

# 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!
- Parent's Lounge - Located across from the nursery is a quiet place 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 at the stairs by the tech booth at the end of 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 is an inclusive and affirming community. To read our welcome statement, please visit us online @ [www.bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome](http://www.bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome).

# This Week @ First Church

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

10AM - Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)

10AM - Child Care for Infants - 4 years old (Nursery)

10:15AM - Children's Sunday School, Kindergarten - 6th Grade

11AM - Fellowship Time after Worship (Fellowship Hall)

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

4PM - Youth Discussion Group (Youth Room)

6PM - Lyrics in Motion (Sanctuary)

7PM - Choir Rehearsal (Basement - Music Room)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 20 thru 24 - Church Office Closed

November 23 - No Community Meal

December 2 @ 10AM - Birthday Party for Jesus!

December 2 @ 5:30PM - Adult Christmas Party

*Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to come and if you are bringing a dish to pass. Bring a white elephant gift, also!*

## HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION - PROJECT STARBURST

During the month of December, we will be collecting nonperishable, nonexpired food items for Project Starburst. There will be a collection table in the Warren Street lobby beginning Sunday, December 5.

## SALVATION ARMY TOY DRIVE

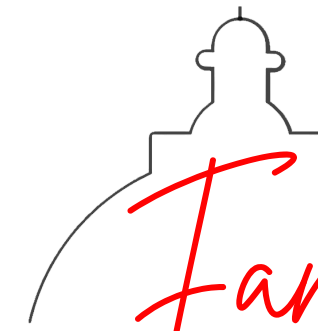
A collection container is available in the Warren Street lobby for this year's Salvation Army Toy Drive. Donations of unwrapped, new clothes, toys, and shoes for children will be accepted until Sunday, December 10, 2023.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER - THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who cooked, cleaned, prepped, served, and gave toward our first Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. A special thank you to Pat Little for her work in coordinating this effort on behalf of our community meal team! The total received in donations was nearly \$2,800. The balance, after expenses are deducted, will serve as seed money for our "Kitchen Appliance Replacement Fund". If you would like to contribute to the fund, you can do so by check (please note Kitchen on your check) or online under the "Mission" option, again noting Kitchen.

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

Week of November 19 - 25



# FIRST CHURCH

# Family News

# GET OVER IT

## THE POWER OF UNOFFENDED LIVING

## BIG RAPIDS FIRST UMC

304 Elm St Big Rapids, MI 49307

(231) 796-7771 / [www.bigrapidsfirst.org](http://www.bigrapidsfirst.org)

Pastor - Rev. Jeremy Wicks

Voice / Text - (517) 851-1494

Email - [jeremy@bigrapidsfirst.org](mailto:jeremy@bigrapidsfirst.org)

# Order of Worship - November 19, 2023

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship

We have been given a ministry of reconciliation and sharing.

*God reconciled us to God's self through the witness of Jesus Christ - we are forgiven!*

No longer do we need to fear.

*Because hope has been given to us, freely.*

We are now ambassadors for Christ. God is making God's appeal to all humankind through us - in all that we say, think and do.

*Praise be to God who has placed Their trust in us.*

*We will strive to serve God faithfully. AMEN.*

\* Hymn - "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me", UMH #361

## Children's Message

Choral Anthem - "Lord, Here I Am"

Scripture Reading - Matthew 18:23-30, 34-35 (CEB)

The word of God, for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God!*

Message - "When Forgiveness Seems Impossible"

## Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

\* Hymn - "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - UMH #526

## \* Benediction

*Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren Street lobby immediately following worship.*

## Postlude

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*Flowers are given in honor & remembrance of  
Ron Little*

## NOTES:



Check In Here

## Serving Today - November 19

Reader: Doug Fitzgerald

Ushers: Mike & Jana Pisani

Greeter: Kathi Parker

Children's Sunday School: Pam Fleming, Bev Wesche

Today's Focus: JOY "Mary's Joy" - Luke 1:26-36, 46-56

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Trisha Jadhav

## Serving Next Week - November 26

Reader: Marlene Rodgers

Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson

Greeter: Pat Little

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

Today's Focus: JOY "Joseph's Joy" - Matthew 1:18-24

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Jana Pisani

## SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY - UM STUDENT SUNDAY

The funds received from this offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students. Gifts may be included in your regular giving - please make a note in your envelope or on your check. You can also place your gift in the basket in front of the lectern during the closing hymn on 11/19.

## NEW MINISTRY - WONDERMENT GROUP

First Church is proud to announce the launch of a new ministry focused on building relationships with adults who have special needs. Pat Little and Bev Wesche are co-leading the "Wonderment Group", which meets once per month and provides adults with special needs a place to build relationships, participate in fun activities, and share a light meal together. This ministry is in partnership with Community Mental Health. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact the church office.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!

On Saturday, December 2, from 10AM to 1PM, the Family Ministry Team will be hosting our first annual Birthday Party for Jesus! There will be fun games, prizes, crafts, treats, and we will be serving lunch! Parents / Caregivers are welcome to join in the fun or enjoy a few hours for themselves. All children must be registered. Parents can register online at [www.bigrapidsfirst.org/birthday](http://www.bigrapidsfirst.org/birthday). Questions? Contact the church office at (231)796-7711 or [julie@bigrapidsfirst.org](mailto:julie@bigrapidsfirst.org).

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - DECEMBER 17

During our regular Service and Sunday School time, our kids will be helping to present a special telling of the Nativity Story. We don't want any of the children to miss out! As part of the preparations, we will take special photos during Sunday School on December 3rd. If you missed having your picture taken on Sunday, November 12 be sure to come on Sunday, December 3rd. We hope that sharing the Nativity story in this way will help the congregation feel the excitement our children have during the Advent season!

## 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE NOV. 19

Offering envelopes are available for pickup at the Warren St. entrance - please pick them up at your convenience. We encourage you to use your envelopes *and* put your envelope number on your check - it makes the bookkeeping job much easier. Also, if giving for multiple weeks, it is not necessary to write multiple checks - they will all be deposited & credited on the date they are deposited, so it's fine to write one check. CHECKS MUST BE MADE OUT TO FUMC to be deposited, with any special designation on the memo line. Any checks with no special designation will be deposited into the general fund. Offerings must be at the church no later than December 24 to be credited for 2023 giving. Any offerings received after that date will not be deposited until 1/2/24. On-line deposits must be received by December 31, 2023 to be credited for 2023 tax purposes. Anyone interested in having offering envelopes please contact Linda Crandell @ 231-408-7573. *You do not need to be a member to receive offering envelopes.*