

**The United Church of Big Rapids**

**June 8, 2025**

**Pentecost Sunday**

❖ *You are invited to stand*



**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Search Me O God, by Michael Cox*

❖ **Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

**People: For God has done wondrous things for us.**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

**People: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

**People: Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen. Amen.**

❖ **Unison Invocation**

**Kindling Spirit, build well the fire in our hearts this day. Fan us to flame that all may see Holy Love blazing. Pour out your gifts, that we might join millions who are Spirit-led setting the church on fire with strength, boldness, and power. Help us witness to the world and to one another your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen.**

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**Scripture Lesson** *(from New Revised Standard Version Bible)*

*Psalm Reading*

*Psalm 104:24-34, 35b*

- <sup>24</sup> O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
The earth is full of your creatures.
- <sup>25</sup> Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.
- <sup>26</sup> There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed  
to sport in it.
- <sup>27</sup> These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season:
- <sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- <sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to dust.
- <sup>30</sup> When you send forth your spirit,  
they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.
- <sup>31</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works –
- <sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke;
- <sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- <sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord
- <sup>35</sup> ...Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Praise the Lord!

*Gospel Lesson*

*Acts 2:1-21*

- <sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all of these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power. <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see vision,  
and your old men shall dream dreams,  
<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
And they shall prophesy.  
<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood.  
Before the coming of the  
Lord's great and glorious day.  
<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

<sup>22</sup> "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs of God through him among you, as you yourselves know – <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power."

Leader: This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music**

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, arr. Gordon Myers  
Katie McInnis, soloist*

**Sermon**

*The Key to Common Ground - Rev. Devon Herrell*

**Hymn #322**

*Spirit of the Living God, tune: Living God*

**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**

**Bless these gifts we bring, Spirit of truth and life, may they bring blessings in unexpected ways. Bless the work of our hands and hearts. Let all we offer be acceptable and connect with the glory of your presence at all times and in all things, Amen.**

❖ **Hymn #129**

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us, tune: Ebenezer*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord, by Samuel Wellman*



**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 altar flowers are given today by Pat Heeter  
in thanks to Amy Buse, Trish McHugh & Laura Herrell  
for all the effort and care, hours of searching, working with contractors  
and supply delays during this renovation project -  
Thank you!



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you** to Katie McInnis for providing us with special music today! We appreciate you sharing your talents with us this Sunday.

**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 cereal as the "food of the month" for June. With the demand, any non-perishable food item is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

**Office hours for next week** – The church office will be closed Thursday, June 12 through Tuesday, June 17 for Julie's vacation. Julie will be back in the office on Wednesday, June 18 and then regular hours on Thursday, June 19. Phone messages and email will be monitored & replied to during this time.

**Meijer "Simply Give"** – The Meijer Simply Give program has selected Project Starburst as the recipient of funds collected from now through June 28. During this time, donations are matched by Meijer one to one. **A double match day is scheduled for June 14.** You may purchase Simply Give cards at the local Meijer store, or find them in the narthex. You may also give your donation directly to Diane Long at Project Starburst to turn in on the double match day.

**Save the Date** for Senior Enrichment Day, Wednesday, June 25. The event will be held at the Big Rapids High School. The seminar series offered this year includes a choice of more than 40 diverse educational sessions, providing a "one-stop-shop" for vital information for seniors. Registration materials are available in the narthex or found at locations throughout the county including RSVP offices and the Mecosta County Senior Center.

**Blood Drive** – The United Church will be hosting a Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, June 25 from 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm. If you would like to donate, see the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact the church office.

**Pride Big Rapids Festival** is coming on June 29. The United Church is proud to support the Festival! We will not have a special booth or table this year, but church members are encouraged to attend and volunteer as you wish. To volunteer, visit <https://www.pridebigrapids.org/volunteer> and fill out an application.

**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. 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
April 2025	\$ 4,361.95	\$ 15,420.29
Year-to-Date (Jan-Apr 2025)	\$ 74,805.53	\$101,484.60







## 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 .....	Trish McHugh, Peter McHugh
Liturgist .....	Kathleen Keys Singh
Ushers.....	Maxine McKay, Paul Challender, Dee Van Horn
Livestream Team.....	Amy Buse, Adam Jewell, Aleah Ritzema, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors .....	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

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