



December 2, 2017
4:00 pm Afternoon Worship
Royal Oak First United Methodist Church
www.rofum.org • 248-541-4100



THE LONGEST NIGHT:
A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6:30 PM



NIGHT
OF
SILENCE

Check the Advent
Schedule for
more information



CHRISTMAS
CAROLING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 &
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20



SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
3:00 PM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
7:00 PM CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
9:00 PM TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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

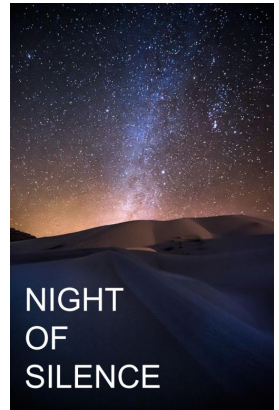


Do you love Cars? Do you like talking about ones you've owned or want to own? If so, cruise up Woodward and meet us at Duggan's Irish Pub at 31501 Woodward Ave in Royal Oak on Thursday, December 7, at 6:00 pm. All following meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. We enjoy a 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

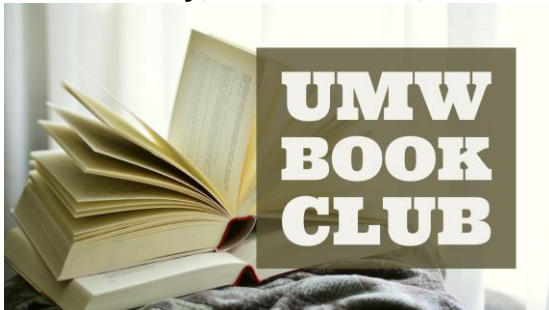
Sunday, December 10, 4:00 pm

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 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 or

Mary Blazeovich at 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. 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. If you would like to make a donation for the care packages please contact Danielle Moody at dmoody@rofum.org or 248-854-8844.

INFORMATION

New Online Giving Carrier



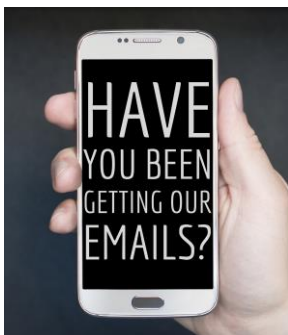
We recently changed our merchant carrier for online giving. If you would like to sign up to make online contributions, go to rofum.org/giving and click "Sign In/Sign Up" then click "Create your Give+ account". If you have any questions about the sign-up process, contact Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@rofum.org.

God Loves You Mugs are here!

The Hospitality Team is selling mugs for \$5.00. If you are interested, email 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 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 Hogle; 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 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)

___ 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.

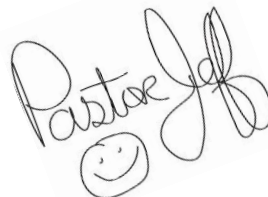
Simply peace.

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.