

CELEBRATING REV. KIM BOS

On Sunday, June 21, we will take time during worship and fellowship hour to celebrate Kim's ministry and offer our thanks as she and her family prepare for their new adventure with First United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant. We invite you to join us for this special celebration. Please consider bringing a card, note, or written word of appreciation to share with Kim and her family. Whether you have known her for many years or have simply been inspired by her ministry, your encouragement will be a meaningful gift as they make this transition.

Come help us celebrate, give thanks, and send Kim and her family with our love, prayers, and best wishes for the journey ahead.

TABLE TALK: FAITH, POLITICS, AND FOLLOWING JESUS

What does it mean to follow Jesus in a time when faith and politics are often deeply intertwined? Beginning Wednesday, July 1, our regular Table Talk gathering will become a five-week book discussion centered on *The Flag + The Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy* by Philip Gorski and Samuel Perry. We will meet Wednesdays at noon through July 29 at the Downtown Campus.

In *The Flag + The Cross*, the authors explore the history and influence of white Christian nationalism in the United States and examine how it differs from the teachings of Jesus. Through history, sociology, theology, and contemporary examples, they challenge readers to consider the relationship between faith, power, and public life while inviting Christians to reclaim a faith rooted in humility, justice, and love of neighbor.

If you've attended Table Talk before, the format will feel familiar. Bring your lunch, bring your book, and join the conversation. This will be an opportunity to gather around the table, share perspectives, ask questions, and learn from one another, so whether you are curious about the topic, looking to deepen your understanding, or simply enjoy thoughtful conversation, you are welcome to join us. Books are available for \$10 each. To reserve a copy, please contact Barb in the church office by June 25 so that we can order enough books for everyone.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRIDE: BIG RAPIDS

On Sunday, June 28, UMMMC will once again participate in Pride: Big Rapids, and we are looking for volunteers to help staff our booth throughout the event. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall.

Why do we participate? Because we believe every person is created in the image of God and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. As an inclusive and affirming congregation, we want our LGBTQIA+ neighbors to know that there are churches where they are not merely welcomed, but celebrated as beloved members of God's family.

Our presence at Pride is an opportunity to listen, build relationships, share who we are, and offer a visible reminder that faith and affirmation can coexist. For many people, a conversation at Pride may be their first positive interaction with a church in years—or ever. You don't need to be an expert. You simply need to be willing to offer a smile, extend hospitality, answer questions about our church, and help create a welcoming presence in our community. If you are willing to serve for part of the day, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Together, we can help ensure that our neighbors know they are loved, valued, and welcome.

PARIS CAMPUS WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Beginning June 14, the Paris Campus will return to a 9:00 AM worship time. This change will allow Pastor Jeremy to be present and preach at Paris more regularly while strengthening connections across UMMMC. Pastor Jeremy will typically preach on the second and fourth Sundays each month, with Dave Hanna, Kate Hanna, and Ray Setlock leading worship on other Sundays.

What's Happening

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

9AM - Worship @ Paris (North) Campus
10AM - Worship @ First Church (Downtown) Campus

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

9AM - Director's Meeting @ Downtown Campus

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

10AM - SOUL Circle @ Downtown Campus
5:30PM - "Purpose Driven Life" Dinner / Book Study @ North Campus

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

5:30PM - Community Dinner @ Downtown Campus

SENIOR ENRICHMENT DAY - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Senior Enrichment Day will be held at Big Rapids High School on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The seminar series offered this year includes a choice of more than 40 diverse educational sessions, providing a "one-stop shop" for vital information for seniors. Options include fitness classes, painting, long-term care, and financial planning options, help with Medicare, Veteran's benefits, and more. The sessions are 45 minutes in length and are designed for seniors, their children, and caregivers. Registration materials for the Senior Enrichment Day may be found in the Information Center outside of the church office. You may also register online: www.seniorenrichmentday.com

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS: WORSHIP SHIFTS TO FELLOWSHIP HALL

In recent announcements, we shared that worship at our Downtown Campus would move to the Fellowship Hall beginning June 14. Due to other events scheduled in the building, that transition has been postponed.

We will continue worshipping in the sanctuary through June 21 and plan to begin worshipping in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 28. Please dress comfortably for the weather, it's likely to be very warm in the sanctuary.

Thank you for your flexibility as we navigate these scheduling adjustments.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Barbara Erb - Director of Administrative Services
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Kathy Bell - Director of Congregational Care
kathy@ummecosta.org - (231) 224-6177

Paden Clevenger - Director of Family Ministries & Community Outreach
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Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 224-6545

To schedule an appointment with Pastor Jeremy, contact Barbara Erb or schedule online @ calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta

Week of June 14 - June 20, 2026

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
PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 9AM - 12PM & 12:30PM - 3PM

NORTH CAMPUS - PARIS

109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
ummecosta.org/paris

Worship Gathering
in-person
Sundays @ 9:30AM

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS - FIRST

304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
bigrapidsfirst.org

Worship Gathering
in-person and online
Sundays @ 10AM

Order of Worship - June 14, 2026

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship (Reader / *People*)

We come to worship the God who does not rule by fear.
We come to follow Jesus, who does not seek power over us, but love among us.

The world teaches us to climb higher, speak louder, win more, and control what we can.
But Jesus tells a better story.

A story where greatness becomes service.
A story where power becomes compassion.

A story where leadership becomes love.
A story where there is no "us over them," because there is no "them."

So let us lay down the need to dominate.
Let us open our hearts to the way of Jesus.

Let us worship the God whose kin-dom is mercy,
whose kin-dom is justice, humility, and love.

* Hymn - "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty", UMH #64

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading - Exodus 1:8-14 (NRSVUE)

Hymn - "Majesty, Worship His Majesty", UMH #176

New Testament Reading - Mark 10:35-45 (NRSVUE)

Message - "Us Over Them: The Domination Story"

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

* **The Doxology**, UMH #95

* **Hymn** - "Take My Life and Let it Be", UMH #399, vss. 1-2

* Blessing and Sending

* **Hymn** - "Take My Life, and Let it Be", UMH #399, v. 3

Postlude

Altar flowers are given by Rex & Cheryl Richardson in honor of their mothers; Elaine Richardson & Elaine Larson's birthdays.

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to First Church, the downtown campus of United Methodist Ministries of Mecosta County - we're so glad you're here! This is a community where every person belongs, every story matters, and every question is welcome. If you're new or exploring, we'd love to get to know you. You can learn more about who we are and find helpful information for your first visit at bigrapidsfirst.org.

Need directions? Curious about something? Our welcome team is nearby and ready to help. Truly, we're delighted to worship with you today.

NOTES:



Check In Here

SERVING TODAY - JUNE 14

Reader: Beth Bejcek
Ushers: Colin & Roberta Cline
Greeter: Pete Jensen
Nursery: Sarah DeLany, Char Fitch
Fellowship Host: Pat Little
Organist: Shirley Jernstadt
Accompanist: Kathy Bell
Tech Team: Ken Draves, Gary Poole

SERVING NEXT WEEK - JUNE 21

Reader: Marlene Rodgers
Ushers: Mike & Jana Pisani
Greeter: Kathi Parker
Nursery: Sarah DeLany, Paden Clevenger
Fellowship Host: Denise Cosper

THINK ABOUT IT: US OVER THEM: THE DOMINATION STORY

The domination story tells us that peace will come when the right people are in control. It teaches us to seek power over others, to protect our own place, and to believe that things will be better if people would simply do what we think they should do...but Jesus tells a different story.

When the disciples argued about greatness and power, Jesus said, "It is not so among you." In the way of Jesus, greatness becomes service. Power becomes compassion. Leadership becomes love.

This week, pay attention to where you have power. It may be obvious power, like a title, role, position, or responsibility. It may also be quieter power: the ability to shape a conversation, influence a decision, include someone, encourage someone, or make room for a voice that is often ignored.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Where am I tempted to confuse control with faithfulness?
- Where do I have power, influence, privilege, or responsibility?
- Who is affected by the way I use my power?
- Where might Jesus be inviting me to serve instead of control?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Before making a decision, entering a conversation, or responding to conflict, pause and ask: *How can I use the power I have to serve the common good?* Then take one concrete step: listen first, make room for someone else, give up the need to have the last word, or use your influence to lift up someone who has been pushed aside.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, teach us the way of servant-hearted love. Where we are tempted to dominate, make us humble. Where we are tempted to control, make us courageous enough to trust. Where we have power, help us use it for healing, justice, and the common good. Shape us into people who live your better story, where there is no "us over them," because there is no "them." Amen.

JUNE MISSION GIVING: PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Throughout June, our special giving focus is Peace with Justice Sunday, one of The United Methodist Church's denomination-wide special offerings. Peace with Justice supports ministries that address the root causes of conflict, injustice, and oppression. Gifts help fund efforts that promote peace, advocate for justice, and equip communities to create lasting change both locally and around the world.

As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to pray for peace but to work toward a world where all people can experience dignity, opportunity, and hope. Peace with Justice Sunday reminds us that peace and justice are deeply connected, and that our faith calls us to participate in God's work of healing and reconciliation.

Special offering envelopes are available in worship, or you may designate your gift as "Peace with Justice." Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make a difference in the lives of others.

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