

BOOK STUDY - "GENESIS FOR NORMAL PEOPLE"

Curious about the book of Genesis but feeling overwhelmed by debates over evolution, Adam and Eve, or the Flood? Beneath these controversies lies a captivating story that anyone can grasp—a story that has resonated with people for generations.

Join Pastor Jeremy as we study "Genesis for Normal People", a brief, witty book by Peter Enns and Jared Byas that offers clear summaries and thought-provoking questions, making it the perfect guide for those who aren't Bible scholars but want to understand the big picture. You'll connect with the ancient world of Genesis in a meaningful way, discovering a story that's sometimes strange, often challenging, but always full of rich possibilities.

This short term (12 weeks) study will offer to options for gathering on Mondays at 10AM and 7PM, beginning September 16. Both groups will look at the same chapter each week, so if you can't make your regular time, you can jump in on the other! The cost of the book is \$15. Contact the church office by September 10 to register.

MINISTRY TEAMS BEING FORMED

We are currently forming teams for 2025 and need passionate individuals like you to serve on the following teams: ministry, leadership, nominations, and building and property.

If you are interested in making a difference and using your gifts to serve our community, please contact the UMMMC office or Pastor Jeremy.

Your involvement is vital to our mission and can have a lasting impact. Join us and be a part of something meaningful!

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist, 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 online @ www.bigrapidsfirst.org/firstvisit. Here you will find information about what to expect in worship, where to park, options for kids, and maybe most importantly - the location of the bathrooms! If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

9AM - Worship Celebration @ Paris UMC
9:50AM - Hymn Sing @ First Church
10AM - Worship Celebration @ First Church
Fellowship / Coffee Hour immediately following Worship
10:45AM - Hymn Sing @ Third Ave
11AM - Worship Celebration @ Third Ave UMC
Fellowship / Coffee Hour Immediately Following Worship

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

12PM / 7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

6AM / 12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

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

Mark Your Calendar

- **NEW DATE** - Fall Clean Up Day @ the Third Ave campus is October 5 and at the Paris campus on September 7. Both events will run from 9AM - 12PM, and refreshments will be provided. Bring your work gloves and a smile, and let's come together and do the work of maintaining and organizing our church properties!
- **UMMMC Church Conference** (all members have voice and vote) - October 27 @ 2:30 pm, hosted by Reed City UMC.

Pastor Jeremy will be unavailable Monday, August 26 - Friday, August 30. If you have a pastoral care need, please contact Rev. Kaye Patton, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care.

Week of August 25 - August 31, 2024

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
Hymn Sing @ 9:50AM
Worship @ 10AM
Fellowship @ 11AM

THIRD AVENUE UMC

226 North Third Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Hymn Sing @ 10:45AM
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
ray@ummecosta.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Congregational Care
Rev. Kaye Patton
O (231) 796-7771
C (765) 661-3750
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Order of Worship - August 25, 2024

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

Come, all who are weary, all who seek new life in Christ.

We come, ready to be renewed and refreshed by the Spirit of God.

Today, we embrace the new wine of God's work among us,

pouring into new wineskins of hope and possibility.

Let us celebrate fresh beginnings and the ever unfolding of God's vision in our lives.

We rejoice in the Spirit's call, trusting in the One who makes all things new.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with Your renewing power. Guide us, lead us and transform us as we worship and serve you today.

* Hymn - "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", UMH #57

Wesley Student Leadership Team Commissioning

Ministry Moment - FSU Wesley

Special Music - "Be Unto Your Name"

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 43:18-19 and Luke 5:27-39 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn - "Breathe on Me, Breath of God", UMH #420 vs. 1-3

Message - "New Wine, New Wineskins"

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

* "The Doxology", UMH #95

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

* Benediction & Postlude

Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren St Lobby immediately after worship.

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - August 25

Reader: Doug Fitzgerald

Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson

Greeter: Denise Cospier

Children's Sunday School: Larisa Draves, Bev Wesche

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

Nursery: Jana Pisani, Katie Aris

Fellowship Host: Marlene Rodgers

Serving Next Week - September 1

Reader: Shelby Fate

Ushers: Pat & Marion Williamson

Greeter: Denise Jefts

Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock, TBD

"Back to School" Luke 6:31

Nursery: Jana Pisani

Fellowship Host: Dixi Boswell

WRAP-UP: DOUBTING GOD SERIES

We often don't talk about doubt in church, but the truth is, doubt is something we all experience at some point. Whether it's feeling distant from God, struggling with unanswered prayers, or wondering about God's presence in the midst of suffering, these are real challenges that can shake our faith.

This series was about more than just addressing these doubts—it was about understanding that doubt itself is not the enemy of faith. Instead, doubt can be a doorway to a deeper, more resilient trust in God. We learned that even the great figures of the Bible had their moments of doubt, and yet, God used those moments to draw them closer, to strengthen their faith, and to accomplish their purposes.

Throughout the series, we talked about how it's okay to bring our doubts to God. God isn't intimidated by our questions or our struggles. In fact, God invites us to come with our uncertainties, knowing that God is faithful even when we are not sure. We were reminded that doubt doesn't mean we lack faith; rather, it shows that we are engaging with our faith on a deeper level, seeking to understand and trust God more fully.

As we wrapped up the series, one of the key takeaways was that faith and doubt often coexist. Our doubts don't disqualify us from God's love or from the plans God has for us. Instead, they can lead us to a more authentic and mature faith, one that is built not on having all the answers, but on trusting in God's goodness and faithfulness even when we don't.

This series has also been a reminder that we don't have to go through our doubts alone. We're part of a community that supports each other, prays for each other, and walks together through the highs and lows of our faith journeys. We've seen that by being honest about our doubts and questions, we can grow stronger in our faith and help others do the same.

As we move forward from this series, let's keep the conversation going. Let's continue to be a church where it's okay to ask questions, where we support each other in our doubts, and where we encourage each other to keep seeking and trusting God, no matter what. The Doubting God series may have come to an end, but the journey of growing in our faith—through both doubt and trust—continues.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's keep walking together, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

Peace+Grace,
Pastor Jeremy

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!