

## CELEBRATING REV. KIM BOS

On Sunday, June 21, we will take time during worship and fellowship hour to celebrate Kim's ministry and offer our thanks as she and her family prepare for their new adventure with First United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant. We invite you to join us for this special celebration. Please consider bringing a card, note, or written word of appreciation to share with Kim and her family. Whether you have known her for many years or have simply been inspired by her ministry, your encouragement will be a meaningful gift as they make this transition.

Come help us celebrate, give thanks, and send Kim and her family with our love, prayers, and best wishes for the journey ahead.

## TABLE TALK: FAITH, POLITICS, AND FOLLOWING JESUS

What does it mean to follow Jesus in a time when faith and politics are often deeply intertwined? Beginning Wednesday, July 1, our regular Table Talk gathering will become a five-week book discussion centered on *The Flag + The Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy* by Philip Gorski and Samuel Perry. We will meet Wednesdays at noon through July 29 at the Downtown Campus.

In *The Flag + The Cross*, the authors explore the history and influence of white Christian nationalism in the United States and examine how it differs from the teachings of Jesus. Through history, sociology, theology, and contemporary examples, they challenge readers to consider the relationship between faith, power, and public life while inviting Christians to reclaim a faith rooted in humility, justice, and love of neighbor.

If you've attended Table Talk before, the format will feel familiar. Bring your lunch, bring your book, and join the conversation. This will be an opportunity to gather around the table, share perspectives, ask questions, and learn from one another, so whether you are curious about the topic, looking to deepen your understanding, or simply enjoy thoughtful conversation, you are welcome to join us. Books are available for \$10 each. To reserve a copy, please contact Barb in the church office by June 25 so that we can order enough books for everyone.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRIDE: BIG RAPIDS

On Sunday, June 28, UMMMC will once again participate in Pride: Big Rapids, and we are looking for volunteers to help staff our booth throughout the event. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall.

Why do we participate? Because we believe every person is created in the image of God and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. As an inclusive and affirming congregation, we want our LGBTQIA+ neighbors to know that there are churches where they are not merely welcomed, but celebrated as beloved members of God's family.

Our presence at Pride is an opportunity to listen, build relationships, share who we are, and offer a visible reminder that faith and affirmation can coexist. For many people, a conversation at Pride may be their first positive interaction with a church in years—or ever. You don't need to be an expert. You simply need to be willing to offer a smile, extend hospitality, answer questions about our church, and help create a welcoming presence in our community. If you are willing to serve for part of the day, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Together, we can help ensure that our neighbors know they are loved, valued, and welcome.

## PARIS CAMPUS WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Beginning June 14, the Paris Campus will return to a 9:00 AM worship time. This change will allow Pastor Jeremy to be present and preach at Paris more regularly while strengthening connections across UMMMC. Pastor Jeremy will typically preach on the second and fourth Sundays each month, with Dave Hanna, Kate Hanna, and Ray Setlock leading worship on other Sundays.

## What's Happening

### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

9:30AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus  
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus  
11:15AM - UMMMC Family Meeting & Potluck @ Downtown Campus

### TUESDAY, JUNE 9

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus  
10AM - Worship Design Team @ Downtown Campus

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

10AM - SOUL Circle @ Downtown Campus  
11AM - Worship Planning @ North Campus  
5:30PM - "Purpose Driven Life" Dinner / Book Study @ North Campus

### THURSDAY, JUNE 11

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

### FRIDAY, JUNE 12

2PM - Block Party @ Downtown Campus

## FAMILY MEETING & POTLUCK - JUNE 7

On Sunday, June 7, we'll gather for a UMMMC Family Meeting and Potluck immediately following worship at our downtown campus. This is one of the key ways we come together as a whole church—to connect, share a meal, and stay engaged in the life and direction of our ministry. You'll hear updates about what's happening across our campuses and where we're headed next. Everyone is invited, and if you're able to bring a dish to pass, it's always appreciated. Make plans to stay and be part of the conversation!

## SENIOR ENRICHMENT DAY - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Senior Enrichment Day will be held at Big Rapids High School on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The seminar series offered this year includes a choice of more than 40 diverse educational sessions, providing a "one-stop shop" for vital information for seniors. Options include fitness classes, painting, long-term care, and financial planning options, help with Medicare, Veteran's benefits, and more. The sessions are 45 minutes in length and are designed for seniors, their children, and caregivers. Registration materials for the Senior Enrichment Day may be found in the Information Center outside of the church office. You may also register online: [www.seniorenrichmentday.com](http://www.seniorenrichmentday.com)

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Barbara Erb - Director of Administrative Services  
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Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor  
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To schedule an appointment with Pastor Jeremy, contact Barbara Erb or schedule online @ [calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta](https://calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta)

Week of June 7 - June 13, 2026

# Family News



## UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES OF MECOSTA COUNTY

304 ELM STREET, BIG RAPIDS MI 49307 • (231) 796-7771 • [WWW.UMMECOSTA.ORG](http://WWW.UMMECOSTA.ORG)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRIDAY, 9AM - 3PM  
PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 9AM - 12PM & 12:30PM - 3PM

### NORTH CAMPUS - PARIS

109 Lincoln St  
Paris, MI 49338  
[ummecosta.org/paris](http://ummecosta.org/paris)

Worship Gathering  
in-person  
Sundays @ 9:30AM

### DOWNTOWN CAMPUS - FIRST

304 Elm Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
[bigrapidsfirst.org](http://bigrapidsfirst.org)

Worship Gathering  
in-person and online  
Sundays @ 10AM

# Order of Worship - June 7, 2026

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

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

We gather as people shaped by stories.

*Stories of where we have been, who we are, and what we believe is possible.*

Some stories teach us fear. Some stories teach us rivalry, suspicion, and separation. Some stories ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

*But Jesus tells a better story.*

A story of mercy instead of violence.

*A story of connection instead of division.*

A story of love instead of fear.

*A story where there is no "them," only us.*

So we come with open hearts.

*Ready to listen, ready to learn, ready to be changed.  
May Love become the story we live.*

### \* Hymn - "This is My Father's World", UMH #144

## Children's Message

### Old Testament Reading - Genesis 4:1-16 (NRSVUE)

### Hymn - "Jesu, Jesu", UMH #432

### New Testament Reading - Mark 1:14-15 (NRSVUE)

### Message - "The Seventh Story: The Stories We Live By"

## Celebration of Communion

### \* The Doxology, UMH #95

### \* Hymn - "For the Healing of the Nations", UMH #428, vss. 1-3

### \* Blessing and Sending

### \* Hymn - "For the Healing of the Nations", UMH #428, vs. 4

## Postlude

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of Paige and Charles Madden's 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Jim and Marlene Rodger's 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*

\* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

# 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](http://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 - JUNE 7

Reader: Emmanuel Jadhav

Ushers: Pat & Marion Williamson, Joann Haist

Greeter: Nancy Spedowski

Nursery: Sarah DeLany, Julie Tessin

Fellowship Host: Family Meeting & Potluck

Communion Stewards: Marlene Rodgers, Cheryl Richardson

Organist: Shirley Jernstadt

Accompanist: Kathy Bell

Tech Team: Ken Draves, Gary Poole

## SERVING NEXT WEEK - JUNE 14

Reader: Beth Bejcek

Ushers: Colin & Roberta Cline

Greeter: Pete Jensen

Nursery: Sarah DeLany, Char Fitch

Fellowship Host: Pat Little

## THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK: THE STORIES WE LIVE BY

This Sunday, we begin our new sermon series, *The Seventh Story*, by thinking about the stories we live by.

Stories are powerful. They shape how we see ourselves, how we see our neighbors, how we see the world, and even how we understand God. Some stories teach us fear. Some teach us suspicion. Some teach us that life is a competition and that peace only comes when "we" are protected from "them."

But from the beginning, Jesus has been inviting us into a better story.

This week, pay attention to the stories you hear and the stories you tell. Notice the language around you. Notice the assumptions beneath your reactions. Notice when you are tempted to divide the world into "us" and "them." Then ask: Is this the story Jesus is telling?

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What story has shaped the way I see myself?
- What story has shaped the way I see people who are different from me?
- Where do I notice "us and them" thinking in my own heart?
- What would change if I believed, more deeply, that I am my neighbor's keeper?

## PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Before reacting to a person, headline, post, conflict, or conversation, pause and ask: *What story am I being invited to live right now?* Then take one small step toward the story of Jesus: mercy instead of fear, curiosity instead of judgment, connection instead of division, love instead of rivalry.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*God of love, help us notice the stories that shape us. Where fear has narrowed our vision, open our hearts. Where rivalry has distorted our relationships, teach us mercy. Where we have divided the world into "us" and "them," remind us that we belong to one another. Let the story of Jesus take root in us this week, so that Love becomes the story we live. Amen.*

## JUNE SPECIAL GIVING: PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Throughout June, our special giving focus is Peace with Justice Sunday, one of The United Methodist Church's denomination-wide special offerings. Peace with Justice supports ministries that address the root causes of conflict, injustice, and oppression. Gifts help fund efforts that promote peace, advocate for justice, and equip communities to create lasting change both locally and around the world.

As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to pray for peace but to work toward a world where all people can experience dignity, opportunity, and hope. Peace with Justice Sunday reminds us that peace and justice are deeply connected, and that our faith calls us to participate in God's work of healing and reconciliation.

Special offering envelopes are available in worship, or you may designate your gift as "Peace with Justice." Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make a difference in the lives of others.

**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!**