

MAY MISSION FOCUS: UMC STUDENT SUNDAY

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 connectational 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.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 24**, we will celebrate Graduation Sunday during worship as we recognize and bless the graduates connected to our church family. Graduation is an important milestone, not only for students and their families, but for the whole congregation. It gives us the chance to give thanks for the hard work, growth, perseverance, and many gifts of those who are beginning a new chapter.

If you or someone in your family is graduating this year from high school, college, graduate school, trade school, or another program, we would love to include them in this celebration. Please contact Barb in the church office no later than May 17 with the graduate's name, school, degree or program, and any future plans you would like to share.

As a church, we want our graduates to know that they are seen, loved, and supported. Whether they are heading into more schooling, beginning a new job, entering a season of discernment, or still figuring out what comes next, we want to surround them with prayer and encouragement. Join us on May 24 as we celebrate their accomplishments and remind them that God's grace goes with them wherever the road leads.

PHOTO DIRECTORY - HAPPENING NOW!

As we continue growing together as United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County, we're excited to create our very first photo directory!

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. 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 8x10, 11x14, and 16x20.

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!

What's Happening

SUNDAY, MAY 3

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

TUESDAY, MAY 5

9AM - Ministry Staff Team Meeting @ Downtown Campus

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

10AM - SOUL Circle @ Downtown Campus
11AM - *Embracing an Adverbial Faith* Discussion Group @ Downtown Campus
12PM - Table Talk @ Downtown Campus
5:30PM - "Purpose Driven Life" Dinner / Book Study @ North Campus
6PM - Praise Team Rehearsal @ Downtown Campus

THURSDAY, MAY 7

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

THIRD AVENUE BUILDING UPDATE

We are glad to share that Love INC has received the needed variance from the city and is now able to move forward with taking ownership of the Third Avenue Church building. We expect that transfer to happen within the next couple of weeks. This is an important step in a process that has been guided by our desire to be faithful, practical, and mission-focused. While this transition involves letting go of a building that has meant a great deal to many people, it also opens the door for that space to continue serving the community in meaningful ways through the work of Love INC. We are grateful for everyone who has helped bring this process to this point, and we ask you to continue praying for Love INC, for the people connected to Third Avenue, and for all who will be impacted by the ministry that continues in that neighborhood.

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

Week of May 3 - May 9, 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 - May 3, 2026

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

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Meditation - Ed Mallett

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

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts,
Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust,
Jesus reminds us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way,
our truth, and our life.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*** Hymn**

Praises and Prayers

Prayers and Praises of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading - 1 Peter 2:2-10 (NRSVUE)

Reader: The word of God, for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

*** Hymn**

Message - "Set Apart"- Rev. Kim Bos

Silent Prayer of Reflection

Celebration of Holy Communion

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: 1 PETER 2:2-10

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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!