

The United Church of Big Rapids  
February 9, 2025  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

❖ *You are invited to stand*



**Choral Introit**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Call to Worship, by Louri Grichetchkine*

❖ **Call to Worship**

Leader: Great is the grace and glory of God.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of joy.**

Leader: Great is the strength and mercy of our creator.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of hope.**

Leader: Great is the courage and hope of our Lord.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of faith.**

Leader: Great is the mercy and compassion of the Holy One.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of love.**

Leader: As we worship together, the Sacred meets us here.

**People: We give thanks with hopeful expectation.**

❖ **Unison Invocation**

**Divine Deliverer of compassion, you call us to follow your voice, "Whom shall I send?" you asked us. With hearts of hope and souls filled with courage, we respond, "Here I am. Send me." You evaporate our shame, and joyously embrace our authentic selves. May we continue to open ourselves to you, and may we embrace our full humanity as you do. Amen.**

❖ **Hymn #267**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful, tune: Royal Oak*

## Scripture Lesson

*Old Testament Lesson (from the New Revised Standard Version)*

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

*Gospel Lesson*

*Luke 5:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Chancel Choir Anthem**

*Come to the Water, by John Foley*

**Sermon**

*Identity Crisis: Different Results – Rev Devon Herrell*

**Sharing of our Joys & Concerns**

## Pastoral Prayer & The 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.**

**Choral Amen**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

*Lead On, O King Eternal, by Lani Smith*

### ❖ **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**

**Faithful God, with hearts full of praise, we offer these gifts as a sign of our gratitude for your steadfast love and faithfulness. Just as you have exalted your name and your word above all things, may these offerings be used to glorify you and extend your grace to those in need. Bless our giving, that it may bring hope, strength, and light to all who seek you. Amen.**

### ❖ **Hymn #412**

*Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds, tune: Forest Green*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Praise and Glory, by Ruth Elaine Schram*



**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.



**The choir thought you might like to read the lyrics of their anthem today:**

"Come to the Water"

By John Foley, SJ

© 1975, 1978, 1993, John B. Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music

Lyrics suggested by Isaiah 55: 1,2; Matthew 11: 28-30

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
without money, without price.  
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
without money, without strife.  
Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.  
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:  
all who labor, without rest.  
How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:  
bring the children, without might.  
Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.



## **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 soup as the "food of the month" for February. With the demand, any non-perishable food item is greatly appreciated. The bin in the Narthex is available to accept donations.

**Arts Opportunities at the United Church!** The United Church is hosting the second of two organ concerts as part of the Festival of the Arts. Noah Mallett, who grew up in Big Rapids and is a graduate student at Michigan State University, will perform on Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm. Please come and support our church and the Festival of the Arts!

**AAUW Book Bin** – AAUW is holding its annual book sale on April 11 and 12. Funds raised are used for scholarships for non-traditional students. To make the sale a success, books are needed! The bin in the Narthex is waiting for donations – books of all kinds are welcome.

**Book Study** – The next book study will be on the book, *Life After Doom*, by Brian D. McLaren. The first meeting of the group will be on Sunday, February 16, after worship (around 10:45 am) in the Parlor. The book may be purchased on Amazon. If you need assistance in getting a book, please contact the office.

**AARP Tax Program Ready to Serve Mecosta County Residents** – There is an AARP program in Mecosta County that can help prepare your taxes. This program is designed for taxpayers with low to moderate incomes, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. The program is run entirely by volunteers who assist clients at four centers from February 10 through April 15. Appointments are usually scheduled for one and a quarter hour and can be completed in a timely manner if the taxpayer brings all the paperwork required to prepare the return. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). They have a NEW number for tax scheduling – 231-349-0842 which accepts phone calls and texts.

**Pub Theology** – The next Pub Theology meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm at Crankers. Join the fellowship and conversation. We are aware of the many Festival of the Arts events happening in February and that some may not be available for church activities.

**Project Starburst's Annual "Souper Supper"** is coming Wednesday, March 19 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Three Girls Bakery. We are looking for sponsors. Forms are on the table in the narthex. Alice Bandstra and Dee Van Horn will have tickets.

**Contacting the church office** - You may contact the office at any time via email, [secretary@unitedchurchbr.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchbr.org) or you can call **231-527-9567** between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and 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](http://www.unitedchurchbr.org) or by visiting our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids).

**Pastor Devon's contact information** – If you need to contact Pastor Devon, you may contact her by phone for pastoral care needs at 231-629-2302. You may also reach out via email: [devonherrell@gmail.com](mailto:devonherrell@gmail.com). Pastor Devon does have another full-time job, so in-person meeting time is limited. She plans to be in the office on Thursdays from 9:00 am – 11:45 am. You may contact the church office to set up an appointment.

**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
December 2024	\$ 21,327.71	\$ 12,232.12
Year-to-Date (Jan-Dec 2024)	\$ 198,525.69	\$ 227,739.88

A few notes on the budget:


- Just a reminder the expenses would be larger if we were paying a full-time pastor
- The December income includes \$1,650 from the Christmas Offering




## 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
Lead Minister .....	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 .....	Erin Dumond
Moderator .....	Marshall Henry
Sound Board .....	Trish McHugh
Liturgist .....	Kari Clark
Ushers .....	Paul Challender, Maxine McKay, Dee Van Horn
Fellowship Hosts .....	Rev. Devon & Laura Herrell
Livestream Team .....	Amy Buse, Adam Jewell, Aleah Ritzema, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors .....	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

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