

UMMMC ICE CREAM SOCIAL - DATE CHANGE!!!

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual UMMC Ice Cream Social, happening Sunday, **August 9, at 1PM** at our Paris Campus! This is an opportunity to gather as one church, welcome our neighbors, strengthen community connections, help local students begin the new school year with confidence - and eat ice cream!

This year, we are partnering with Angels of Action to offer a school supply giveaway during the event. We may need to supplement the supplies provided, so watch for more information about specific items that may be needed and additional ways you can support this important outreach.

Volunteers will be needed to help with preparation, setup, serving, welcoming guests, the school supply giveaway, cleanup, and all the little details that make an event feel special. Whether you can help before the event, during the afternoon, or afterward, your participation will make a difference. To volunteer, please contact Jane Pedelty (Paris) or Paden Clevenger, Director of Family Ministry and Community Outreach.

JULY MISSION GIVING: OUR BROTHERS KEEPER

Throughout July, our mission giving will support Our Brother's Keeper, Big Rapids' shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. OBK offers more than a safe place to sleep. Guests receive meals, showers, clean clothing, compassionate support, and assistance as they work toward stable housing and greater self-sufficiency.

At a time when the need for emergency housing continues to grow—including among families with children and older adults—this ministry provides safety, dignity, and hope to some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you for giving generously and helping Our Brother's Keeper remind every guest that they are not alone.

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.

What's Happening

SUNDAY, JULY 5

9AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus

TUESDAY, JULY 7

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

11AM - Planning Meeting @ North Campus
12PM - Table Talk: Politics & Following Jesus @ Downtown Campus

THURSDAY, JULY 9

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

WORSHIPPING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL @ FIRST CHURCH

We know the space may feel a little tight, but with patience, flexibility, and a spirit of hospitality, we can make it work! Please help us welcome one another, make room for guests, and embrace the opportunity to worship together in a more relaxed and connected setting. It may be cozy—but there is room for everyone!

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE / STAFF AVAILABILITY

The UMMC office will be closed from Monday, June 29, through Monday, July 6. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, July 7. During this time, please call the main office number. Calls and messages will be routed to Pastor Jeremy or the appropriate available person.

Please note the following periods of individual staff unavailability:

- Barbara Erb, Director of Administrative Services, and Gary Erb, Director of Building and Property, will be unavailable from June 30 through July 6.
- Kathy Bell, Director of Congregational Care, will be unavailable from July 2 through July 8.
- Paden Clevenger, Director of Family Ministries and Community Outreach, will be unavailable July 2 through July 5.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this holiday week.

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 @ calendar.com/jeremy-ummecosta

Week of July 5 - July 11, 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 - July 5, 2026

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

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

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

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

The Lord Jesus Christ calls us to be free,
We stand firm in the Gospel of Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ calls us to be free,
We are led by the Spirit of Christ,

We are no longer governed by the Law,
*We are saved by the grace of God, through
the resurrection of Jesus.*

* **Hymn**

Praises and Prayers

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

Scripture Reading - Galatians 5:1-21

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

* **Hymn**

Message - "Let Freedom Ring", Dave Hanna

Silent Prayer of Reflection

Offering

* **The Doxology, UMH #95**

* **Hymn**

* **Benediction**

Postlude

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

SCRIPTURE - GALATIANS 5:1-21

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. 11 Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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!