

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Worship at Big Rapids First United Methodist, also known as First Church - we are so happy to see you! If this is your first visit, or it's been a while, here's some information that you might want to know... 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 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.

Whether you are a first-time guest, a long-time member, or checking us out - you are welcome here!

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 Fellowship Hall)

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

Office Hours:
Monday - Closed
Tues - Friday, 9AM - 3PM



This Week @ First Church

Sunday, January 22, 2023

10AM - Worship Celebration (Fellowship Hall)
10AM - Child Care for Infants - 4 years old (Nursery)
10:15AM - Sunday School, 4 1/2 - 4th graders (Classroom 1)
11AM - Fellowship Time after Worship (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, January 24

10AM - Worship Design Team (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 25

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

Thursday, January 26

5:30PM - Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)



FAMILY MEETING

Our first Family Meeting and Potluck
of 2023 will be January 29,
immediately after worship.

If you have items for discussion,
please contact Pastor Jeremy
by Wednesday, January 25.

Week of January 22 - January 28



BIG RAPIDS FIRST UMC

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(231) 796-7771 / www.bigrapidsfirst.org

Pastor - Rev. Jeremy Wicks
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Order of Worship - January 22, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

Every generous act of giving is a tribute to God's love for us.

Let us be people of generous and abundant gifts for others.

Be ready to listen and slow to react in anger.

Lord, prepare us to be peaceful people.

Keep your hearts and spirits ready to serve the Lord.

Lord, open our hearts to hear and respond to your words of life in ministries of hope and peace. AMEN.

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

Children's Message

Choral Anthem - "In Christ Alone"

Scripture - Matthew 6:33 & James 1:27 (NRSVUE)
Reader: The word of God, for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn** - "Seek Ye First", UMH #405

Message - "The Main Thing"

Pastoral Prayer

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

* **Hymn** - "The Gift of Love", UMH #408, vs. 1 & 2

* Benediction

* **Hymn** - "The Gift of Love", UMH #408, vs. 3

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able*

NOTES:



Check In Here

Serving Today - January 22

Reader: Barbara Ross

Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson

Greeter: Pete Jensen

Children's Sunday School: Rev. Karen Poole, Pat Little

Today's Focus - PARABLES: The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Trisha Jadhav

Serving Next Week - January 29

Reader: Pat Little

Ushers: Rex & Cheryl Richardson

Greeter: Kathi Parker

Children's Sunday School: Larisa Draves, Rev. Karen Poole

Today's Focus - PARABLES: The Great Pearl, Matthew 13:45

Nursery: Diane Parrish, Jana Pisani

If you would like to serve as a worship or hospitality volunteer in 2023, please check the box on your Connection Card in person or online.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

EARTH CARE MINISTRY - RECYCLING BUDDIES

As part of our ongoing - and expanding - efforts to be better stewards of the God's creation, BRFUMC is starting a Recycling Buddies program. Republic Recycling Services has given permission for the people in the townships to give a friend, who lives in the city, the recyclable material Mecosta County recycle does not take. Are you a city resident willing to partner up with a church member living in the township? Are you a township resident willing to bring your recyclables not taken by the county to a city member? If so, please join us at the family meeting to be a part of this exciting program.

NOISY OFFERING

On Sunday, January 29, 2023, we will receive our first "noisy offering" during the Children's Message. The kids will wander through the worship space with buckets to noisily collect your gifts, so please plan to bring your change and add to the "pot". The money raised will be given to Project: Starburst, a local nonprofit organization selected by our kids, that works with those in need in Mecosta and Osceola counties.

ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2023 Flower calendar is up outside the church office door. If you would like to sign up to purchase flowers in memory / honor of someone, please do so. The cost continues to be \$10.00 per week. Please leave your payment in the drop box near the office door, using the Flower Offering envelope provided near the calendar.

2022 YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS

The 2022 giving statements will be mailed out next week. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Daniels 231-349-8800.

2023 GIVING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available to pick up from the office, during regular business hours.

For more information about current events at the church, to read the Pastor's Blog or Lay Leader's Notes, and so much more - visit us online @ www.bigrapidsfirst.org