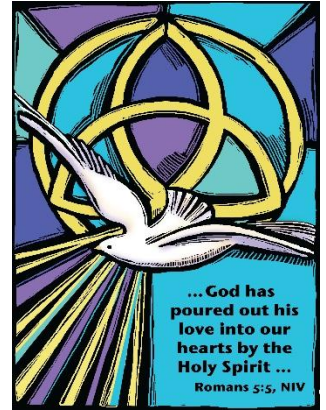


The United Church of Big Rapids  
June 15, 2025  
Trinity Sunday

❖ *You are invited to stand*



Welcome

Announcements

Prelude

*How Can I Keep from Singing? Lani Smith*

❖ Call to Worship

Leader: God's love has been poured into our hearts. When we give it away, we have even more for ourselves.

**People: The Holy Spirit has blessed us with love. The Spirit dwells with us and enables our loving.**

Leader: The Spirit of Truth promises to guide us. When we respond, our lives are deeply enriched.

**People: God has crowned us with glory and honor. We are given responsibility to care for God's creation.**

Leader: Wisdom continues as a partner in creation and re-creation. Let us praise the one who has dominion over all.

**People: How majestic is God's name in all the earth. We accept the grace and peace God offers.**

❖ Unison Invocation

**Spirit of Truth, you open to us the Word of life and help us to see the possibilities of each day. Guide us now that we may hear your truth and embody it. As we face suffering, help us to endure, to hope, and to love. Grant wisdom and strength of character to overcome former limitations, that we might represent you well each moment we live, doing the work you call us to do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson** *(from Inclusive Bible)**Epistle Lesson**Romans 5:1-5*

<sup>1</sup> Now since we have been made right in God's sight by our faith, we are at peace with God through our Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, on which we will become all that God has intended. <sup>3</sup> But not only that – we even rejoice in our afflictions! We know that affliction produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And such a hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

*Gospel Lesson**John 16:12-15*

<sup>12</sup> I have much more to tell you,  
but you can't bear to hear it now.  
<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes,  
she will guide you into all truth.  
She won't speak on her own initiative;  
rather, she'll speak only what she hears,  
and she'll announce to you  
things that are yet to come.  
<sup>14</sup> In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me,  
and she will take what is mine  
and reveal it to you.  
<sup>15</sup> Everything that Abba God has  
belongs to me.  
This why I said that  
the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you.

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

**People: Thanks be to 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.

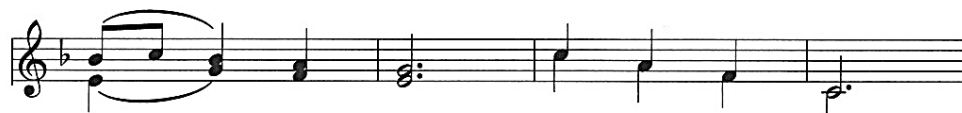
❖ Prayer of Dedication

**Giving God, we are grateful for wisdom, for beauty, for the ways in which we see your glory in all creation. Most of all, we thank you for caring for us and for entrusting to us the ministry of caring for the earth and for one another. May these offerings extend the faith and honor you: Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. Amen.**

# Come Now, Almighty God

*Anon., English, c. 1757; alt.*

1 Come now, Al - might - y God, help us your  
 2 Come now, In - car - nate Word, by heaven and  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, your sa - cred  
 4 To you, great One in Three, e - ter - nal



name to laud; our songs we raise:  
 earth a - dored; our prayer at - tend:  
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.  
 prais - es be for ev - er - more.



Rul - er all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
 Come, and your peo - ple bless, and give your word suc - cess;  
 Your grace to us im - part, now rule in ev - ery heart,  
 Your sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,



come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!  
 grant us your ho - li - ness, Sav - ior and Friend!  
 nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

## Benediction

## Postlude

*The Abundant Life, Ben Logan*

The altar flowers are given today by Susan H. Grant  
 with gratitude for the Blessing of Friendship



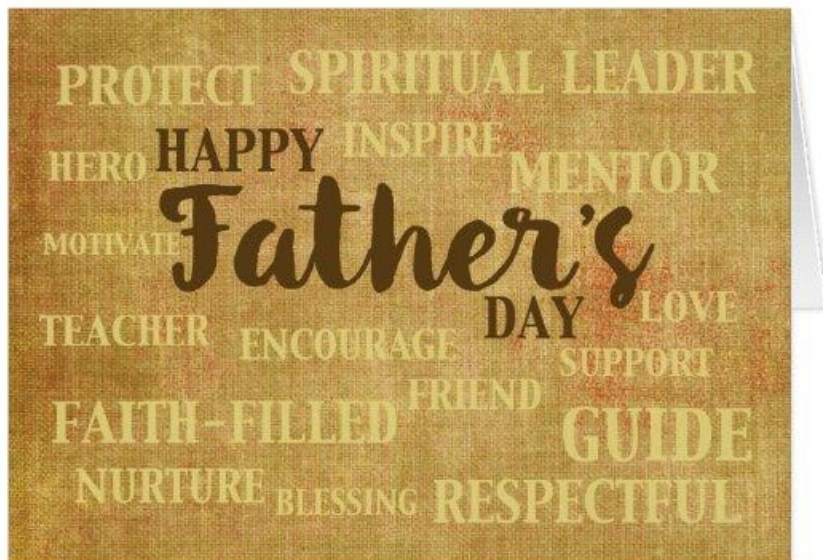


**Welcome to our visitors today!** We're glad you chose to worship with us! Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet with your name and email/address in the pew in front of you. We like to keep up with those that visit us.



Fatherhood is an expression of love, guidance and care that transcends traditional boundaries. At the United Church, we invite all to expand the understanding of fatherhood, recognizing that God's love does not conform to societal norms or expectations. Instead, it embraces diversity and inclusivity, affirming the worth and dignity of all people!\*

Please stop after worship for a small gift.



\* by Mike Mitchell, Progressive Church Media

## **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 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 Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17 for Julie's vacation. Julie will be back in the office beginning Wednesday, June 18. 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. 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.

**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.

**Save the Date!** Our annual "Worship in the Park" will be held on July 13 at Northend Riverside Park. Please mark your calendar to join us for what always proves to be a highlight of our summer. If you would like to assist the Spiritual Life Commission in preparing for this service, please contact Maryanne Heidemann.

**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. Susan Sickelka
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 .....	Adam Jewell
Liturgist .....	Susan H. Grant
Ushers.....	Mary Olshewski, Jane Grzybowski, Maryanne Heidemann
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*