



SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

HOPE

December 9, 2017
4:00 pm Afternoon Worship
Royal Oak First United Methodist Church
www.rofum.org • 248-541-4100

ORDER OF WORSHIP

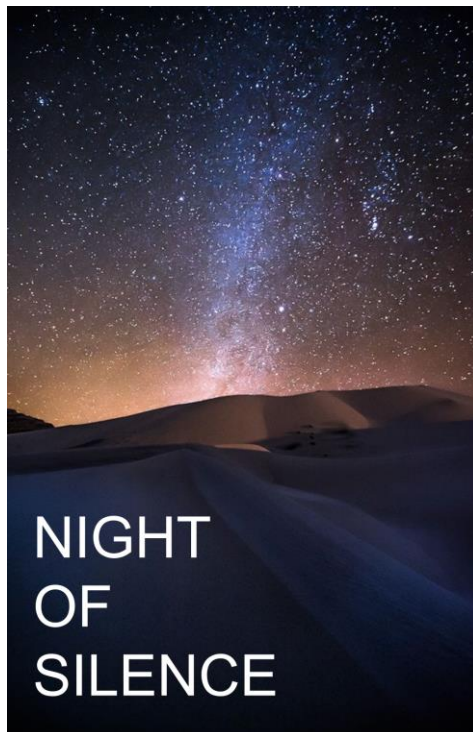
Hymn #213	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	UMH*
Call to Worship		
Response	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	
Greeting Your Neighbor		
Invitation to Mission		
Lighting of the Advent Candles	Leonard, Mike, & Angela	
Music Ministry	<i>Christmas Hallelujah</i> Mary Nahhat	Cohen, et al.
Time of Prayer		
Song #216	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	UMH
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Mission Moment		
Musical Offering	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i> Mary Nahhat	Alfred Mallotte
Doxology #95		UMH
Scripture	Luke 1:39-45, 56	CEB**
Message	Hope	Jeff Nelson
Hymn #219	What Child Is This	UMH

* United Methodist Hymnal
** Common English Bible



Remember to wear your
best Christmas sweater
next week!

Check the Advent
Schedule for
more information



NIGHT
OF
SILENCE

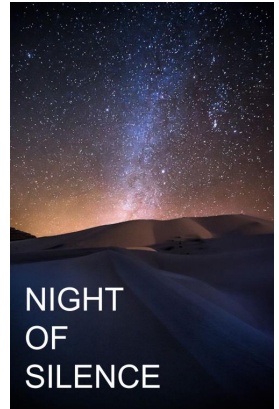


OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

Night of Silence: Feast of Carols 2017

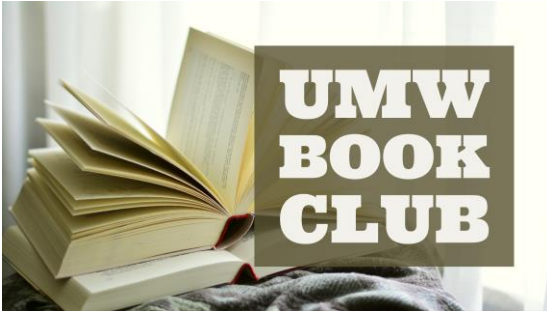
Tomorrow, December 10, 4:00 pm

In the busy season around Christmas, we all need a moment of stillness, of beauty, and of God's quiet presence. Tomorrow, 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. 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.



First Adventures Spring Trek 2018

April 2 – 7, 2018



Six days of fellowship with some semi-serious hiking, rock climbing, and rappelling. This is being organized as a family oriented gathering but with special arrangements to accommodate unaccompanied youth whose parents are unable to participate. Go your own way or stick with the pack. Our base camp will be Fall Creek Falls State Park in Spencer, Tennessee, located on the Cumberland Plateau. We will hold informational meetings on Sunday, January 7, at 1:00 pm and Wednesday, January 10, at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall (same information at both meetings). Contact Jon Cline at 248-561-2975 or email at justjon123456@outlook.com for more information.

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.



PRAYERS

Prayers for our church family: John & Lisa Rye; Sherry & Bob Giles; Tommy Rodriguez; 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

Homebound Member of the Week: Florence Martin

Sympathy to the family of Jeanette Cuthbertson on the death of her brother, David Crumley, on December 2.

Sympathy to the family and friends of longtime member, Dorothy Gates, on her death on December 6.

Please contact our Pastoral Care Team at pgill@rofum.org with any prayer concerns.

PASTY SALE

“If I Knew How Good They Were...”



This quote was heard more than once from those who bought pasties at the last Pasty Sale. Don't be left out. The next Pasty Sale is Saturday, January 6. You can pick them up on Saturday, January 6, between 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall or after both services on Sunday, January 7. The cost is \$5 each. You can order one of two mouth-watering kinds: meat or vegetarian. Just fill out the order form below

and turn it in to Shirley Harris after Sunday services or leave it in the office. Another option is to call or text Shirley with your order at 248-765-5617 or by email at shirlnealharris@gmail.com.

The proceeds will be split between youth missions and choir camp. Don't be one of those who said with great regret: "If I knew how good they were..."

Pasty Order Form

Name _____

Phone # _____

Meat _____

Vegetarian _____

Total # _____ x \$5 _____

Pick-Up time: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Saturday, January 6 _____

Sunday, January 7, following 9:00 service _____

Sunday, January 7, following 11:00 service _____

Questions? Contact Shirley Harris at 248-765-5617 or shirlnealharris@gmail.com

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.

MISSIONS



Thank you all for making 2017 a blessed year for Missions! Your generosity has helped so many people in our community, country, and world. Throughout the year, we have collected over \$40,000 for our missions. You have made a difference.

As We Gather - Lunch Program \$4,000 of your Missions Donations helped us serve over 10,000 meals to the hungry and provide a monthly clothing closet.

Redford Brightmoor Initiative We collected 85 boxes of clothing, underwear, and personal care items; over 90 new coats; 45 pairs of boots; 325 hats; and \$1,000 for the One Stop Christmas Shop and the year-long Free Store.

Methodist Children's Home We held 6 birthday parties for boys living at the Methodist Children's Home. Your contributions provided gifts, paper, bows, cakes, candles, pop, and pizza.

Cass Community Social Services We sent volunteers to Cass to work in the kitchen, help with the Green Industry duties, and work on Tiny homes. The United Methodist Women collected scarves, hats, and over 40 boxes of clothing and new toys. We also sent \$2,000.00 for two new Solar Lights outside their World Service Building.

NOAH Project We collected 1,500 pair of socks and 400 pairs of underwear for Sock-It-To-Me September. The Golden Sock Award will stay here for another year! We also sent \$1,000 to help support their lunch program.

Covenant Health Clinic in Royal Oak- We provided gift cards for patient prescriptions along with \$1,000 to help them with their day to day expenses of operating the clinic.

Common Ground Sanctuary in Royal Oak \$500 and a much needed refrigerator was donated along with a basketball hoop from our car club, Refueling Our Faith Using Motors.

Rippling Hope Teams went to Detroit to help needy families with home repairs.

South Oakland Shelter: A group from our church cooked and served Easter Dinner for the SOS guests at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Royal Oak.

Liberia: We provided \$3,000 for a new roof for the Royal Oak Cottage at the Children's Village in Liberia.

Pentecost Project With help from the whole congregation, over 3,000 sandwiches were made for 5 of our Mission Partners and our lunch program.

Canned food drive We collected much needed food for St. Paul Lutheran, Redford Brightmoor, Cass, and our own lunch program.

4th of July Cookies 150 dozen cookies were delivered by 45 people to people who had to work on the 4th of July! There were many smiles created by this simple gesture.

Fruit baskets 30 fruit baskets were delivered to our homebound members.

Farmers Market Corn Roast We raised \$600 for Missions selling hot dogs and baked goods.

Eclipse Party \$6,000 was raised for Gleaners along with hundreds of bags of groceries to stock their pantries.

Lithuania A team of 4 people traveled to Lithuania for a conference, where we renewed our commitment to the UMC there. Noisy bucket Sunday is back and the money collected will help offset traveling expenses for the pastor of our partner circuit.

Hurricane Relief We collected more than \$12,000 and over 50 boxes of cleaning supplies for UMCOR for hurricane relief. We also collected clothing, blankets, and school supplies for the students of a small town in Florida.

Hands 4 Detroit We took over 30 people (including some of our As We Gather guests) to Mexican Village in Detroit to do fall garden clean up at a park, and to paint a community center.

Keep giving like it matters, because it does!

ADVENT SCHEDULE

December 10

4:00 pm: Night of Silence: Feast of Carols 2017

December 16

5:30 pm: Saturday Night Supper Club

December 17

4:00 pm: Christmas Caroling

5:30 pm: Youth Christmas Party

December 20

12:30 pm: Warm Your Heart Wednesday Caroling

December 21

6:30 pm: The Longest Night: Blue Christmas Service

December 22

7:00 pm: Friday Fun Night

December 23

4:00 pm: Saturday Evening Worship Service

December 24

9:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

3:00 pm: Children's Christmas Pageant Service

7:00 pm: Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

9:00 pm: Traditional Christmas Eve Service

11:00 pm: Candlelight & Communion Christmas Eve Service

SCHEDULE

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

Monday, December 11

10:00 am	Core Team Meeting	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Boys Scout Troop	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Faith Abilities	Choir Room
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Pub(lic) Theology.....	Ale Mary's

Tuesday, December 12

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
4:00 pm	Oak Street Health Open House	Oak Street Health in Hazel Park
7:00 pm	Church Council	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball.....	Addams Elementary
7:00 pm	Women's Book & Bible Study	Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 am	UMW Book Discussion Group.....	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)	The Avenue Restaurant
5:30 pm	Holy COW (Church On Wednesday) Dinner	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Spiritual Support Group	Pronto
6:15 pm	Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
6:15 pm	Holy COW Choirs	Choir Room, Room #405, & Room #403
6:30 pm	Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Knowledge Circle.....	Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon	Room #403
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14

7:00 am	Men's Morning Fellowship.....	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	As We Gather Service	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Shawl Ministry.....	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Friday, December 15

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Therapeutic Rehab and JVS Christmas Party	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Floor Polishing	Fellowship Hall and Lower Level Hallways

Saturday, December 16

10:00 am	Lamb Visitation and Funeral Service.....	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Lamb Funeral Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm	Saturday Afternoon Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Saturday Night Supper Club	Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 17

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	Caroling	Downtown Royal Oak
5:30 pm	Youth Christmas Dinner & Party	Fellowship Hall

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I need your help next Sunday. Wear something fun to worship! Find a Christmas sweater. Find a Christmas tie. Now is the time to unpack that elf costume you have been saving for just the right occasion. Wear Christmas colors—bright and sparkly! Have the whole family come decked out in holiday cheer!

Next Sunday is Joy Sunday and we want to have some fun. Sure, there are things about Christmas that are stressful. Yes, there are things about Christmas that are frustrating and hard. And yes, it is tough sometimes to be in the Christmas Spirit when there is hurt in our lives and in our world. But there is something about Christmas that is just supposed to be fun! So, next Sunday please dress for fun! I have already been out shopping for my outfit and I think you're going to like it!

There is a part of the life of faith that frees us to enjoy life—even when things are far from perfect.

So, what do you say? Let's have some fun!!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Joel". Below the signature is a simple, hand-drawn smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.

PS Don't forget to join us at 4:00 pm this afternoon for the Feast of Carols! It will be a musical joy you won't want to miss.