Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Worship at Big Rapids First United Methodist, also known as First Church - we are so happy to see you! If this is your first visit, or it's been a while, here's some information that you might want to know... Our worship is traditional in style but intentionally casual in "vibe". We incorporate high quality instrumental and vocal music with dynamic preaching and teaching, to offer a worship experience that is uplifting and transformative. Children's Sunday School gives our younger friends a place to learn about Jesus, while our parent's lounge gives caregivers a place to address the needs of the littlest among us. We also staff a nursery every week for those parents who might need a little "break", for infants through four years old.

Whether you are a first-time guest, a long-time member, or checking us out - you are welcome here!

Worship Celebration
Sundays @ 10:00AM

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

Children's Sunday School @ 10:15AM
(4 1/2 - 4th Grade, start in the Fellowship Hall)

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

Office Hours:
Monday - Closed
Tues - Friday, 9AM - 3PM

BIG RAPIDS FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This Week @ First Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023
10AM - Worship Celebration (Fellowship Hall)
10AM - Child Care for Infants - 4 years old (Nursery)
10:15AM - Sunday School, 4 1/2 - 4th graders (Classroom 1)
11AM - Fellowship Time after Worship (Fellowship Hall)
12PM - Leadership Team Meeting (Basement)

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
10AM - Worship Design Team (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
7PM - Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
7PM - Senior High Discussion Group (Warren Street Lounge)

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
5:30PM - Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)

For more information about current events at the church, to read the Pastor's Blog or Lay Leader's Notes, and so much more - visit us online @ www.bigrapidsfirst.org

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

APRIL 6 @ 6PM - MAUNDY THURSDAY
@ St. Andrew's Episcopal
Ecumenical service with handwashing & potluck dinner.

APRIL 7 @ NOON - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
@ Immanuel Lutheran
Ecumenical service with scripture, prayer, and meditation on the cross. Community choir practice @ 11AM.

APRIL 9 @ 7AM - EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
@ Hemlock Park, hosted by First Church

APRIL 9 @ 8 AM - THE GREAT VIGIL
@ St. Andrew's Episcopal
Ancient liturgy with the new fire, scripture and communion celebrating the risen Christ.

APRIL 9 @ 10AM EASTER WORSHIP!
@ First United Methodist Church
Service of word, scripture and song, celebrating the risen Christ.

Week of March 26 - April 1, 2023

FIRST CHURCH Family News

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 - March 26, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship**

In the name of the Lord Jesus - bread breaker, light gatherer, cross carrier - welcome!

May the peace of the Lord Jesus - peace maker, temple disturber, friend of the sinner, and companion on the road - be with us all!

Let us draw close to Jesus - savior, healer, teacher, and lord - and worship him, even as we ask ourselves the most important question we could ever ask...

Who do we say he is?

*** Hymn -** *"The Church's One Foundation",* UMH #546

Children's Message

Choral Anthem - *"We're A Fellowship of Believers"*

Scripture - Mark 8:22-29 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Message - "Rebel Jesus: The Most Important Question"

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (The Our Father), UMH #895

*** Hymn –** *"Here I Am, Lord",* UMH #593

*** Benediction**

Postlude

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE*

NOTES:

Check In Here

Serving Today - March 26

Reader: Millie Gillies
Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson
Greeter: Pete Jensen
Children's Sunday School: Rev. Karen Poole, Bev Wesche
Today's Focus - "The Faces of Easter"
"Jesus as Healer and Parable Maker" - Luke 18:35-43
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Jana Pisani

Serving Next Week - April 2

Reader: Emmanuel Jadhav
Ushers: Pat & Marion Williamson, Joann Haist
Greeter: Nancy Spedowski
Children's Sunday School: Trisha Jadhav, Rev. Karen Poole
Today's Focus - "The Faces of Easter"
"Jesus Offers the Bread and Wine" - Matthew 21:1-11, 26:17-58
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Julie Tessin

If you would like to serve as a worship or hospitality volunteer in 2023, please check the box on your Connection Card in person or online.

COLLEGE CARE KITS - SPRING '23

It's that time of year - time to remind our college students that they are loved! This spring we will send $10 Starbucks gift cards and home baked individually wrapped cookies, along with a card with notes from the congregation to each of our college students. Beginning Sunday April 2, you're invited to take a gift card envelope from the display in Fellowship Hall and put $10 in it - and then place it in the offering plate. On Easter Sunday, and the following week, we will provide giant cards (one for each student) so that you can write words of encouragement to our young adults. If you have questions about this ministry, please contact the church office or Pat Little.

CRAFTING WITH A CAUSE - APRIL 15

Our next Crafting with a Cause event will be Saturday, April 15 from 10AM - 1PM. We will be working on prepping the spring college student care packages for mailing, tying blankets, making plarn (plastic yarn), crocheting mats for the homeless, and lunch bag decorating. A light lunch will be provided. If you have any questions, contact Carol Hillman (carol@carolhillman.com) or Larisa Draves (larisadraves@gmail.com) directly.

FIRST FAMILY MEETING - APRIL 16

Please plan to join us on April 16, after worship, for our second quarter First Family meeting. The conversation at this meeting will center on the current denominational discussion about LGBTQAI+ inclusion, and next steps for Big Rapids First UMC. Pastor Jeremy will also share more information about the poll that was done last summer, designed to help church leadership better understand the views and perspectives of the members and constituents of Big Rapids First on this important issue.

CHURCH CONFERENCE - APRIL 23

Big Rapids First will be holding a SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE on Sunday, April 23, immediately following worship. This purpose of this conference is to address the question of First United Methodist Church's position on LGBTQAI+ inclusion. Information on the motions that will be considered is available in the information center across from the church office, or online at www.bigrapidsfirst.org. Everyone is invited to attend the conference - but only MEMBERS who are present for the church conference will be permitted to vote.

The following resources are available in print, in the information center across from the church office:

- "Blessing One Another" - This is a Frequently Asked Questions document, answering the top 25 questions that local churches and individuals have been asking relating to the future of The United Methodist Church.
- Motions #1 and #2 Document - This document includes the motion language as well as additional realities specifically related to Big Rapids First UMC and our potential futures.
- United Methodist Church / Global Methodist Church Comparison Chart - This chart provides a relatively accurate description of the differences between the UMC and the newly formed GMC.

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