

UMMMC NEXT STEPS - FOUNDATIONS & FUTURES

The new year brings new opportunities, and we're excited to take the next step in shaping the future of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County. Join us on **Saturday, January 25, from 10 AM to 12PM** as we come together to define the values that ground us and inspire our vision moving forward.

This is more than just a meeting—it's a chance to be part of something transformative. Your voice matters as we seek to build a strong foundation rooted in our shared faith and commitment to making a real difference in our community and beyond.

Whether you've been worshipping at one of our campuses for decades, or are just beginning your journey with UMMMC, we invite you to bring your unique perspective and passion to this important work. Together, we'll dream boldly, reflect deeply, and chart a course for the future that reflects who we are and who God is calling us to be.

We hope to see you there. Let's build something beautiful—together.

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY - SPECIAL OFFERING

Human Relations Day is a special Sunday across our denomination, focused on fostering better relationships and supporting community and youth outreach. Your gifts support important programs like Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation.

Thanks to the generosity of United Methodists, over \$250,000 was raised last year to support vital ministries through the Human Relations Day.

UMMMC will recognize this special Sunday on **January 19, 2025**, and we will receive a special offering at each campus.

WESLEY CAKE AUCTION & ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Mark your calendars! The annual FSU Wesley Cake Auction, supporting the spring mission trip, is happening on Sunday, February 9. To ensure everyone can enjoy both the delicious lunch and the fun of the auction, we will **hold one combined worship service at 10AM at First Church.**

After worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a meal and the opportunity to bid on some amazing cakes and goodies—all for a great cause. Let's come together to support our students and their mission work. See you there!

LOST AND FOUND

We have accumulated a rather large collection of "lost and found" items under and on the coat rack across from the nametags. Please check and see if any of the items belong to you. All items remaining at the end of the month will be donated to a local charity.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

9AM - Worship Celebration @ Paris UMC
10AM - Worship Celebration @ First Church
Coffee / Fellowship Immediately Following Worship
11AM - Worship Celebration @ Third Ave UMC

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

10AM - Worship Design Team @ First Church
12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave
7PM - Choir Rehearsal @ First Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ First Church
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

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

Looking Ahead

- January 25, 10AM - "Foundations and Futures" @ First Church
- February 7, 6PM - Family Movie Night @ First Church
- February 8, 10AM - Crafting with a Cause @ First Church
- February 9, 10AM - All Campus Worship @ First Church
- February 9 @ 11AM - FSU Wesley Lunch and Cake Auction

2025 ALTAR FLOWER SIGNUP IS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE OFFICE @ FIRST CHURCH. COST IS \$10 / WEEK, PAYABLE IN THE OFFICE.

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist Church, an inclusive and affirming congregation (you can read our welcome statement here: bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome) - we are so happy you're here! If this is your first visit, or you're not familiar with us, check out our "First Visit" page @ bigrapidsfirst.org/firstvisit.

If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

Week of January 12 - January 18, 2025

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
Director of Administrative Services: Barbara Erb (barbara@ummecosta.org)

PARIS UMC

109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
Worship @ 9AM

FIRST CHURCH

304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
www.bigrapidsfirst.org
Worship @ 10AM
Fellowship @ 11AM

THIRD AVENUE UMC

226 North Third Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Worship @ 11AM

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

First Church Campus
Rev. Jeremy Wicks
O (231) 796-7771
C (231) 224-6545
jeremy@ummecosta.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Paris / Third Ave Campuses
Pastor Ray Setlock
O (231) 796-7771
C (231) 224-6520
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Congregational Care
Rev. Kaye Patton
O (231) 796-7771
C (765) 661-3750
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Order of Worship - January 12, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, let us turn our hearts to what truly matters.

We are here to seek God's kingdom and God's righteousness.

In a world of distractions, we choose to focus on God's presence.

We lay aside our worries and trust in God's provision.

Let us align our lives with God's purposes and open our hearts to God's call.

Together, we will seek first the kingdom of God. With joy and faith, let us worship the One who is our foundation and guide!

* Hymn - "This is My Father's World", UMH #144

Children's Message

Choral Anthem - "On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

Scripture Reading - Matthew 6:25-34 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn - "Seek Ye First", UMH #405

Message - "First Things First"

The Lord's Prayer

* **"The Doxology"**, UMH #95

* Hymn - "I Surrender All", UMH #354

* Benediction & Postlude

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren St Lobby immediately following service.

Altar flowers are given in honor of the Eisler's Mothers: Irene Johnson & Sarah K. Eisler

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - January 12

Reader: Doug Fitzgerald

Ushers: Colin and Roberta Cline

Greeter: Pat Little

Children's Sunday School: Thomas Wheeler, Kathi Parker

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Jana Pisani

Fellowship Host: Bejcek Family

Serving Next Week - January 19

Reader: Marlene Rodgers

Ushers: Mike and Jana Pisani

Greeter: Pete Jensen

Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock, Shelby Fate

Nursery: Katie Wheeler, Tom Wheeler

Fellowship Host: Denise Cosper

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

This week, we are focusing on Jesus' words from Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." As we begin a new year, we are reminded to prioritize God's purposes in our lives. When we seek God first, everything else falls into place. What would it look like to align your goals, your time, and your heart with God's kingdom this year?

Questions to Consider

1. What are the most important priorities in your life right now? Do they reflect God's kingdom?
2. How can you create space each day to focus on God—through prayer, scripture, or acts of kindness?
3. What worries or distractions might be preventing you from fully trusting God?
4. How can your work, relationships, and daily decisions reflect God's love and justice?

Prayer for the Week

Loving God, help me to seek You first in everything I do. Open my eyes to see Your kingdom at work in the world around me. Guide my heart to trust in Your provision and give me courage to align my life with Your purposes. Amen.

Final Thoughts

As you go about your week, keep Matthew 6:33 close to your heart. Start each day by asking God to guide your priorities and trust in God's faithfulness to provide. Remember, small, consistent steps toward putting God first can lead to big changes in your life and the lives of those around you.

HOW TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA FIRE RELIEF

In the wake of the devastating wildfires in California, many of us feel compelled to help those affected. However, it's important to ensure that our generosity reaches those in need through trustworthy and effective organizations.

For those looking to make a difference, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides an excellent way to give with confidence. As a trusted relief agency with a long history of transparency and effectiveness, UMCOR ensures that 100% of your donation to disaster relief directly supports those impacted by the fires. UMCOR partners with local organizations on the ground, offering assistance that aligns with immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts.

To give through UMCOR, visit [UMCOR.org](https://umcor.org) and designate your gift for U.S. Disaster Response or you can give through your local campus, just make a note on your giving envelope and we will ensure that 100% of your donation reaches those who need it most.

Your generosity makes a difference!
To avoid any confusion in our giving systems,
please make your checks out to your local campus.
Thank you for your continued support!