

**Outdoor Worship Service**  
**The United Church of Big Rapids**  
*(held at Northend Riverside Park)*

**July 16, 2023**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

❖ *You are invited to stand*

**LOVE**  
*the Lord your God*  
*with all your*  
**HEART**  
*and with all your*  
**SOUL**  
*and with all your*  
**STRENGTH**  
*and with all your*  
**MIND...**  
L U K E 10 : 27

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

❖ **Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 89)*

Leader: We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

**People: With our mouths we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

Leader: We declare that your steadfast love is established forever.

**People: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

**People: Happy are we the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance; we exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness.**

Leader: For you are the glory of our strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. Come together, fellow children of God and let us sing His praises, listen to his word, and prepare ourselves for the coming days.

❖ **Invocation**

**God of all peoples, we give you thanks and praise for this time together to share worship as a community of believers. Knowing our weaknesses you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, that we might live freely, out of the shadow of death. We know the joy of You. May your words today give us strength, compassion, and knowledge to share through example and word, your love of all of your creation. In the name of Christ, our savior. Amen.**

## ❖ Hymn

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

### *Verse 1*

Lord, I want to be a Christian  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be a Christian ina my heart  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be a Christian ina my heart

### *Verse 3*

Lord, I want to be more holy  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be more holy ina my heart  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be more holy ina my heart.

### *Verse 2*

Lord, I want to be more loving  
Ina my heart, ina my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving, ina my heart  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be more loving ina my heart

### *Verse 4*

Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus, ina my heart  
Ina my heart, ina my heart  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus ina my heart.

## Scripture Lessons

*Introduction to Scripture*

*Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel*

*Gospel Reading (from the Common English Bible)*

*Luke 10:25-37*

<sup>25</sup> A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" <sup>27</sup> He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. <sup>31</sup> Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. <sup>32</sup> Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. <sup>33</sup> A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.'

<sup>36</sup> What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?" <sup>37</sup> Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him." Jesus told him, " Go and do likewise."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*The Good Samaritan – Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel*

**Special Music**

*Morning Has Broken, Roger Vajda - soloist*

**Sharing of our Joys & Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father/Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

*For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Purifoy*

❖ **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**

**We thank you Lord and praise you for the many blessings we have received from your bounty. Now we return this portion of our earnings so that your work may continue to be done wherever there is a need. We pray in gratitude through our redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

❖ **Hymn**

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

*Verse 1*

I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

*Verse 2*

I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

*Verse 3*

I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

❖ **Benediction**



The altar flowers are given by Susan H. Grant

to welcome Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you** to Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, Michigan Conference Minister, for joining us as we worship in the park this morning. Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel is a preacher, teacher, and writer who serves as the Michigan Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ. Her book, *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To* is generating international conversation about the changing religious landscape. It continues the theme of her 2013 book *When 'Spiritual But Not Religious' Is Not Enough* about the growing number of people who claim "none" as their religious preference. While she has taught preaching at a number of schools, including Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School, she can't be held responsible for everyone who falls asleep in church. Lillian Daniel has spoken at the National Cathedral, Duke Chapel, King's College, London and Queen's College, Ontario, but on most Sundays you can find her preaching at one of the 140 churches in her care in the beautiful state of Michigan. Welcome to Big Rapids, Rev. Daniel!

**Communion** – we will be celebrating Communion on the second Sunday of August to accommodate the schedule of our supply pastors.

**Give to the Pantry!** Project Starburst continues to have a high demand for food. The Mission Commission "Give to the Pantry" program has identified canned peaches as the "food of the month". With the demand, any non-perishable food item is also greatly appreciated. The bin in the Narthex is available to accept donations.

**Potluck Today** – Please plan to join us in fellowship as we share our potluck meal after worship. Even if you did not bring anything, please stay – there is always plenty of food! Thank you to the Spiritual Life Commission for hosting our potluck and for providing lemonade, iced tea, and coffee today.

**The Elevator Fund** – Our elevator needs updating! We are asking the congregation to raise money to help pay for the upgrade. Any amount donated is greatly appreciated! Please write elevator on the envelope/check when making your donation. You can also make a donation using our DONATE webpage. Additional information about the elevator upgrades and/or financing can be obtained from Amy Buse, Treasurer, or members of the Property & Finance Commission.

**THANK YOU** to the volunteers that sign up to host Fellowship time in the Parlor, to those that provide altar flowers, and to those that serve as liturgists or multi-media team members each week. Our church needs each and every volunteer and staff member to make our Sunday worship service come together. You are appreciated! If you'd like to help, in any way, check the bulletin board outside the office for opportunities, or call the church office. Sign-up sheets for July & August have been posted.

**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.

**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.

### Financial Update:

	Expenditures	Income
May 2023	\$ 16,833.93	\$ 44,298.25*
Year-to-Date (Jan-May 2023)	\$ 81,563.00	\$ 166,118.60*

\* This includes \$35,220.92 we received from the Employee Retention Tax Credit Program (ERTC) along with \$30,919 in donations for the elevator



## 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
Guest Minister .....	Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, Michigan Conference Minister, UCC
Administrative Assistant .....	Julie Cole
Organist .....	Paul Heidemann
Bell Choir Director.....	Judy Tressler
Chancel Choir Director .....	Linda Rinehart
Chancel Choir Assistant Director .....	Katie McInnis
Moderator .....	Marshall Henry
Elder in Charge.....	Wayne McKay
Sound Board .....	Amy Buse, Paul Heidemann
Liturgist .....	Susan H. Grant
Fellowship time Potluck Hosts .....	Spiritual Life Commission
Ushers.....	Don Otree, Melanie Henry, Sue Boitos
Livestream Team.....	Amy Buse, Annie Ducat, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors .....	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

*\*Permission to use the music in this service obtained from OneLicense with license #A-712368*