

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist - also known as First Church - we are so happy you're here! If this is your first visit, it's been a while, or you're a regular attender -you are welcome! 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 we hope 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.

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 Sanctuary)

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

Office Hours:

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

Pastor Jeremy is not available on Friday, except in emergency situations.



At Big Rapids First United Methodist Church we welcome, affirm, and celebrate people of any age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, ethnicity, faith tradition, physical and mental ability, economic condition, marital status, family configuration, or place on the theological or political spectrum.

We seek to love alike, even though we may not think alike. We embrace our differences as gifts that enrich our mission and ministries and help us grow in faith.

This statement of inclusion and welcome is for all people, especially those who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination in the church, in our community, or in our culture. You are welcome here!

This Week @ First Church

SUNDAY, MAY 21

10AM - Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)
10AM - Child Care for Infants - 4 years old (Nursery)
10:15AM - Sunday School, 4 1/2 - 4th graders (Classroom 1)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

7PM - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
7PM - Senior High Discussion Group (Warren Street Lounge)

THURSDAY, MAY 25

5:30PM - Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)

ANGELS OF ACTION SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

This summer we will continue our partnership with Angels of Action to help feed hungry children in our area. This year they will be providing lunches to families on Tuesdays, so we need volunteers who are able to help on Mondays to prepare the food. The team will gather at Angels of Action on Mondays at 10 AM, starting on June 12, and will be preparing food to feed 200 children a fresh lunch for Tuesday, and packing other food for them to assemble at home on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please let Laurie Daniels know if you are interested / available to help with this incredible ministry. Depending on how many people participate, the work can be done in a couple of hours each week.

SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - WILD WEDNESDAYS!

We are excited to announce a new summer ministry that is replacing our traditional Vacation Bible School - Wild Wednesday! WW will be focused on creating VBS like experiences for children on Wednesday evenings at the church, and once a month on Saturday for "Big Day" events. This ministry will be supported by a summer intern position but will require other adults to make sure everything runs well, and we are in compliance with safety standards. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Jeremy or Pastor Kim!

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE

There are large and standard print copies of "The Upper Room", available in the Information Center across from the Church Office. We have a recurring monthly subscription for these devotional guides, so please pick one up at your convenience.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SUMMER RECYCLING

We are in need of a small team of people to coordinate / handle weekly recycling at the church during the summer months. If you are able to assist with this ministry, please contact Pastor Jeremy.

Week of May 21 - May 27, 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 - May 21, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Our Graduates

* Call to Worship

Are you awake? Are you alert? Are you alive?

Jesus, the light of the world, shines life into our lives today!

Darkness and death once ruled our lives,

but now the light of Jesus brings our salvation to life.

We come today, having stepped from dark to light,
from sleeping to waking.

*We come today to worship and praise our Creating,
Redeeming, and Sustaining God!*

* Hymn - "And Are We Yet Alive?", UMH #553

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem - "Pilgrim's Journey"

New Testament Reading - Matthew 5:10-12 (NRSVUE)

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people
revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is
great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets
who were before you."*

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Response to the Word - "Sweet, Sweet Spirit", UMH #334

Message - "Revival: Persevering to the End"

Pastoral Prayer

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

* Hymn - "Guide My Feet", TFWS #2208

* Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able*

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - May 21

Reader: Herm McConnell

Ushers: Mike & Jana Pisani

Greeter: Mike Gibson, Millie Gillies

Children's Sunday School: Larisa Draves, Pam Fleming

Today's Focus - "PERSERVERANCE" - Stay Awake for God

1 Corinthians 16:13

Nursery: Julie Tessin, Trisha Jadhav

Serving Next Week - May 28

Reader: Karen Thompson

Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson

Greeter: Pete Jensen, Julie Setlock

Children's Sunday School: Rev. Karen Poole, Julie Tessin

Today's Focus - "The Mystery of PENTECOST" - The People of God

meet God in a new way. Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 1:5-14; Acts 2:1-12

Nursery: Jana Pisani, Trisha Jadhav

GRADUATION SUNDAY - TODAY

Today we celebrate the following graduates - some present with us, and others already starting their next adventure!

- Meghan Hartley, FSU
- Mackenzie Kwant, BRHS
- MaKayla Wicks, BRHS
- William Wicks, BRHS

SPECIAL OFFERING - TODAY

During worship today we will receive a special offering to help offset the cost of our college and military care kits. This spring we sent 51 care kits to college students across the country, thanks to your generous support! Gifts may be placed in the offering plates, or in the basket located in the front of the sanctuary.

BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLES MINISTRY FUNDS SUMMER INTERN POSITIONS!

We are excited to announce that First Church and FSU Wesley both received grants from the Michigan Conference Board of Young People's Ministry to fund summer internships - and we've already hired THREE incredible young adults to fill those roles! Grace, Devin, and Millie (you'll meet them soon!) will work together on summer projects including Wild Wednesdays, Community Block Party, FSU Wesley Student Food Pantry, Angels of Action Summer Lunch Program, Big Rapids Pride Festival, and basically anything else that comes up between next week and mid-August. As you see these young adults around the building and community, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS COMING SOON!

The Michigan Annual Conference gathering is scheduled for May 31 - June 4. Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend the annual conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference. These sessions include reports of past and ongoing work; adoption of future goals, programs and budgets; ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders; and election of delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences. The bishop presides over these meetings.

BRFUMC's Lay Members to Annual Conference are Kathy Bell and Emmanuel Jadhav, and they both will be attending the gathering in Traverse City. Pastor Jeremy will also attend, and will be out of the area, beginning early in the day on May 31, through the evening of June 5. Pastors Karen and Kaye will lead in worship on Sunday, June 4, and Pastor Jeremy will offer the message via a prerecorded video. Please come and join us as we recognize our Sunday school kids, celebrate communion, and kick off the first teaching series of Summer '23!

If you have need of emergency pastoral care while Pastor Jeremy is at Annual Conference, please contact the BRFUMC office at (231) 796-7771.

The Information Center across from the office is a treasure trove of information - check it out! If you questions about any of the ministries or events at First Church, please contact the office.