

FRIENDSGIVING AT PARIS

Last year’s gathering was so warm and joy-filled that we just had to do it again. We hope you plan to stay after worship TODAY for our 2nd Annual Friendsgiving celebration! We’ll be serving a delicious hot breakfast buffet, and everyone is welcome to pull up a chair and join in the table fellowship. If you enjoy baking and would like to bring a treat to share, we’d love it. But most importantly, just bring yourself.

This is a time to celebrate friendship, church family, gratitude, and the gift of doing life together. We can’t wait to gather around the table with you!

HELP DECK THE HALLS AT PARIS!

Get ready for twinkling lights, evergreen cheer, and the start of a beautiful Advent season. On **Saturday, November 29 from 3-5pm**, we’ll gather to decorate the Paris campus for Christmas. This is always a fun time of laughter, fellowship, and shared creativity as we get our space ready for the joy and wonder of the season. Whether you love hanging wreaths, fluffing garland, or cheering from the cocoa table, there’s a spot for you. And because no holiday season is complete without a soundtrack, bring your favorite Christmas song requests as we kick off the season together! Come help make our church glow with the spirit of Advent. We’d love to see you there.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

As we enter this season of hope and generosity, UMMMC is once again adopting families in our community. We will be providing gifts for one or two families this year, and there will be opportunities for everyone to participate. More information will be included in next week’s newsletter, and details will also be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall at the First Church Campus. Thank you for helping us share love, dignity, and hope with our neighbors this Christmas.

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 13 @ 5:30PM

Everyone from all UMMMC campuses is invited to our Adult Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, at 5:30PM at the First Church Campus. This event is designed for adults to relax and enjoy an evening together; childcare will be provided on-site.

We'll share a lasagna dinner (beef, seafood, and vegetable options). Please bring a salad or dessert to add to the meal, if you are able.

We'll also have a White Elephant Gift Exchange - just bring one wrapped gift (new, used, or regifted). If bringing a gift is a burden for any reason, please let Pastor Jeremy know, and we will have a wrapped gift ready for you so that everyone can participate.

If you need a ride to the event, please let us know. We want everyone to be able to join us.

Please RSVP by Sunday, December 7 by emailing or calling Barb in the church office or by signing up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Volunteers are also needed for set-up on December 12.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:30AM - Worship @ Paris Campus
Friends-giving Breakfast Immediately Following Worship
10:00AM - Worship @ First Church Campus
Fellowship & Coffee immediately After Worship, Fellowship Hall

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE UMMMC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THIS WEEK IN CELEBRATION OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave
3PM - “Deck the Halls” Decorating and Potluck @ Paris

POTLUCK & FAMILY MEETING

Join us **Sunday, November 30, at 11:15 AM (First Church)** for a potluck lunch and UMMMC Family Meeting. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited, and no RSVP is necessary!

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Julie Setlock - *Director of Family Ministry*
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Kathy Bell - *Director of Congregational Care*
kathy@ummecosta.org - (231) 224-6177

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 November 23 - November 29, 2025

Family News



Works In Progress
Romans 6: 15-23 (NIV)

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 - November 23, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*** Call to Worship** (Leader / *People*)
We gather today as people still becoming.
Shaped, changed, and guided by the Holy One.

Not perfect, not finished, but always invited forward.
We come as works in progress, trusting grace to lead us.

In a world that pulls us toward lesser loves,
We choose again the way of life, the way of freedom.

Holy Presence, form us, renew us, and make us
instruments of your hope.
With open hearts, we rise to worship and follow. Amen.

*** Hymn** - “Take My Life, and Let it Be”, UMH #399

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

Hymn - “We are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”, UMH #418

Scripture Reading - Romans 6: 15-23 (NIV)
The word of God, for the people of God. *Thanks be to God!*

Message - “Works in Progress”, Kate Hanna

Offering

*** “The Doxology”**, UMH #95

*** Hymn** - “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”, UMH #402

*** Benediction**
*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.

DARE TO DREAM: AN ADVENT & EPIPHANY JOURNEY
This Advent, our church family is stepping into a season of holy imagination. In a world where trust feels fragile and divisions often pull us apart, Advent invites us to remember that God meets us in every longing, every question, and every hope we carry. Our new Advent–Epiphany series, *Dare to Dream*, asks us to reclaim the courage to imagine a world made whole—rooted in the visions of Isaiah, the songs of Mary, and the stories of those who welcomed Jesus into the world.

Rather than rushing toward Christmas, we’ll move through the season with intention, listening to the ancient voices who dared to believe that God’s dream for humanity was bigger than fear, violence, or despair. Each week centers on a biblical figure whose life opens a window into God’s unfolding story of hope, peace, joy, love, and courageous faith.

To help us walk more deeply through this season, we’ve created a full *Dare to Dream Daily Devotional Companion*. This devotional mirrors our weekly themes and includes:

- A daily Scripture reading (NRSVUE)
- A thoughtfully written reflection
- A spiritual practice for the day
- Three guiding questions
- A personal prayer

The devotional companion is designed to meet you wherever you are - whether you’re longing for quiet reflection, seeking a pattern to ground your day, or hoping to connect more intentionally with the meaning of Advent. Families, small groups, individuals, and even friends reading together from afar will find this devotional to be a rich and grounding resource through the season.

As we *Dare to Dream* together, may this season awaken your imagination, strengthen your faith, and remind you that God’s dream for the world - and for you - is still unfolding. We hope you’ll join us for worship, for the devotional journey, and for the shared hope that Advent brings to our community.

The devotional companion will be shared in a variety of ways:

- Daily posts on Facebook
- Emailed to those on our mailing list
- Online at www.ummecosta.org
- In print at Paris and First Church

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES
We will offer two Christmas Eve services this year as we celebrate the wonder of Christ’s birth and the light that breaks into our world.

- 5:00PM - Paris Campus, Candlelight Service
- 7:00PM - First Church Campus, Candlelight with Communion

If you’d like to volunteer to serve on Christmas Eve at either campus, please contact Pastor Jeremy or Barb in the church office

Your generosity makes a difference! To avoid any confusion in our giving systems, please make your checks out to Paris Church. Thank you for your continued support!

ALL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS INTENDED FOR 2025 GIVING MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28. GIFTS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL BE RECORDED IN THE 2026 GIVING YEAR.