

Church Life

is published monthly

**Royal Oak First
United Methodist Church**

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Dear Friends...

All we can say is thank you! One year ago, this month, we arrived in Royal Oak. We were nervous and scared. We were worried about our boys, hoping they would find new friends and do well in a school. We were worried about starting out in a new church, wondering if we would be able to make meaningful connections and help discover a path for ministry. We were worried, (I know I was for sure) about stepping into the middle of a massive building renovation, fearful that we had never done anything like this before. Thank you for making us feel welcomed.

All we can say is thank you! You were there to welcome us. You helped prepare our home for us to move in and made the necessary renovations so that we could bring our dogs. You welcomed us into your homes. You invited my children over to play and you remembered their birthdays. You helped us find new places to eat, shop, and play. Thank you for making us feel like we are among friends.

All we can say is thank you! You have been flexible and patient with new staff, new ideas, and a new way of doing ministry. You have been willing to welcome new people. You have enthusiastically collected pillows for kids, boxes of food for the hungry, and tools for hurricane-ravaged Haiti. You are the real deal — and for that, I am beyond thankful.

It has been quite a year! I am proud to be your pastor. The future looks exciting. Thank you for being on this journey with us. I thank God for all we have done and all we will do together.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jack
😊



It's been an amazing and intense year of change here at Royal Oak First, and Sanctus, our adult choir, is no exception. Just ten months ago, Sanctus began working with a new director, and at the start of the new year welcomed our wonderful new accompanist, the church organist, Debi Szeliga. Side-by-side, we performed our first Feast of Carols concert together, our first Christmas Eve, our first Easter, and our first large work, John Rutter's Requiem. We peaked at 46 singers during that series, and have welcomed 11 new long-term members.

Sanctus is led by a council, and with them I am excited to announce our 2017-2018 season. We'll be performing not one short-term session, but four, open to anyone willing to commit for eight weeks of Thursdays and Sundays. At the end of each, we'll be performing a large concert and we'll be reaching out into the community to make music for folks who don't normally get that experience. These pieces include Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria, Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living, and an opera for all ages, Benjamin Britten's Noah's Flood. As fall kickoff draws near, we'll be revealing more about these major works you can be part of this season.

Maybe you've never sung in a choir before, or maybe it's just been a while. If you're feeling hesitant about jumping into singing, **you're invited to Music 101**, an evening of fun and learning. We'll develop the basic tools for singing or ringing in an ensemble this year. Join us, Thursday evening, August 24, from 7-9pm, and walk out with new confidence.

SANCTUS CHOIR COUNCIL 2017-2018

Amy Rhoades.....	President
Ken Stringer	Vice President
Charlene Faunt.....	Music Librarian
Sandra Prokopp	Secretary
Kelsey Lockwood	Treasurer
Faye Bond.....	Chaplain
Carolyn Rondot	Music Guild Liaison
Kay LaCombe.....	Hospitality
Libby Mildren	Hospitality
Julie Sleeman.....	Member-at-Large
Ginny Borts	Member-at-Large
Caleb Williams.....	Director (ex officio)
Debi Szeliga	Accompanist (ex officio)

LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS



Sack Lunch continues through our reconstruction. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to our program. At this time our needs include hygiene items, **men's jeans** and khakis, hoodies, socks, underwear, light jackets, baseball caps, gym shoes, rain ponchos, blankets, tote bags, and backpacks.

Items for clothing day can be dropped off before the last Monday of each month.

Food items are always needed, including juice boxes, fruit or pudding cups, fresh fruit, individual chip bags, hard candy, nutritional bars, and jelly (we have a lot of peanut butter).

You can also help the program through monetary contributions designated for Sack Lunch.

Delores Grier
Sack Lunch Coordinator
248-548-5670



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 14-18

Join us as we help kids discover their strength in God! We will be going on awesome adventures alongside our favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. Hero Central uses music, science, crafts, and Bible stories to empower kids and teach them what they are capable of.

We are in need of adult and youth volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Danielle Moody at dmoody@rofum.org or 248-854-8844.

KNOW YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 12:30 PM

Please join us for an interfaith dialogue to promote understanding of the Muslim faith and increase the acceptance of others. We are hosting the *Know Your Muslim Neighbor* program run by the Muslim American Society on Sunday, July 16, from 12:30–2:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. This is for the young and old! There will be displays chronicling Muslims in American History, discussion around what the word Islam means, a brief history of Islam, and how Muslims pray. We will have hands-on activities such as henna, writing your name in Arabic, trying on a hijab, and enjoying some cultural food. Come make new friends, or simply learn and quietly observe. All are welcome!

WHO ARE THEY?

Fourth in a series featuring the guests of our lunch program.

One of the newest volunteers at Royal Oak First is George Bard. George has been coming for lunch for about a year, but now you will see him almost every day swinging a mop or running the vacuum. His smile is infectious, and he is happy to be helping Fred and the other “dust busters” keep our building clean during construction.

Things are looking up for George since he began volunteering. He wants to get off the streets in the worst way and hopes to be in an apartment soon and have transportation. Possessed of a strong work ethic, George was a journeyman carpenter before a serious work accident and his struggle with alcoholism sidelined him. He noted that he was the only black journeyman carpenter who worked on the construction of the Palace of Auburn Hills.

He will be quick to tell you that Royal Oak First has helped him turn his life around. As he said, he is “around wholesome people” here, and he “feels the energy in the church.” His faith in Jesus Christ is strong, and he identifies with the carpenter from Nazareth.

George is grateful to Bob and Michelle Prud’homme and Pastor Jeff for their support and encouragement as he works to put his life back together.

Well-spoken and perceptive, George is so happy he found our church where, he says, lunches are served five days a week and God is visible.

Pray for George and all our guests as they make their way down a long and winding road. It is good to know that our efforts are greatly appreciated by George and so many of our lunch guests.

The next time you are in the church during the week, make a point of finding George to say hello.

ROYAL OAK FIRST,

Thank you all for the prayers, rides to the hospital, and visits for Jim.

~Mary Anne Tempest

DEAR MS. KONDRAT,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in your church scholarship. This scholarship will be a huge aid for me, when it comes to paying for school. I would also like to thank your church family for being so welcoming towards me and my parents. It was a blessing to fellowship with such good people. Please continue to pray for me as I pursue my career.

~Brooke Faith Beebe

**ROYAL OAK FIRST,**

Thank you for helping with our Tiny Homes project. They will open this week to the public before we move our first residents in during June. We could not have done it without your help. What a gift you have given to our first residents!

~Rev. Faith Fowler

DRIVE4DOM

Berkley High School Peer to Peer program raised more than \$4,000 during the inaugural Drive4Dom Ford event. This funding will further inclusion at the high school. We would like to thank the individuals who came to the event, volunteered, test-drove cars, and those that have expanded their views to be actively more inclusive.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

All youth in 4th grade through 12th grade are invited and needed to serve as acolytes at our 11:00 Traditional worship service. The acolyte plays a very important role in worship as they carry the light of Jesus into the sanctuary by lighting the candles on the Altar. There will be training sessions following 11:00 worship on several Sundays this summer and again in the fall. Contact Jennifer Semivan at jsemivan@rofum.org if your child is available and interested. This is a fabulous way for our youth to become worship leaders. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent to the parents of our 4th—12th graders to make the process easier.

**BACKYARD BLAST!**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 6:00 PM

Middle and High School students are invited to join us for swimming and snacks at the Semivan House on Wednesday, July 12, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Bring a swim suit, towel, a dish to share, and a friend! Contact Bridget Nelson at detroitnelsons@aol.com with any questions.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 — Jack Hughes
Theo Kempf
Sara LaPrise
Bill Leenhouts
Marcia Smith
Rita VanBrandeghen

4 — Nicholas Kuznia
Patricia Loftin

5 — Joan Johnson
Meghan Jones
Evelyn Lockwood

7 — Robert Isrow

8 — Yvonne Bashur
Robert Hall
Sue Hilgendorf
Pete Wurdock

9 — Aidan Gibson
Ray Lawson

10 — Cordelia Dombrowski
Rosabelle Moody
Laura Potter
Kyle Smith
Polly Tan
Nathan Ubbelohde

11 — Patricia Lambert

12 — Lynn Johnson
Mark Sleeman

13 — Tracey Thomas

15 — Marcy Courtney

16 — Nicholas Krstich
Betty Locke

18 — Janice Martin

19 — Stephanie Doud
William Schuman

20 — Cynthia Cline
Jessica LaRose
Sam Nahhat

21 — Dana Beatty
Danielle Moody
Marc Van Avery

22 — Liesl Eckardt
Nolan Irish-Minewiser
Charles White

23 — Declan Hemmingsen
William Jackson
Riley Johnson
Natalie Smallwood
Jane Walbridge

24 — Dennis Allen
Kyle Fall
John Hughes
Sue Whitney

25 — Phill Button
Juliet Hardin
Ethan Heckman
James Walbridge

26 — Seth Burgess
Larry Jackson
Sage MacNeill
Robin Mazur
Emily Paswater
Debbie Stringer

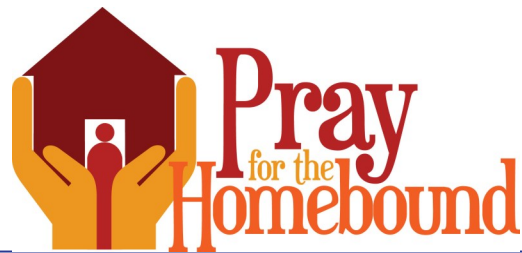
27 — Jennifer Tripoli

28 — Kim Gaska
John Safran
John Slowik

29 — Jaqueline Crowe
Courtney Diaz
John Dorsey

30 — Tim Barber

31 — Caitlin Dombrowski
Eric Paswater
Jill Puckett
Andrew Showers
Stephanie Smallwood

**Clifford Anderson**

801 Butternut Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-585-4735

Peter Bilovus

175 E Nawakwa Rd
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
248-6438696

Betty Cairns

American House #222
2500 Grand Haven
Troy, MI 48083
248-585-5614

Goldie Chiti

Meadowbrook Square
41130 Fox Run Apt 322
Novi, MI 48377
248-960-8776

Zenovia Courtney

21445 Blackmar Ave
Warren, MI 48091
248-547-6995

Emily Crimmins

Arden Court
11095 E 14 Mile Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
248-549-5718

Dorothy Gates

1032 Edgewood Dr
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-543-8711

Ruby Hawkins

25007 Cunningham Ave
Warren, MI 48091
586-755-9828

Florence Martin

2835 Somerset Blvd Apt 102
Troy, MI 48084
248-519-3191

Vera Miller

1309 Woodlawn Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-588-5834

Joyce Nelson

Baldwin House Apt 407
200 Chester St
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-220-4292

Shirley Olsen

24092 Virginia Dr
Warren, MI 48091
586-754-1542

Ruth Porkka

1210 E Dallas Ave
Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-547-5593

Yvonne Quinn

36430 Van Dyke Ave Apt 109
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
586-242-3106

Charles White

6870 Killarney Dr
Troy, MI 48098
248-879-6135

Charles Williams

American House
2300 Grand Haven Apt 348
Troy, MI 48083
248-816-2028

Out of the Area**Joseph Gardner**

11190 Medlock Bridge Rd Apt 417
Johns Creek, GA 30097
248-224-0082

Christina Smith

P.O. Box 930
Good Hart, MI 49737
231-242-0294

June Stephan

1055 Forest Hill Ave SE Apt 94B
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone numbers & addresses will be removed from the online version of Church Life for security reasons.



Andy Dalerio — Navy
Son of Terri Morris

Avery Gardner — Navy (Virginia)
Granddaughter of Joe Gardner

John Garrett — Marine Corps
Grandson of Delores Grier

Jody Holton — Army (Washington D.C.)
Son of Polly & John, grandson of Ben & Ruth Forsythe

Bobby Huneycutt — (Alaska)
Nephew of Anna Cline

Andrew Kostrzewa — Navy (California)
Grandson of Marion LeBeau

Dan Lewis — Army (Stateside)
Nephew of Kris Simms

Thomas Morales — Navy (Italy)
Nephew of Anna Cline

Mason Smith — ROTC: WMU/Army National Guard (MI)
Son of Ben Smith

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J U L Y 2 0 1 7

Saturday, July 1

4:00 pm Saturday Afternoon Worship..... Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 2

9:00 am Arise! Worship Sanctuary

Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Coffee Hour Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)

11:00 am Worship & Baptism Sanctuary

Sunday School

Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall; Sunday School (K-5) #403

12:00 pm Coffee Hour. Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)

Monday, July 3

Office Closed

7:00 pm Soul Stretch Yoga..... Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 4 — Independence Day

Office Closed

12:00 pm ROga (Royal Oak First Chair Yoga) Choir Room

Wednesday, July 5

10:30 am Staff Meeting..... Fellowship Hall

11:30 am ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)..... The Avenue

7:00 pm Soul Stretch Yoga..... Sanctuary

8:15 pm Arise! Band Rehearsal..... Choir Room

Thursday, July 6

10:30 am Pastoral Care Meeting Choir Room

11:00 am As We Gather Service Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 7

9:30 am As We Gather Bible Study Fellowship Hall

Due to our fluctuating construction schedule, all locations listed are subject to change.

Saturday, July 8

4:00 pm Saturday Afternoon Worship..... Sanctuary

Sunday, July 9

9:00 am Arise! Worship Sanctuary

Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Coffee Hour Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)

11:00 am Worship Sanctuary

Sunday School

Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall; Sunday School (K-5) #403

12:00 pm Coffee Hour..... Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)

12:30 pm Sanctus Choir Council..... Choir Room

Monday, July 10

11:30 am Covenant Community Care Cooking Class..... Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

7:00 pm Soul Stretch Yoga..... Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 11

11:30 am Sermon Practice Sanctuary

12:00 pm ROga (Royal Oak First Chair Yoga) Choir Room

7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal..... Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee Choir Room

Wednesday, July 12

10:30 am Staff Meeting..... Fellowship Hall

11:30 am ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)..... The Avenue

6:00 pm Backyard Blast for Middle School and High School Students The Semivan Home

7:00 pm Soul Stretch Yoga..... Sanctuary

8:15 pm Arise! Band Rehearsal..... Choir Room

Thursday, July 13

11:00 am As We Gather Service Fellowship Hall

1:00 pm Shawl Ministry..... Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 14

9:30 am As We Gather Bible Study Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 15

4:00 pm Saturday Afternoon Worship..... Sanctuary

Due to our fluctuating construction schedule, all locations listed are subject to change.

Sunday, July 16

9:00 am	Arise! Worship	Sanctuary
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall	
10:00 am	Coffee Hour	Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)
11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall; Sunday School (K-5) #403	
12:00 pm	Coffee Hour.....	Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)
12:30 pm	Know Your Muslim Neighbor	Fellowship Hall

Monday, July 17

11:30 am	Covenant Community Care Cooking Class.....	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Council Meeting	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 18

11:30 am	Sermon Practice	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	ROga (Royal Oak First Chair Yoga)	Choir Room

Wednesday, July 19

10:30 am	Staff Meeting.....	Choir Room
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out).....	The Avenue
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Sanctuary
8:15 pm	Arise! Band Rehearsal	Choir Room

Thursday, July 20

11:00 am	As We Gather Service	Sanctuary
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Friday, July 21

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
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Saturday, July 22

9:00 am	Choir Camp Health Screening	Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Rippling Hope Work Day	Meet In Parking Lot
11:00 am	Gooch Memorial Service	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Saturday Afternoon Worship.....	Sanctuary

Due to our fluctuating construction schedule, all locations listed are subject to change.

Sunday, July 23

Choir Camp

9:00 am	Arise! Worship	Sanctuary
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall	
10:00 am	Coffee Hour	Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)
11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall; Sunday School (K-5) #403	
12:00 pm	Coffee Hour	Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)

Monday, July 24

Choir Camp

11:30 am	Covenant Community Care Cooking Class.....	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
5:30 pm	Stagecrafters	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Justice League.....	Choir Room

Tuesday, July 25

Choir Camp

11:30 am	Sermon Practice	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	ROga (Royal Oak First Chair Yoga)	Choir Room
5:30 pm	Stagecrafters	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 26

Choir Camp

10:30 am	Staff Meeting.....	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out).....	The Avenue
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Sanctuary
8:15 pm	Arise! Band Rehearsal.....	Choir Room

Thursday, July 27

Choir Camp

11:00 am	As We Gather Service	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Shawl Ministry.....	Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 28

Choir Camp

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
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Saturday, July 29

Choir Camp

4:00 pm	Saturday Afternoon Worship.....	Sanctuary
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Due to our fluctuating construction schedule, all locations listed are subject to change.

Sunday, July 30

Camp Sunday

9:00 am	Arise! Worship	Sanctuary
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall	
10:00 am	Coffee Hour	Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)
11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall; Sunday School (K-5) #403	
12:00 pm	Coffee Hour	Front Lawn (Weather Permitting)

Monday, July 31

10:30 am	Lunch Program Clothing Day	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	Covenant Community Care Cooking Class	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga	Sanctuary

Due to our fluctuating construction schedule, all locations listed are subject to change.

