

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!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 24**, we will celebrate Graduation Sunday during worship as we recognize and bless the graduates connected to our church family. Graduation is an important milestone, not only for students and their families, but for the whole congregation. It gives us the chance to give thanks for the hard work, growth, perseverance, and many gifts of those who are beginning a new chapter.

If you or someone in your family is graduating this year from high school, college, graduate school, trade school, or another program, we would love to include them in this celebration. Please contact Barb in the church office no later than May 17 with the graduate's name, school, degree or program, and any future plans you would like to share.

PHOTO DIRECTORY - HAPPENING NOW!

As we continue growing together as United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County, we're excited to create our very first photo directory!

Photos will be taken each Sunday in May during fellowship time after worship at the Downtown Campus. There will be a Saturday photo session at the North (Paris) Campus on **May 16, from 10AM - 11AM**. We hope everyone will take advantage of whichever opportunity works best for them. There's no need to sign up—just stop by the photo area when you're ready. Photos can be taken for individuals, couples, or families.

We're grateful to Gary Poole for serving as our photographer. If you'd like printed copies of your photo, Gary will have prints available for purchase directly through him—no pressure, just an option if you're interested. Print sizes will include 8×10, 11×14, and 16×20.

A few simple tips to help your photo turn out well:

- Dress neatly—no need to be formal
- Solid, medium to darker colors tend to photograph best
- Couples and families may want to coordinate colors
- Photos will be taken from the waist up

We're looking forward to creating something that helps strengthen connection across our whole church community!

What's Happening

SUNDAY, MAY 17

9:30AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus
Fellowship / Coffee Hour immediately following worship
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus
Fellowship / Coffee Hour immediately following worship

TUESDAY, MAY 19

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

10AM - SOUL Circle @ Downtown Campus
11AM - *Embracing an Adverbial Faith* Discussion Group @ Downtown Campus
12PM - Table Talk @ Downtown Campus
5:30PM - "Purpose Driven Life" Dinner / Book Study @ North Campus
5:30PM - Euchre Night @ Downtown Campus
6PM - Praise Team Rehearsal @ Downtown Campus

THURSDAY, MAY 21

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

READERS NEEDED FOR HYMN SING SERVICE

On **Sunday, May 31**, we will have a special Hymn Sing service at the **First Church Campus**. As part of the service, we will need several readers to help lead different portions of worship. If you would be willing to serve as a reader that morning, please contact the church office or let Pastor Jeremy know. This will be a meaningful way to help lead the congregation in worship as we sing, pray, and celebrate the hymns that have helped shape our faith.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Paden Clevenger - Director of Family Ministries & Community Outreach
paden@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

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

To schedule an appointment with Pastor Jeremy, contact Barbara Erb or schedule online @ calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta

Week of May 17 - May 23, 2026

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 OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 9AM - 12PM & 12:30PM - 3PM

NORTH CAMPUS - PARIS

109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
ummecosta.org/paris

Worship Gathering
in-person
Sundays @ 9:30AM

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS - FIRST

304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
bigrapidsfirst.org

Worship Gathering
in-person and online
Sundays @ 10AM

Order of Worship - May 17, 2026

"This is the Day" Call and Response - Gordon Mallett

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

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

From the beginning of our days to the fullness of our years,
God carries us.

In every season of life, through change, weakness, joy, and struggle,
God sustains us.

The world tells us to chase youth, strength, and what cannot last,
But God offers life that does not fade.

Come, all who are young, all who are aging, and all who are
somewhere in between.
*We come to worship the One who has made us, bears us,
and saves us.*

* **Hymn**

Praises and Prayers

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

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 46:4

Reader: The word of God, for the people of God.
People: *Thanks be to God!*

* **Hymn**

Message - "The Fountain of Youth"- Ray Setlock

Silent Prayer of Reflection

Offering

* **The Doxology**, UMH #95

* **Hymn**

* **Benediction**

Postlude

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

NOTES:

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.

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

This week's message, "The Fountain of Youth," is based on Isaiah 46:4, where God promises, "I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." As you reflect this week, consider:

- What does it mean to trust that God carries us through every season of life?
- Where do you feel pressure to be stronger, younger, healthier, or more "put together" than you really are?
- How might your faith deepen when you remember that God's care does not expire with age, weakness, or change?

Prayer for the Week:

God who carries us, remind us that we do not have to chase what fades. Help us trust your steady love in every season of life. Amen.

MAY MISSION FOCUS: UMC STUDENT SUNDAY

Each May, we join United Methodist churches across the connection in supporting UMC Student Sunday, an offering that invests directly in students pursuing higher education and discerning their call in the world.

Through the work of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, every dollar given funds scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and seminary students, helping ease financial burdens and open doors that might otherwise remain closed. This is one of the ways we live out our connectional commitment—pooling our resources to make a meaningful impact beyond our local church.

More than just financial support, this offering is a tangible reminder to students that the Church believes in them and is committed to their future. Throughout the month of May, we invite you to prayerfully consider giving, knowing that your generosity helps shape leaders who will carry forward the work of faith, justice, and service in the world.

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!



Check In Here