



**December 3, 2017**  
**9:00 am Worship**  
**Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**  
[www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) • 248-541-4100

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song #230	O Little Town of Bethlehem	UMH*
Call to Worship		Janet Kinney
Response #211		UMH
	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanza 1)	
Greeting Your Neighbor		
Invitation to Mission		
Children's Time		
Music Ministry	<i>Oh Mary, Don't You Weep</i> Bob Prud'homme and Company	Traditional
Lighting of the Advent Candles		The Geskey Family
Time of Prayer		
Prayer Hymn #2095	Star-Child	FWS**
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Beautiful Things</i> House Band	Michael Gungor Lisa Gungor
Scripture	Luke 1:26-38	CEB***
Message	Peace	Jeff Nelson
Hymn #218	It Came upon a Midnight Clear	UMH

\* The Faith We Sing

\*\* United Methodist Hymnal

\*\*\* Common English Bible



THE LONGEST NIGHT:  
A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6:30 PM



Check the Advent  
Schedule for  
more information

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
8:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
7:00 PM CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
AND THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS  
CAROLING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 &  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

# OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

## Healthcare for Seniors and As We Gather Guests

Wednesday, December 6, 10:30 am



Please join us on Wednesday, December 6, at 10:30 am for lunch with the As We Gather Community. We will have a special presentation by Oak Street Health Community, a new community-healthcare center, located in Hazel Park.

You will have the opportunity to ask any question you may have while enjoying food and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie O'Donnell at 248-541-4100 or lodonnell@rofum.org

## United Methodist Women December Meeting

Thursday, December 7, Executive Committee at 10:00 am,  
Program and General Meeting at 12:30 pm

All are invited to our annual Christmas Celebration. Our program for the afternoon (after a round of singing favorite carols) will be the showing of the classic Christmas movie "A Child's Christmas in Wales", adapted from the Dylan Thomas poem. Join us in starting your Christmas season on a joyful note! All are welcome! Stay awhile and enjoy holiday refreshments!



## Refueling Our Faith Using Motors

Thursday, December 7, 6:00 pm

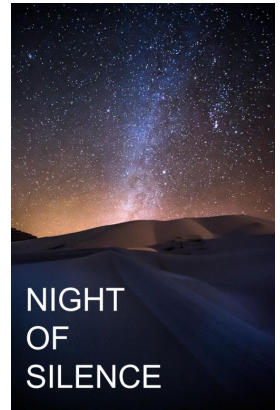


Do you love Cars? Do you like talking about ones you've owned or want to own? If so, cruise up Woodward and meet us at Duggan's Irish Pub at 31501 Woodward Ave in Royal Oak on Thursday, December 7, at 6:00 pm. All following meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. We enjoy a burger and lots of great stories. We discuss how to mix carburetion and salvation! We will plan fun things to do & charity work using our passion for Automobiles. Put it in gear and cruise with us.

## Night of Silence: Feast of Carols 2017

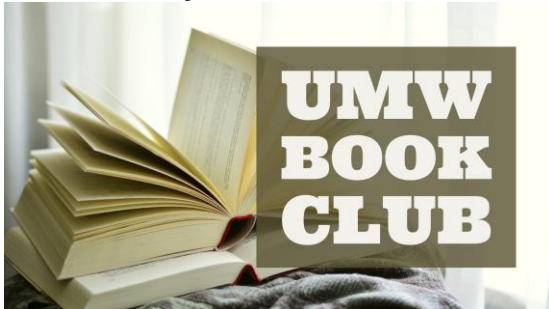
**Sunday, December 10, 4:00 pm**

In the busy season around Christmas, we all need a moment of stillness, of beauty, and of God's quiet presence. This year, the combined music ministries of Royal Oak First present Night of Silence, this year's Feast of Carols. Children's choirs, handbells, instrumentalists, and our adult choir, Sanctus, will join forces to offer you an hour of songs, smiles, and at least one surprise! A love offering will be taken to support our annual youth summer camp. Mark your calendars and don't miss this highlight of our season! Contact Caleb Williams at [caleb@rofum.org](mailto:caleb@rofum.org) with any questions.



## United Methodist Women Book Discussion Group

**Wednesday, December 13, 10:00 am**



Each member is invited to bring a Christmas reading to share. We will adjourn for lunch at 12:00 pm at Clawson Steak House at 55 S. Rochester Rd, in Clawson. If you have any questions, contact Betty Locke at 248-545-0665.

## Mitten, Hat, and Scarf Collection

**For our Lunch Program**

In the month of December, we are collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for our daily Lunch Program. Dark, muted colors are preferred. Please place your donations on the tree in the Tower entrance or in the collection bin in Fellowship Hall.



## Friday Fun Night: White Elephant Christmas Party

Friday, December 22, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm



On December 22, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, we will have a White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a silly gift to give away. Look around the house for something you don't need or want. Perhaps that lovely purse that Aunt Jo gave you and you never used!

We will also learn how to decorate Christmas cookies like a pro! You can decorate Christmas cookies and share them with someone you love (or maybe eat them yourself!)

You can create an ornament or two to hang on your Christmas Tree or give as a gift. Gift-wrapping stations will be available.

Contact Laurie O'Donnell at [lodonnell@rofum.org](mailto:lodonnell@rofum.org) or

Mary Blazeovich at [micommunitycore@gmail.com](mailto:micommunitycore@gmail.com) for more information.

## What is Your Favorite Holiday Recipe?

Do you have a special baked goodie that you make for Christmas? Maybe it's a special family recipe, or maybe you found it on the internet and want to try it out. We are looking for people to bring their favorite holiday desserts for coffee hour during Advent (the month of December). If you have a recipe you have always wanted to share, consider signing up now for a Sunday in December by emailing George Marck at [gmarck@rofum.org](mailto:gmarck@rofum.org). If you are willing to share your recipe we would be happy to print copies for you to share.



## College Care Packages



Our youth will be putting together care packages to mail to our college students who are away at school. Please send your student's name and address to Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org). If you would like to make a donation for the care packages please contact Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org) or 248-854-8844.

# INFORMATION

## New Online Giving Carrier



We recently changed our merchant carrier for online giving. If you would like to sign up to make online contributions, go to [rofum.org/giving](http://rofum.org/giving) and click "Sign In/Sign Up" then click "Create your Give+ account". If you have any questions about the sign-up process, contact Jennifer Tripoli at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).

## God Loves You Mugs are here!

The Hospitality Team is selling mugs for \$5.00. If you are interested, email [gmarck@rofum.org](mailto:gmarck@rofum.org). Make sure you get one before they run out!



## Have you been getting our emails?



For the past few weeks, we have been sending weekly emails with the featured announcements and links to the church calendar and the weekend worship bulletins. If you have not been receiving these emails, send an email to [sgarrett@rofum.org](mailto:sgarrett@rofum.org) saying "I would like to be added to the email list!" Get a sneak peek of the weekend and stay informed if you can't make it to church.

## Please Stay Clear of Construction Zones

For the safety of our members and construction crew, we ask that all members please refrain from entering the construction zone when visiting the church. With dust, trip hazards, fall hazards, and power tools, the construction zone is dangerous.

PARDON OUR DUST

Please stay clear  
of construction zones.



## Petition Drive for Paid Sick Leave in Michigan

# Petition for Paid Sick Leave



The Time to Care Coalition is proposing a ballot measure that gives everyone the opportunity to earn paid sick time. The proposal provides that people will earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked. Workers could earn up to nine days of paid sick time, depending on the size of the business.

Signed petitions will be submitted mid-December. The petitions are available for signature in the Fellowship Hall for any interested registered voters. Contact Kim Stroud at 248-376-2153 if you have questions or want to help.

## PRAYERS

**Prayers for our church family:** Lee Hoffmann; Dian Wurdock; Phil Button; The Lowman Family; Art Miller; Ray Lawson; Sue Buxton; Betty Locke; Pam Shewchuck; Bob Demyanovich; Marilyn Hocking; Nancy Matson; Barbara Nicholas; Ann Moser; Dori Bridson; Caroline Bowen; Jill Paswater

**Prayers for our extended family:** Irene Becker; Jim & Marlene Yates; Cathy Wyker; Teddy Varady; Greg Comer; Bill Kincannon; Richard Hoglund; Richard Long; Ryan Monte; Jerry & Laurie Sessions; Robert Lechner; Earl Hendrickson; Charles Prud'homme; Monica Rethman; Trevor Beagle; Jan Thomas; Foster Braun; Opal Monte; Logan Cross; Corinne Janes; Patrick Mallon; Melissa Enyart

**Sympathy** to the family of Sandra Bamsey on her death, November 23, 2017.

**Sympathy** to the family of Caleb Williams on the death of his grandfather, Terence Williams.

**Sympathy** to the Perkins family on the death of their granddaughter and niece, Mallory Shell.

**Sympathy** to the family of Donna Allen on the death of her nephew, Mark Hedrick.

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Ruby Hawkins

Please contact our Pastoral Care Team at [pgill@rofum.org](mailto:pgill@rofum.org) with any prayer concerns.



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Again this year we are offering the choice of providing a poinsettia or contributing to UMCOR in honor or memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 17, and our Christmas Eve services. The names of the donors and those to be honored or memorialized will be printed as a bulletin insert on Sunday morning, December 17. If you wish to participate, return this form to the church office on or before **Sunday, December 10.**

*Please use one (1) form per poinsettia/UMCOR tribute.*

**Money must accompany your order (checks payable to First United Methodist Church)**

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\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$11.00 for a poinsettia (please indicate color below)

Color: \_\_\_ Red \_\_\_ White \_\_\_ Pink

\_\_\_ I will donate and deliver my plant to a homebound member on Sunday morning, December 17.

(The church will provide the name and address of a homebound member.)

\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant following the 11:00 pm candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve.

\_\_\_ I will order my own plant & deliver it to the church on Friday, December 15.

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for UMCOR in place of a poinsettia.

This will be a memorial to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

**OR** in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional forms** are available in the church office and in the Fellowship Hall.

# SCHEDULE

## Sunday, December 3

9:00 am	Worship .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall	
	Sunday School (K-5) – Room #403	
10:15 am	Coffee Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Worship .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery – Fellowship Hall	
	Preschool – Room #405	
	Lower Elementary (K-2) – Room #402	
	Upper Elementary (3-5) – Room #403	
	Middle School (6-8) – Room #414	
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
12:15 pm	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsals .....	Choir Room & Room #414
6:45 pm	Youth Dinner .....	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
7:00 pm	Feast of Carols Orchestra Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
7:15 pm	Youth Group .....	Fellowship Hall

## Monday, December 4

10:00 am	Core Team Meeting .....	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program & Covenant Care Clinic .....	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm	Organ Practice .....	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Boys Scout Troop .....	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Mom's Group Cookie Exchange .....	Christine Gilbert's Home
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga .....	Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Music Guild .....	Choir Room

## Tuesday, December 5

10:00 am	Tuesday Morning Pastor's Book Group .....	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	Sermon Practice .....	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	ROga (Royal Oak Chair Yoga) .....	Choir Room
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons .....	Choir Room
7:00 pm	Women's Book & Bible Study .....	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball .....	Addams Elementary

## Wednesday, December 6

10:30 am	Lunch Program & Oak Street Health Presentation .....	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) .....	The Avenue Restaurant
2:00 pm	Piano Players, Inc. ....	Choir Room
5:30 pm	Holy COW (Church On Wednesday) Dinner .....	Fellowship Hall
6:15 pm	Holy COW Choirs .....	Choir Room, Room #405, & Room #403
6:30 pm	Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon .....	Room #403
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Trustees Meeting .....	Fellowship Hall

## Thursday, December 7

7:00 am	Men's Morning Fellowship.....	Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	United Methodist Women (UMW) Executive Meeting.....	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting .....	Choir Room
11:00 am	As We Gather Service .....	Fellowship Hall
12:30 pm	UMW Christmas Program .....	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Refueling Our Faith Using Motors .....	Duggan's Irish Pub
7:00 pm	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal .....	Choir Room

## Friday, December 8

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study .....	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall

## Saturday, December 9

9:30 am	Feast of Carols Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Parents' Day Out .....	Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm	Saturday Afternoon Worship Service .....	Sanctuary

## Sunday, December 10

9:00 am	Worship .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery & Preschool – Fellowship Hall	
	Sunday School (K-5) – Room #403	
10:15 am	Coffee Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Worship .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery – Fellowship Hall	
	Preschool – Room #405	
	Lower Elementary (K-2) – Room #402	
	Upper Elementary (3-5) – Room #403	
	Middle School (6-8) – Room #414	
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm	Feast of Carols .....	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Feast of Carols Afterglow.....	Fellowship Hall

# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Bridget and I were having dinner with some friends recently and we found ourselves going through what has become a bit of an annual ritual. It starts when someone announces, "Can you believe it? Christmas is only X days away!" And in a chorus, the rest of us go, "You're kidding! How did that happen?" We have other little songs in this repertoire: "It seems like it was just a few months ago we were celebrating Easter" and "But I just put the Christmas decorations away from last year." Then, for the closing song we always sing, "It comes faster and faster every year, doesn't it?"

I really don't know why we always seem to be so surprised when Christmas shows up. I mean, twelve months is twelve months, right? Maybe it's because the stores seem to be putting up Christmas decorations earlier every year. We really should realize that Christmas is coming as soon as swimsuits go to the "40% off" rack.

After our friends and we went through our ritual, we began to tell some of our favorite Christmas stories. The stories were plentiful and a couple of them were remarkable. One person remembered the Christmas when her dad got a three-day leave from the military service in Vietnam and surprised the entire family Christmas morning. Another one recounted going to bed on Christmas Eve knowing that he was the only kid on the block that did not have a Christmas tree only to wake up Christmas morning to a beautiful tree with a gift for each sibling under it. He knew it must have been Santa and his magic. But most of our favorite stories were about small and simple things. I do not remember one person telling a favorite Christmas story that had anything to do with receiving a particular gift. What made Christmas *Christmas* was really pretty simple.

Simply Christmas.

Over these next weeks, we are going to try to just keep it simple, lifting up the stories and traditions that will help our Christmases be memorable and meaningful.

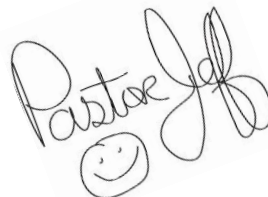
Simply peace.

Simply hope.

Simply joyful.

Simply loved.

Simply grateful to be on this journey with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple smiley face drawn with a circle and two dots for eyes.