

PRIDE SUNDAY

This Sunday, June 28, we join communities across the country in recognizing Pride Sunday and celebrating the lives, gifts, and sacred worth of LGBTQIA+ people.

Pride is both celebration and witness. It honors the courage of those who have lived openly, resisted exclusion, and worked for a world where every person can live with dignity, safety, and joy. It also reminds us that the work of justice and full inclusion is not finished.

At United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County, we believe that every person is created in the image of God and belongs fully in the life of the church. On Pride Sunday, we reaffirm our commitment to being an authentically inclusive and affirming community where all are welcomed, valued, and loved.

BEGINNING YEAR SIX TOGETHER

July 1 marks the beginning of the Reverend Jeremy Wicks's sixth year of pastoral leadership in Big Rapids. He first came to serve as Senior Pastor of Big Rapids First United Methodist Church and now continues that ministry as Executive Pastor of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County.

Much has changed during these years. What began as pastoral leadership within one congregation has grown into the shared ministry of UMMMC, with a common vision for inclusive worship, faithful discipleship, compassionate service, and meaningful engagement with the wider community. Pastor Jeremy has helped guide the church through seasons of change, challenge, discernment, and new possibility. His ministry has emphasized that the church is at its best when it welcomes all people, builds authentic relationships, cares for its neighbors, and has the courage to take bold steps in response to God's call.

As Pastor Jeremy begins his sixth year among us, we give thanks for his leadership, his commitment to the people and communities of Mecosta County, and the many ways our shared ministry continues to grow and evolve.

We look forward to another year of worshiping, serving, learning, and imagining together what God may yet make possible through United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County.

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, JUNE 28

9AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus
12-5PM - Pride: Big Rapids Festival @ Downtown BR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

12PM - Table Talk: Politics & Following Jesus @ Downtown Campus

THURSDAY, JULY 2

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

WORSHIP MOVES TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Beginning this Sunday, June 28, worship at our Downtown Campus will move into the fellowship hall for the summer.

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 UMMMC 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 @ calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta

Week of June 28 - July 4, 2026

Family News



UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES OF MECOSTA COUNTY

304 ELM STREET, BIG RAPIDS MI 49307 • (231) 796-7771 • WWW.UUMMCECOSTA.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 - June 28, 2026

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

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

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

When the weight of what we have done and what we have left undone becomes too heavy,

We come before God, who knows us completely and receives us with mercy.

When regret settles deep within us and our wounds cannot be hidden,

We come before God, who hears our cries and does not abandon us.

We do not come pretending to be whole. We come, honest about our failures and our need.

We bring God the burdens we can no longer carry, trusting in grace that restores and renews.

Come, let us worship the God who draws near to the brokenhearted.

We place our hope in God, our help and our salvation.

*** Hymn**

Praises and Prayers

Prayers and Praises of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading - Psalm 38 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

*** Hymn**

Message - "The Burden of Sin", Ray Setlock

Silent Prayer of Reflection

Offering

*** The Doxology**, UMH #95

*** Hymn**

*** Benediction**

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

PSALM 38 - NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION

¹ O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

² For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.

³ There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

⁵ My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness; ⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.

⁷ For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

⁸ I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

⁹ O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰ My heart throbs; my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off.

¹² Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate on treachery all day long.

¹³ But I am like the deaf; I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.

¹⁴ Truly, I am like one who does not hear and in whose mouth is no retort.

¹⁵ But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

¹⁶ For I pray, "Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips."

¹⁷ For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

¹⁸ I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

¹⁹ Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

²⁰ Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

²¹ Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me; ²² make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

JUNE MISSION GIVING: PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Throughout June, our special giving focus is Peace with Justice Sunday, one of The United Methodist Church's denomination-wide special offerings. Peace with Justice supports ministries that address the root causes of conflict, injustice, and oppression. Gifts help fund efforts that promote peace, advocate for justice, and equip communities to create lasting change both locally and around the world. Please designate your gift as "Peace with Justice." Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make a difference in the lives of others.

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!