for the Good Friday activities and the addition of Community Choir Rehearsal on 4/17.

April 17 – Holy Thursday

3:30PM - Community Choir Rehearsal @ United Church

5:30PM – Dinner (RSVP to barbara@ummecosta.org by April 15th)

6:30PM - Holy Thursday Worship @ First Church

April 18 – Good Friday

10:30AM – Community Choir Rehearsal @ Immanuel Lutheran

12PM – Worship @ Immanuel Lutheran

April 20 – Easter Sunday

7AM - Sunrise Service @ Hemlock Park (meet in the first lot)

9AM – Easter Breakfast @ First

9AM – Easter Worship @ Paris

10AM – Easter Worship @ First

11AM – Easter Worship @ Third Ave

EASTER CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

First Church Choir will be singing on Easter Sunday, with Millie Gillies directing, and we'd love to have you join us in filling the sanctuary with joyful music! The Choral Introit will be "Christ Is Risen, Sing Alleluia" and the Anthem will be "Hallelujah! Resurrection Day!" We'll rehearse on Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM in the Music Room at First Church.

We know it's Holy Week — a sacred, busy, and full stretch of days. There are lots of opportunities to worship and reflect, and it can feel like too much at times. If your soul is calling you to rehearse with the choir instead of attending one of the extra services, that's okay. Sometimes, singing is the best way to pray. So sing your heart out, and let the music carry you through the week.

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING – COMMUNITY MEAL

This year's Easter Special Offering will go to support the Community Meal Ministry. Based at our First Church Campus, this initiative aims to provide nourishing meals and foster fellowship among community members throughout the year.

The Community Meal Ministry has been a cornerstone of local outreach, offering free dinners every Thursday at First Church's Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 4:30 PM for fellowship, with dinner served from 5:30 to 6:00 PM. These gatherings offer an opportunity for neighbors to enjoy a hearty meal and connect with one another.

The Easter special offering seeks to support these efforts, ensuring that the Community Meal Ministry can continue its mission. Contributions will help cover meal and supply costs. Contributions can be made online @ ummecosta.org/give, by putting a check in the offering plate on Easter Sunday with "Special Offering" in the note line, or by completing an offering envelope and placing it in any of our offering plates.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

9AM - Worship Celebration @ Paris Campus

10AM - Worship Celebration @ First Church Campus

Coffee / Fellowship Immediately Following Worship

11AM - Worship Celebration @ Third Ave Campus

MONDAY, APRIL 14

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

7PM - Book Study - "Entering the Passion of Jesus" @ United Church

7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal @ First Church

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

3:30PM - Community Choir Rehearsal @ United Church

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ First Church

6:30PM - Holy Thursday Worship @ First Church

7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

10:30AM - Community Choir Rehearsal @ Immanuel Lutheran

12PM - Good Friday Worship Service @ Immanuel Lutheran

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

**UPDATED DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE
AT ALL THREE CAMPUSES!**

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

Ray Setlock - Campus Pastor @ Paris & Third Ave

ray@ummecosta.org - (231) 224-6520

Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor / Campus Pastor @ First Church

jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 224-6545

Week of April 13 - April 19, 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

Director of Administrative Services: Barbara Erb (barbara@ummecosta.org)

PARIS UMC

109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
Worship @ 9AM

FIRST CHURCH

304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
www.bigrapidsfirst.org
Worship @ 10AM
Fellowship @ 11AM

THIRD AVENUE UMC

226 North Third Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Worship @ 11AM

Order of Worship - April 13, 2025

Prelude

* **Processional Hymn** - "All Glory, Laud, and Honor", UMH #280

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest! We welcome our King with praise!

But what kind of King do we welcome? A ruler of power and might?
*We welcome the King of Humility, the Prince of Peace,
the Savior who ushers in the Kingdom of God!*

Let us lay down our expectations and open our hearts. Let us
prepare the way for Jesus—not just with palm branches, but with
lives surrendered to His reign.
*We come to worship the King we did not expect,
but the King we truly need.*

Hosanna! Come, let us worship Christ!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

* **Hymn** - "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!", UMH #278

Children's Message

Scripture Reading - Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSVUE)
The word of God, for the people of God. *Thanks be to God!*

Hymn - "All Hail King Jesus!", TFWS #2069

Message - "The King We Did Not Expect"

The Lord's Prayer

* **"The Doxology"**, UMH #95

* **Hymn** - "Come, Christians, Join to Sing", UMH #158, vs 1 - 2

* Benediction

* **Hymn** - "Come, Christians, Join to Sing", UMH #158, vs 3

Postlude

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

*Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren St Lobby
immediately following service.*

Altar flowers are given in memory of Jeramy King's 45th Birthday.

NOTES:



Check In Here

SERVING TODAY - APRIL 13

Reader: Marlene Rodgers
Ushers: Colin and Roberta Cline
Greeter: Pete Jensen
Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock, Brenda Chaffee
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Jana Pisani
Fellowship Host: Peggy Surma

SERVING NEXT WEEK - APRIL 20

Reader: Rick Hult
Ushers: Mike and Jana Pisani
Greeter: Kathi Parker
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Kati Wheeler

REMINDER - EASTER BREAKFAST - 9AM FELLOWSHIP HALL @ FIRST CHURCH

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) - 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.

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

Palm Sunday is a day of celebration, but also of challenge. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds welcomed Him with joy, expecting a king who would overthrow their oppressors. But Jesus came in humility, riding on a donkey, not to conquer by force, but to save through love and sacrifice. Do we follow Jesus as He truly is, or only when He meets our expectations?

Reflection Questions

- What expectations do I place on Jesus? Do I follow Him for who He is or for what I want Him to be?
- How do I respond when Jesus challenges me instead of affirming my plans?
- What might it look like to lay down my own "cloak"—my pride, fears, or agenda—to fully embrace Jesus as King?

A Prayer for the Week

Jesus, you are the King I did not expect, but the King I truly need. Help me to welcome You into my life, not just with words of praise, but with a heart of surrender. Teach me to trust You, even when Your way is different from my own. Lead me in humility, love, and faithfulness this Holy Week. Amen.

Final Thought

Palm Sunday invites us to move from celebration to commitment. As we journey through Holy Week, let us not only wave palm branches but also lay down our lives in surrender, trusting Jesus as our true King.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME THIS SPRING!

We'd love to invite you to take the next step and officially become part of our church family! This spring, United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County will be welcoming new members at each of our campuses: First Church – Sunday, April 20 & Paris / Third Avenue – Sunday, May 18.

Joining the church is more than a ceremony—it's saying yes to a shared mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's a commitment to grow spiritually, to serve others, and to walk with a community that strives to follow Jesus with grace, courage, and love.

If you're curious about membership or want to know more about what it means to join, contact the church office or speak with Pastor Jeremy. *If the dates above do not work for you, we can work with that also!*

APRIL PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY NEEDS LIST:

- paper towel (individually wrapped)
- Laundry Detergent
- cleaning supplies
- adult toothpaste
- shampoo
- conditioner
- deodorant

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!