

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist, an inclusive and affirming congregation - we are so happy you're here! If this is your first visit, or you're not familiar with us, we hope the information below will be helpful. If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

BATHROOM LOCATIONS:

- Main Sanctuary Level - Through the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary (Elm St), opposite the balcony stairs, you will find one of our two "all gender" single stall restrooms. There is a baby changing station in this restroom.
- Balcony - Through the south door (toward the elevator) and down the hallway, you will find another "all gender" single stall restroom.
- Fellowship Hall - As you are heading toward the Warren St Lobby, across from the coffee station, you'll find separate men's and women's restrooms.
- Basement - To the left side of the large classroom at the bottom of the Warren St Lobby stairs you'll find separate men's and women's restrooms.

OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN DURING WORSHIP:

- The sound of children is welcome during worship at First Church! If you prefer to have your children with you during worship, please do!
- Nursery - We staff a nursery for those parents who might need a little "break" from their infants through four-year-olds.
- "Pray Ground" - In the back of the sanctuary, near the organ, there is an area with a play mat and toys where kids are welcome to wiggle!
- The Parent's Lounge is a quiet space that gives caregivers a place to address the needs of the littlest among us. There is a changing table, rocking chairs, and complimentary supplies in the lounge for your convenience.
- Sunday School for K-6th grade meets upstairs and gives our younger friends a place to learn about Jesus. Kids can be picked up in the upstairs classroom after worship.

Worship Celebration - Sundays @ 10:00AM

Nursery Available - Infant - 4y/o @ 9:50AM

Children's Sunday School @ 10:15AM

(Kindergarten - 6th Grade, start in the Sanctuary)

Coffee and light refreshments are served immediately after worship, and everyone is welcome!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Closed / Tues - Friday, 9AM - 3PM

Pastor Jeremy is at the church by appointment and is not available on Friday except in emergency situations.



**BIG RAPIDS FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Big Rapids First United Methodist Church is an inclusive and affirming community. To read our welcome statement, please visit us online @ www.bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, MAY 26

9AM - Worship Celebration @ Paris UMC

10AM - Worship Celebration @ First Church

Childcare available for Infants - 4 years old (Nursery)

Fellowship / Coffee Hour immediately following worship.

10:15AM - Worship Celebration @ Third Ave UMC

Fellowship Hour immediately following, and all are welcome!

MONDAY, MAY 27

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave UMC

TUESDAY, MAY 28

12PM / 7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave UMC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

11:30AM - Community Lunch Program @ Third Ave UMC

6PM - Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) @ First Church

7PM - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) @ First Church

THURSDAY, MAY 30

5:30PM - Community Meal @ First Church

7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris UMC

FRIDAY, MAY 31

6AM / 12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave UMC

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

10AM - Crafting With a Cause @ First Church

11AM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris UMC

WILD WEDNESDAY / FAMILY MINISTRY INFORMATION

Are you looking for a way to support our largest children's outreach program of the year? On Tuesday 6/4 & Wednesday 6/5 starting at 12:15 pm, we will be putting together decorations for Wild Wednesday! If you can cut, tape, and glue - you are qualified to help! Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

We are collecting **empty clean soup cans (14.5 oz soup size)** for a Wild Wednesday project. Cans can be placed in the box by the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall.

ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING

It is now a policy at First Church that all volunteers working with children must attend an Abuse Prevention Training. We are asking all Wild Wednesday Volunteers to attend one of two sessions - Sunday, June 2nd at 11AM, or Tuesday, June 4th at 6:30PM. If for some reason you can't attend either of those dates, please notify Julie Setlock via email Julie@Bigrapidsfirst.org.



Week of May 26 - June 1, 2024

FIRST CHURCH

Family News



UNFRIENDING
May 26, 2024

BIG RAPIDS FIRST UMC

304 Elm St Big Rapids, MI 49307

(231) 796-7771 / www.bigrapidsfirst.org

Pastor - Rev. Jeremy Wicks
Voice / Text - (517) 851-1494
Email - jeremy@bigrapidsfirst.org

Order of Worship - May 26, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

This morning, we gather to confront the task of discernment in our relationships.

We seek guidance to recognize the friendships that truly benefit our spiritual journey.

The wisdom of Proverbs tells us, "The one who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

We pray for the courage to make wise choices, distancing ourselves from harm while holding fast to love.

Let us worship together, trusting in God's wisdom to always lead us in love.

With open hearts, we embrace the transformative power of God's love and wisdom in our lives.

*** Hymn** - "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", UMH #57, vs. 1-5

Children's Message

Choral Anthem - "There Is a Redeemer"

Scripture Reading - Proverbs 13:20 & Matthew 16:21-24 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn - "Make Me A Servant", TFWS #2176

Message - Unfriending

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Stewardship Moment - * "The Doxology", UMH #95

*** Hymn** - "Jesus Is All the World to Me", UMH #469

* Benediction

Postlude

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

Flowers are given in honor of:
Charles Madden's 34th Birthday.

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - May 26

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell

Reader: Millie Gillies

Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson

Greeter: Pat Little

Children's Sunday School: Larisa Draves, Thomas Wheeler

"Fun and Games" - Matthew 19:14

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Kati Wheeler

Fellowship Host: Marlene Rodgers

Serving Next Week - June 2

Reader: Emmanuel Jadhav

Ushers: Pat & Marion Williamson

Greeter: Pete Jensen

Children's Sunday School: Pam Fleming, Bev Wesche

"The Woman at the Well" John 4:1-42 ART

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Jana Pisani

Fellowship Host: Dixi Boswell

MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEGINS 6/29

The 2024 Michigan Annual Conference is this coming week, which means Pastor Jeremy will be unavailable Tuesday, May 28 - Saturday, June 1. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the office.

UMMMC TRANSITION UPDATE

By the time of publication of this newsletter, the Financial Team will have met and drafted a July 1 - December 31, 2024 interim budget. The team is also working diligently to create financial systems that will enable us to be more fruitful in our ministry.

The Administrative Team continues to work with Church Mutual to get a quote on insurance for the various pieces of property that UMMMC will hold. It's important to remember that we remain United Methodist - and in our system, local churches hold property in trust for the annual conference. This is an integral component of our structure and ensures that property is managed in accordance with the Discipline.

Membership Audit Update - The Transition Team received an update on the membership audit (below), which was completed on May 15, 2024.

Total Membership Audits Sent:	341
Total Responses to Date:	210
Withdrawn Membership:	45 / 21.43%
Transferred to Other Churches:	3 / 1.43%
Transferred to UMMMC:	165 / 78.57%

It's worth noting that the VAST majority of the 45 withdrawals are people who have not been attending or participating in the life of any of the three churches for a number of years and have simply asked to be removed from the membership rolls.

If you have not completed, or did not receive an audit form, please contact the office at 231-796-7771 and let us know what your desires / intentions are, as soon as possible. Membership WILL NOT automatically transfer to UMMMC.

There has been some confusion about campus names. Please note, that while First Church, Third Ave, and Paris will collectively be known as United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County (UMMMC), each campus will retain its current name for the foreseeable future.

If you have questions or concerns related to this transition that you'd like to see addressed in the newsletter, contact the First Church office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 30 - All three campuses will gather for worship @ First Church at 10AM. Bishop Bard will be preaching, and we will share in communion together. This means there will not be a service at Paris or Third Ave on Sunday, June 30.
- July 14 UMMMC will host a Family Picnic for the members and friends of the First, Third Ave, and Paris churches. We have reserved space at North End Park, with a tentative time of 1:00PM - 5:00PM. Food and drinks will be provided. More details will be coming soon but be sure to mark your calendar NOW so you don't miss out on the fun!