

CELEBRATING THE HANDS AND HEARTS OF OUR LAITY

Laity are the ones who teach our children, lead our small groups, prepare the sanctuary, organize meals, serve in the community, and hold one another in prayer. They are the hands and hearts of Christ in action. Through their gifts, energy, and compassion, our church becomes more than a building—it becomes a living expression of God’s love.

At United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County, we are blessed by the creativity, dedication, and courage of our laity. Whether it’s greeting a visitor, leading a ministry team, volunteering at a community meal, or offering a word of encouragement—every act of service adds up to something extraordinary.

As Paul reminds us, “We are co-workers in God’s service” (1 Corinthians 3:9). Our ministry is shared—clergy and laity together—each playing a vital role in building God’s kingdom here and now.

So this week, we give thanks for every person who gives their time, heart, and hands to help this ministry thrive. Your faith in action is what brings the gospel to life.

WE’RE HIRING: NURSERY SUPERVISOR

First Church is seeking a Nursery Supervisor to provide safe, caring, and consistent supervision for infants and toddlers during Sunday worship. This part-time, event-based position is perfect for someone with childcare experience and a heart for children and families. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Pastor Jeremy at jeremy@ummecosta.org for details.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Festival of Lights Parade is Saturday, November 22, 6–8 PM in downtown Big Rapids, and UMMMC will have a float! We need volunteers to help build the float and to join us the night of the parade. Julie Setlock, Director of Family Ministries, is coordinating. If you’d like to help, please contact Julie or Barb in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE: CHILI & CORNBREAD COOK-OFF

Sunday, November 2, 11:15AM @ First Church! Bring your best pot of chili or pan of cornbread—or just come ready to taste and vote! Family-friendly, free to attend. Bowls, tasting cups, and drinks provided.

POTLUCK & STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Join us Sunday, November 23 at 11:15 AM (First Church) for a potluck lunch and stakeholders meeting. We'll celebrate how far we've come together, share updates about new and upcoming ministry opportunities for 2026, and review the budget for the year ahead. Bring a favorite dish to share (drinks and tableware will be provided), and come ready for good food, meaningful conversation, and connection with siblings in Christ. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

9AM - Worship @ Paris Campus
10:00AM - Worship @ First Church Campus
Fellowship & Coffee immediately After Worship, Fellowship Hall
11AM - Worship @ Third Ave Campus

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
12PM - Red Cross Blood Drive @ First

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
6:30PM - SOUL Circle Gathering @ First
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

10AM - SOUL Circle Gathering @ First
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave
4-7PM - Community Resource Coat Drive @ First
6:30PM - Book Study “Unoffendable” @ First

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

11:00AM - Book Study “Unoffendable” @ First
5:30PM - Community Dinner @ First
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

FALL PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY NEEDS LIST:

Donated items can be put in the basket in Fellowship Hall,
under the bulletin boards.

- Deodorant
- Paper Towel
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Shampoo & Conditioners
- Body Wash
- Cleaning Products
- Laundry Detergent
- Adult Toothpaste

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Julie Setlock - Director of Family Ministry
julie@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

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

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

Pastor Jeremy's office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–11:30AM and 1:30–4PM. Appointments are highly recommended and can be booked by contacting either Barbara Erb, Pastor Jeremy, or by visiting: calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta .

Week of October 19 - October 25, 2025

Family News



The Great Equalizer

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 - 11:30AM & 1:30PM - 4PM

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

Worship Gathering
Sundays @ 9AM

FIRST CHURCH CAMPUS
304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
bigrapidsfirst.org

Worship Gathering
in-person and online
Sundays @ 10AM

THIRD AVE CAMPUS
226 North Third Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307
ummecosta.org/third

Worship Gathering
Sundays @ 11AM

Order of Worship - October 19, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship (Leader / *People*)

Lift praises to the name of our God;
bless God's name forever!
How great is our God!

From generation to generation we will sing your praises and
speak of your goodness!
Great is our God and worthy of praise!

God, You are just and kind in all Your doings!
Great is our God and worthy of praise!

God, You watch over us in love and hear the desperate
cries of those who call to You!
How great is our God! How great is our God!
Bless God's name forever!

* Hymn - “Morning Has Broken”, UMH #145

Praises and Prayers

Prayers and Praises of the People
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer - UMH #895

Scripture Reading - Romans 1:24-32 (NIV)

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

Hymn - “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”, UMH #526

Message - "The Great Equalizer", Ray Setlock

Offering

* “The Doxology”, UMH #95

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

* Benediction

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

NOTES:



Check In Here

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 1:24-32, New International Version

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.