

The United Church of Big Rapids

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

❖ *You are invited to stand*



Choral Introit

Welcome

Announcements

Prelude

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners! arr. Priscilla King

❖ **Call to Worship**

Leader: Day by day, God leads us:

People: to the deep, deep pools of peace, to the green, lush lawns of grace.

Leader: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

People: to pour out ourselves in service, to anoint the stranger with hope.

Leader: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

People: the community we could be, the family we are called to become.

❖ **Unison Invocation**

**Gracious God, in love You open wide the doors and welcome us into Your presence—
saints and sinners alike. You spread a table before us, filled with the richest fare—
a feast of love and mercy for the body and soul. We come with joy to meet You here, to
encounter Your goodness, to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives. May Your Spirit
inspire our praise and thanksgiving, our prayers and petitions as we worship together in
Your presence. Amen.**

575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

Unison F B \flat C7

1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we
 2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
 3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's

F F B \flat

lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -

C7 F Am7

frame where we are freed: clear the cha - os and the
 be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B \flat (C7)

clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
 dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

F B \flat C7 F

things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
 cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
 Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

Scripture Lesson

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

For you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Gospel Lesson

John 10:22-30

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Chancel Choir Anthem

Sing to the Lord a Jubilant Song, by Dan R. Edwards

Sermon

Covered in Dust – 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.

Choral Amen

Call to Offering

Offertory

Childhood Hymn

❖ 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

God of abundance, we bring these gifts before You – not just the offerings of our hands, but the offering of our lives. May they be used to extend Your love, to care for the forgotten, to build a world where all are welcome, and all are fed. Bless our giving and our living, that they may reflect Your grace and goodness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude

We Praise and Bless the Lord, by Lani Smith



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 Don Olree,
in loving memory of Joan, who passed away six years ago today,
and in celebration of Mother's Day.



We want to express our thanks to all the women in our lives that guide us to be better people each and every day.

Please stop on your way out of the sanctuary today to pick up a small gift to show appreciation for all that you do!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Study – For this month’s book study the book is *“A Year of Biblical Womanhood,”* by Rachel Held Evans. The first session will meet on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm, in the Parlor. In preparation for this week’s session you are asked to read to page 145 (to the chapter *“April”*).

The next Pub Theology meeting will be at Crankers on Tuesday, May 20, at 7:00 pm. Invite a friend and join in lively conversation!

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

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 after March 30. You may also give your donation directly to Diane Long at Project Starburst to turn in on the double match day.

Altar flowers and Fellowship time hosts are needed! The sign up sheets for May and June are posted on the office window and are a bit empty. Would you be interested in providing flowers or making coffee on Sunday morning? No prior experience is necessary and there are always helpers available. Please sign up for an available date.

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, 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 or by visiting our Facebook page: 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. Pastor Devon does have another full-time job, so in-person meeting time is limited. She is generally 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
April 2025	\$ 4,361.95	\$ 15,420.29
Year-to-Date (Jan-Apr 2025)	\$ 74,805.53	\$101,484.60

The choir thought you would like to follow the words of this week's anthem:

"Sing to the Lord a Jubilant Song"
Words and music by: Dan R. Edwards
© 2006 by Abingdon Press

Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.
Lift up your voice in marvelous praise.
Let mountains, sky, and sea echo his majesty.
Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.
Lift up your voice in marvelous praise.
Sing with a mighty voice, let all the earth rejoice.
Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.

May all creation bless God's holy name,
For God is worthy to be praised.
The heavens proclaim God's glorious majesty,
The earth declares God's wondrous ways.

1st two verses repeat

Let every tongue sing forth with endless praise,
And every knee on earth be bowed.
Unto our Lord and King our blessed tidings bring;
May all our joyful praise resound, resound!

1st two verses repeat

Sing a song, a jubilant song.
Come, sing a jubilant song of praise,
A jubilant song to the Lord.



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	Adam Jewell
Liturgist	Karilynne Clark
Ushers.....	Paul Challender, Don Stephen, Don Olree
Livestream Team.....	Amy Buse, Adam Jewell, Aleah Ritzema, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

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