

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Today we pause in the rhythm of our worship to remember: to give thanks for the saints who have shaped our faith, inspired our lives, and gone on ahead of us into God’s eternal love. During worship we will read the names of those from our community who have entered God’s presence in the past year. We will light candles, hold space for grief and gratitude, and remember that in Christ, love is stronger than death.

CHILI & CORNBREAD COOK-OFF — TODAY @ 11:15 AM

We hope you'll stay after worship for our annual Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off! Whether you brought a pot or a pan, or you’re here to taste and vote, there’s a place for you at the table.

Bowls, tasting cups, and drinks are provided. Bring your appetite, your sense of fun, and maybe a competitive spirit... there are bragging rights on the line!

Let’s share good food, good laughter, and good company as we kick off November together.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Festival of Lights Parade is **Saturday, November 22, 6–8 PM** in downtown Big Rapids, and UMMMC will have a float! We need volunteers to help build the float and to join us the night of the parade. Julie Setlock, Director of Family Ministries, is coordinating. If you’d like to help, please contact Julie or Barb in the church office.

POTLUCK & STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Join us **Sunday, November 23, at 11:15 AM (First Church)** for a potluck lunch and stakeholders meeting. We'll celebrate how far we’ve come together, share updates about new and upcoming ministry opportunities for 2026, and review the budget for the year ahead. Bring a favorite dish to share (*drinks and tableware will be provided*), and come ready for good food, meaningful conversation, and connection with siblings in Christ. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

A NEW CHRISTMAS CHOIR IS FORMING!

We are excited to share that we’re forming a Christmas Choir for this Advent and Christmas season! This is open to absolutely everyone. Whether choir has been part of your life in the past or you just love to sing and want to be part of something meaningful this season, we’d love to have you.

The Christmas Choir will sing on **November 30, December 7, December 21, and Christmas Eve**. Rehearsals begin **Wednesday, November 12, at 4 PM** and will continue weekly at that time. If you'd like to participate, please contact Kathy Bell by November 16, 2025.

BAKING BUDDIES PROGRAM COMING SOON!

There's nothing quite like the warmth of good fellowship... and a good cookie. We’re excited to share that a new Baking Buddies program is taking shape here at First Church! This will be an easy and fun way for folks who love to bake - but don’t want to host fellowship time - to support our hosts by providing homemade treats for the congregation. If you’ve been looking for a simple, joyful way to serve (or you just enjoy sharing your famous muffins with friends), this might be for you. More details and signup information will be coming soon, so keep an eye out.

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:30AM - Worship @ Paris Campus
10:00AM - Worship @ First Church Campus
Fellowship & Coffee immediately After Worship, Fellowship Hall
11:15AM - Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave
6:30PM - SOUL Circle Gathering @ First
7PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Paris

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10AM - SOUL Circle Gathering @ First
11:30AM - Community Lunch @ Third Ave

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

12PM - Alcoholics Anonymous @ Third Ave

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

FALL PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY NEEDS LIST:

Donated items can be put in the basket in Fellowship Hall, under the bulletin boards.

- Deodorant
- Paper Towel
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Shampoo & Conditioners
- Body Wash
- Cleaning Products
- Laundry Detergent
- Adult Toothpaste

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Barbara Erb - Director of Administrative Services
barbara@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

Julie Setlock - Director of Family Ministry
julie@ummecosta.org - (231) 796-7771

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

Rev. Jeremy Wicks - Executive Pastor
jeremy@ummecosta.org / (231) 224-6545

Pastor Jeremy's office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–11:30AM and 1:30–4PM. Appointments are highly recommended and can be booked by contacting either Barbara Erb, Pastor Jeremy, or by visiting: calendly.com/jeremy-ummecosta .

Week of November 2 - November 8, 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
PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 9AM - 11:30AM & 1:30PM - 4PM

NORTH CAMPUS - PARIS DOWNTOWN CAMPUS - FIRST

109 Lincoln St
Paris, MI 49338
ummecosta.org/paris
304 Elm Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
bigrapidsfirst.org

Worship Gathering
in-person
Sundays @ 9:30AM
Worship Gathering
in-person and online
Sundays @ 10AM

Order of Worship - November 2, 2025

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*** Call to Worship** (Reader / *People*)
We gather today surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—those who kept faith when the world called them foolish, those who followed the Lamb with courage and love.

We remember their names, we honor their lives, and we join their song of praise.

They showed us that real power is not found in crowns or conquest, but in mercy, kindness, and steadfast hope.

Their race is run, but the path remains. We take our place among the saints who still believe that love is stronger than death.

So let us worship the God of every generation—the Alpha and Omega, the One who makes all things new.

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to God and to the Lamb forever! Amen.

*** Hymn** - “For All the Saints”, UMH #711

Children’s Message

Scripture Reading - Revelation 5:1-14 (NRSVUE)
Reader: The word of God, for the people of God.
People: *Thanks be to God!*

Remembering the Saints

Message - “A Revelation of Hope: The Lamb Who Conquers”

Celebration of Holy Communion

*** “The Doxology”**, UMH #95

*** Hymn** - “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”, UMH #384, vss. 1-3

*** Benediction**

*** Hymn** - “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”, UMH #384, vs. 4

Postlude

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Altar flowers are given in celebration of Rex & Cheryl Richardsons 56th Anniversary

Please join us for coffee and light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship!

NOTES:



Check In Here

SERVING TODAY - NOVEMBER 2

Reader: Emmanuel Jadhav
Ushers: Pete Jensen, Joann Haist
Greeter: Nancy Spedowski
Nursery: Kati Wheeler, Donna Drake
Sunday School: Julie Setlock, Julie Tessin
Fellowship Host: Denise Cospir

SERVING NEXT WEEK - NOVEMBER 9

Reader: Pat Little
Ushers: Colin & Roberta Cline
Greeter: Pete Jensen
Nursery: Jana Pisani, Julie Setlok
Sunday School: TBD
Fellowship Host: Cheryl Richardson

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!

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

The world tells us that power looks like control — the loudest voice, the strongest hand, the last word. But in Revelation, when John looks for the Lion of Judah, he sees instead a Lamb — wounded, standing, radiant with love.

That’s the surprise at the heart of the gospel: the victory of God doesn’t come through domination, but through compassion. The Lamb conquers not by taking life, but by giving it. That’s the kind of power that can heal a world wounded by fear and greed.

As we celebrate All Saints Sunday, we remember those who walked this same path of love — people who refused to give up on goodness, who practiced mercy when anger would’ve been easier, who believed that love really could transform the world. Their witness reminds us that conquering, in God’s kingdom, looks like steadfast faithfulness and stubborn hope.

Questions for Reflection:

- What does “power” look like in your world — and how might Christ’s example challenge that?
- Who in your life has embodied the Lamb’s kind of power — gentle, self-giving, courageous love?
- How can you use your influence this week to lift others up rather than gain advantage?

Prayer for the Week:

God of the Lamb, teach us the strength of gentleness and the courage of compassion. When the world glorifies might, help us follow the way of mercy. Make our lives instruments of Your peace, so that love — not fear — has the final word. Amen.

Wrap-Up Thought:

The Lamb’s victory is not about escaping the world — it’s about transforming it. Every act of love, every word of truth, every step toward justice is another verse in heaven’s song: “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain — to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might, and honor and glory and blessing.*”

NEXT WEEK: “THE NEW JERUSALEM – A VISION OF RENEWAL”

Next week in our *A Revelation of Hope* series, we’ll explore the New Jerusalem, God’s dream made visible: a city where every tear is wiped away, where mourning turns to joy, and where justice and peace finally take root. It’s a reminder that God’s work isn’t finished — renewal is already breaking through, in small and beautiful ways, wherever love repairs what fear has broken. Join us as we celebrate the hope of renewal and discover what it means to live as people who help build that New Jerusalem in our world today.

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!