

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 worshipping 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
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Kathy Bell - Director of Congregational Care
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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

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

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

*** 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**

Remembering the Saints

Praises and Prayers

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

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

Hymn

Message - “Echoes: Remembering Their Faith”, Rev. Jeremy Wicks

Celebration of Communion

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

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 Ayriss
- 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.