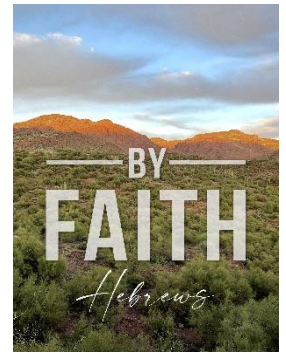


The United Church of Big Rapids
August 10, 2025
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

❖ *You are invited to stand*



Welcome

Announcements

Prelude

Adore and Be Still, by Charles Gounod

❖ Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we gather today as inheritors of faith in God's salvific work, a faith handed down to us over generations that we claim and proclaim today in this community.

People: By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.

Leader: By faith, our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends shared God's love with us, a love that longs to draw us all as members of the Body of Christ.

People: By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.

Leader: By faith, we remember the story today, the story of God's desire for all creation to be reconciled to God and one another.

People: By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.

Leader: By faith, we carry the faith forward, building a community of belonging, provision, and care as we journey with God toward a better country.

People: By faith, we gather to nourish and encourage one another on the journey toward a better country as we build God's already-but-not-yet kingdom here and now.

❖ Invocation

Leader: Let us pray,

People: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We come convinced of many things but trusting very few.

Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we cannot see, that which we have not dared to hope. Amen.

❖ Hymn #482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty, tune: Lobe den Herren

Scripture Lesson *(from the Inclusive Bible)*

Psalm Reading

Psalm 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is YHWH! Happy the people you choose as your own inheritance!

¹³ From the heavens you look forth, YHWH,

- and see all of humankind.
- ¹⁴ From your dwelling place you watch over
all the peoples of the earth.
- ¹⁵ You shape the hearts of them all
and consider all their deeds.
- ¹⁶ A ruler isn't saved by the size of an army;
a warrior doesn't escape because of strength.
- ¹⁷ Trust in the horse for your deliverance
and you'll be disappointed –
despite its might,
it cannot save.
- ¹⁸ The eyes of YHWH look on those who stand in reverence,
on those who hope in God's love
- ¹⁹ to rescue them from death,
or to keep them alive during famine.
- ²⁰ And so we wait for YHWH, our help and
our shield.
- ²¹ For in you our hearts find joy;
we trust in your holy Name.
- ²² May your love be upon us, YHWH,
as we place all our hope in you.

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. ² Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God. ³ By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word of God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

⁸ By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

⁹ By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise – ¹⁰ for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

¹¹ By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. ¹² As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore.

¹³ All of them died in faith. They didn't obtain what had been promised, but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and exiles on the earth, ¹⁴ they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking

of the country from which they had come, they'd have been able to return to it. ¹⁶ But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God isn't ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That's why God has prepared a city for them.

Leader: This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

Order for Baptism

Invitation

Welcome

Leader: ... Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

Address

Leader: ... "yet you have come to me!"

People: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

Leader: ... coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

People: Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Leader: ... into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions of the Candidate

Leader: ...Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer for Baptism

Leader: Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Act of Baptism

Act of Praise

Leader: ...this new member of the body of Christ.
People: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Hymn #498

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, tune: Kingdom

Sermon

The Something More— Rev. Devon Herrell

Sharing of our Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom/kin_dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom/kin_dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

❖ **Offertory**

from "A Child's Book of Hymns"

❖ **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, you call us to seek justice, to defend the oppressed, and to care for the widows and orphans. As we give today, may our offerings reflect your heart for the marginalized and be a means of bringing about the justice that you desire. In your reconciling love, we pray. Amen.

❖ **Hymn #361**

How Firm a Foundation, tune: Foundation

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude

Toccata Brillante, by Ben Logan



Welcome to our visitors today! We're glad you chose to worship with us! Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet with your name and email/address in the pew in front of you. We like to keep up with those that visit us.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give to the Pantry! Project Starburst continues to have a high demand for food. The Mission Commission's "Give to the Pantry" program has identified canned meat and fish as the "food of the month" for August. With the demand, any non-perishable food item is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

Congratulations to Maryrose and Jonathon Robison and their daughter, Reese Joleigh, as Reese is baptized today. Reese's sponsors are Kerri and Kyle Roeuch. Reese is the granddaughter of Jim & Terri Cook. Welcome to the family of God, Reese!

Daniels Family Playground – We have received word of a fundraising event honoring the late Leslie Daniels and her husband, Bob, to support the community Playscape playground in Hemlock Park. The Daniels family were long-time, involved members of the United Church. You may read more about the fundraiser at <https://givebutter.com/5Y0Q6Z>.

Contacting the church office - You may contact the office at any time via email, secretary@unitedchurchbr.org or you can call **231-527-9567** between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday with questions or concerns. This phone number also accepts messages outside of regular business hours. You can also mail the office at 120 S. State Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307. You can also find information about our church on our website: www.unitedchurchbr.org or by visiting our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids.

Financial Information – The Governing Board and Treasurer are sharing this data monthly with you. If you have questions, contact Amy Buse, Treasurer, or a member of the Governing Board.


	Expenditures	Income
July 2025	\$ 33,341.05	\$ 4,669.08
Year-to-Date (Jan-Jul 2025)	\$169,291.02	\$126,666.04




The United Church of Big Rapids

Our vision is to honor all children of God through following the way of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to celebrate all creation as an active presence in our community, engaging in transformational worship and nurturing families and relationships, as we cultivate Jesus' justice and love.



The United Church of Big Rapids is a union of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. It is a congregation that worships together, seeks opportunities to serve others, encourages one another to grow in intellect and spirit, strives for social justice, and fully embraces Jesus' call to love one another as God loves us.



Because we believe God's whole creation is good, blessed, and sacred, we are an open and affirming community of faith. We celebrate persons of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities, and economic circumstances.

As valued members of this congregation all persons are invited to equally participate in the full life of the church - worship, sacraments, ministry, fellowship, leadership, responsibilities, sorrows, blessings, and the continued presence of Jesus Christ.



Ministers	The Body of Christ
Worship Lead.....	Rev. Devon Herrell
Administrative Assistant	Julie Cole
Organist	Paul Heidemann
Chancel Choir Director	Linda Rinehart
Chancel Choir Assistant Director.....	Katie McInnis
Bell Choir Director.....	Judy Tressler
Custodian	Larry Carnes
Nursery Attendant	Michell Kamptner
Moderator.....	Marshall Henry
Sanctuary Sound	Wayne McKay
Sound Board	Mike Rinehart
Liturgist	Susan H. Grant
Ushers.....	Maxine McKay, Don Stephen, Judy Tressler
Fellowship Time Hosts.....	Don Stephen and Judy Tressler
Livestream Team.....	Amy Buse, Adam Jewell, Aleah Ritzema, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

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