

## PHOTO DIRECTORY COMING SOON

As we continue growing together as United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County, we're excited to create our very first photo directory—an opportunity to help us better connect names and faces across our two campuses.

Photos will be taken each Sunday in May during fellowship time after worship at the downtown campus. Members from the Paris campus are encouraged to join us there, and we will also host a dedicated Saturday photo session at the Paris campus to make participation more accessible for everyone.

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 for this project. 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!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have a few opportunities for those looking to get more involved in the life of our church:

- **Landscape Coordinator** – We're looking for someone to organize and lead a team that cares for the flower beds, landscaping, including the Memorial Garden, at our Downtown Campus. This role is about coordination and team building, not doing all the work yourself—and no, mowing the lawn is not required, unless you really want it to be!
- **Community Meal Cook** – We're looking to add at least one more cook to the team that prepares meals for our neighbors on Thursdays. This is a hands-on way to make a direct impact and help extend hospitality to our neighbors.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, or just want to learn more, please reach out to Pastor Jeremy. There's a place for you to connect and make a difference.

## BOOK STUDY: THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

You're invited to join a six-week book study on *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, on Wednesdays, May 6 - June 10. This study will explore questions of meaning, calling, and how we live out our faith in everyday life. The evening will begin with dinner at 5:30PM, followed by the study from 6:00–7:30PM. If you'd like to participate, please contact Barbara Erb in the church office to register by May 1.

## KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN...

We're already looking ahead to one of the sweetest events of the summer—our Ice Cream Social, coming soon to the Paris campus. Last year was a wonderful success, filled with great conversation, lots of laughter, and (of course) plenty of delicious ice cream. More details are coming soon, but for now... keep your eyes open. You won't want to miss it!

## What's Happening

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

9:30AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus  
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus  
11:15AM - Fellowship / Coffee Hour @ First Church (Downtown) Campus  
11:15AM - Wild Wednesday Planning @ First Church (Downtown) Campus

### TUESDAY, APRIL 28

9AM - Ministry Staff Team Meeting @ Downtown Campus

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

10AM - SOUL Circle @ Downtown Campus  
11AM - *Embracing an Adverbial Faith* Discussion Group @ Downtown Campus  
12PM - Table Talk @ Downtown Campus

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

## WILD WEDNESDAY PLANNING MEETING – APRIL 26

This is our first call for volunteers for Wild Wednesday—our signature summer children's ministry experience—and we'd love to have you involved. Join us for a planning meeting on April 26, immediately following worship at First Church. Whether you've served before or are stepping in for the first time, your voice and presence matter as we begin shaping this summer's ministry. If you have questions or want to learn more, please connect with Paden Clevenger, our Director of Family Ministries and Community Outreach.

## MIDWEEK CONVERSATION: EMBRACING AN ADVERBIAL FAITH

Join us on Wednesdays at 11AM beginning April 15 at our Downtown Campus for a weekly gathering centered on the themes we're exploring in worship—what it means to be formed as disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. There's no book to purchase and no prep required—just show up and be part of the conversation. (*Table Talk is immediately following, so bring your lunch if you'd like to stay and participate!*)

## 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!

## 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](https://calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta)

Week of April 26 - May 2, 2026

# Family News

## UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES OF MECOSTA COUNTY

304 ELM STREET, BIG RAPIDS MI 49307 • (231) 796-7771 • WWW.UUMMECOSTA.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 - April 26, 2026

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

## Welcome & Announcements

**Musical Meditation** - Ed Mallett

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

Come, even if you're not sure what you believe today.  
Come, even if your faith feels strong and steady.  
Come, even if your questions are louder than your answers.

*The Risen Christ meets us behind locked doors,  
not to shame our doubts, but to stand among us in peace.  
Christ invites us to see, to touch, to wrestle, to trust.*

So take heart, all who hope in the Lord—be strong and courageous.  
There is room here for faith, and there is room here for doubt.

*Come, let us worship the One who meets us exactly where we are.*

\* **Hymn**

## Praises and Prayers

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

**Scripture Reading** - John 20: 24-29; Ps. 31:24 (NIV)

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

\* **Hymn**

**Message** - "Room for Doubt"- Kate Hanna

## Silent Prayer of Reflection

## Offering

\* **The Doxology**, UMH #95

\* **Hymn**

\* **Benediction**

## Postlude

\* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## NOTES:



Check In Here

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

### JOHN 20:24-29

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### PSALM 31:24

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

### MAY MISSION FOCUS:

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!**