



# Community Matters



Sunday, September 23  
9:00 am Worship

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
rofum.org • 248-541-4100

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Songs

Home

My Lighthouse

Call to Worship

Song

Room at the Table

Greeting Your Neighbor

Invitation to Mission

Children's Time

New Members

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering

*I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

Scripture

Acts 2:42-47

\*CEB

Joey Peck, Liturgist

Message

Community Matters

Rev. Dr. Christina Wright

Song

Draw the Circle Wide

\*Common English Bible

Welcome to  
the Party!

Sunday, October 21  
2:00 pm

Contact [office@rofum.com](mailto:office@rofum.com) or  
248-541-4100

## The Way Forward

Informational Meeting  
Wednesday, September 26  
6:30 pm

Book Study  
Beginning Wednesday, October 3  
6:30 pm

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 30  
1:15 PM





Networking,  
Organizing, and  
Advocating for the  
Homeless

Only 1 week left of  
Sock-It-To-Me September!  
Let's keep the Golden Sock  
and help our friends at the  
NOAH Project!

# OPPORTUNITIES

## New Name Tags



What's the one most hospitable thing that you can do? No, it's not greeting people at the front door, or helping at coffee hour. It's wearing your nametag. With that one simple act, you're helping everyone greet you and you're helping every person that you greet. Our name tag rack in the Narthex is full of new name tags. If you don't have a name tag, just sign the sheet on the

welcome table and we'll make sure you get one! If your new name tag has an error, drop it in the basket at the welcome table and add your name to the sign up sheet.

## The Way Forward Informational Meeting and Book Study

**Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 pm**

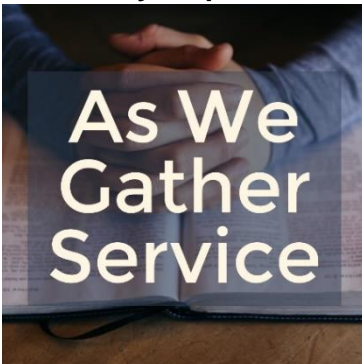
This February, our representatives will gather to discuss and to decide our denomination's stance on performing same gender marriages and ordaining LGBTQ persons to be our pastors.

In order to prepare us for the changes that might be coming, Reverend Dr. Christina Wright will host in informational meeting on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 pm. To help us continue the important conversations begun at that meeting, Pastor Jeff will offer a three-week follow up, looking at the book *Living Faithfully, Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church* beginning Wednesday, October 3, at 6:30 pm.



## Date Changed! Thursday Worship

**Thursday, September 27, 10:00 am**



Everybody has a story, and each person's story matters. Bring your story with you to a half-hour service of prayer, sharing, and communion we call *As We Gather*. Worship with Pastor Jeff and Deacon Caleb and then join them for a meal at our daily lunch ministry at 10:30 am. As with all our services, you are welcome to come as you are, whether you woke up on the streets or in starched sheets. Bring a friend and risk being part of this barrier-breaking community. Email Caleb Williams at [caleb@rofum.org](mailto:caleb@rofum.org) with any questions.

## Church Conference

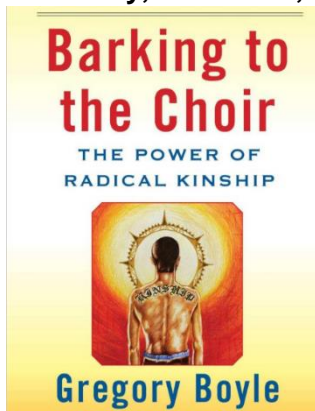
**Sunday, September 30, 1:15 pm**

This year's Church Conference is on Sunday, September 30, at 1:15 pm. This meeting will allow us to discuss important church business, including membership, clergy candidacy, and leadership nominations for next year. If you have any questions, contact the church office at [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org) or 248-541-4100.



## Tuesday Book and Bible Study with Pastor Jeff

**Tuesday, October 9, 10:00 am**



Pastor Jeff's Tuesday Morning Book and Bible Study is back! The first book of the season is *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle. *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. The stories of the people Boyle works with uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness. If you have any questions, contact the church office at [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org) or 248-541-4100.



## Jumpin' Jams

**Saturday, October 27, 10:00 am**

This interactive movement and music exploration, led by Jennifer Semivan (Registered Music Therapist), is open to kids in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade of all abilities! Jump in and try it out! We'll be waiting for you in Fellowship Hall! If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Semivan at [jsemivan@rofum.org](mailto:jsemivan@rofum.org).

## Gift Bag Collection for United Methodist Women



Every winter, our United Methodist Women's group creates and collects hundreds of hats, scarves, gloves, and more for the Developmentally Disabled Adults program at Cass Community Social Services. This year, we would like to make those gifts a bit more special by wrapping them in gift bags. Our goal is to collect 200 plain, medium-sized gift bags before the holiday season. Place any donations in the marked bin in the elevator lobby on the Lower Level.



## Welcome to the Party!

**Sunday, October 21, 2:00 pm**

You are invited to a gathering at the pastor's house. Get to know some other people, learn more about the church, and ask any questions you might have about Royal Oak First. Contact George Marck at [gmarck@rofum.org](mailto:gmarck@rofum.org). if you would like to pre-register or if you have any questions.



## PRAYER LIST

**Prayers for our church family:** Suzanne Hughes; Marcy Courtney; Austin Kuznia; Thelma Mistele; Cathy Baker; Rebecca McNaughton; Stephanie Smallwood; Carol Hardt; Cathy Fall; Liz Kempf; Lisa Okoniewski; Paul Thompson; Zenovia Courtney; Charles White; Lee Hoffmann; Athena Milewski; Marianne Peck; Celia Horak; Dona Wells; Anne Brace; Barb Nicholas; Sherry Giles; Pam Shewchuck; Vel Lowman; Jim & Mary Ann Tempest; Bob Reid; Ron & Marianne Peludat; Margaret Simmons

**Prayers for our extended family:** Rachel B.; Pat & Jim Strelecki; Mrs. Richard Browder; Melissa Glasson; Beth Zimmerman; Gerald Sessions; Harold Lambert; Mary Jo Cady; Barbara Mitchell; Brian Boozan; Alan Burger; Helen McGee; Delphine Reddy; Judy Gettel; Chuck Bartley; Heather Griffin; Clayton Simons; Nancy Sydanmaa; Marshall Dunlap; James Chamberlain

**Sympathy** to Andrew & Pam Sluss on the death of Andrew's father, Ray Sluss.

**Sympathy** to Jim & Jane Walbridge on the death of their mother, Marietherese Walbridge.

**Sympathy** to Mark & Cathy Thatcher on the death of their sister-in-law, Janet Thatcher.

**Sympathy** to Jim & Nan Wilberding on the death of Jim's brother, Mike Wilberding.

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Goldie Chiti

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

**The four yellow roses** are in celebration of our new members this weekend, Steve and Lynn D'Angelo and Stefan and Sibel Gipser.

**The bouquet of yellow roses** is in celebration of Joyce and Ken Burton's second anniversary.

**The purple chancel flowers** are given in love and admiration for Ken and Joyce Burton in honor of their second anniversary.

# BIBLE FRIENDS

**Touch the life of a child. Communicate what is important to you.**

## **October 14, 11:00 am Worship Service**

We are looking for Bible Friends to help our class of third graders discover their own Bibles. The opportunity includes:

- Participating in the presentation of Bibles to third graders on October 14
- Sharing your favorite Bible passages with your student
- Keeping in contact with your youth
- Being a visible role model in any way you can

The annual gesture of a Bible Friend presenting a Bible to a third grade student does more than provide a Bible to a child. You pass on a bit of your faith and values. You make a memorable statement that the Bible is important and children are important.

If you are interested in becoming a Bible Friend, complete this form and return it to the office. If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Moody at 248-541-4100 or [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org).

*\*You do not need to purchase a Bible to be a Bible Friend and do not need to be a Bible Friend to purchase a Bible.\**



**I would like to participate as a Bible Friend \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I would like to purchase a Bible (\$20 enclosed) \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Additional forms are available for pick-up at the *Here I Am* Lord Table.



# UMW NUT SALE FOR MISSIONS

## Pre-Orders Only

The United Methodist Women's Missions nut sale begins today. **This is a pre-order only sale.** The deadline for pre-orders is Sunday, October 14. Please fill in the number of bags for each type of nut you would like on this form. You may turn in your order form at the *Here I Am Lord* table in the Narthex after weekend worship services or in the UMW mailbox located outside the church office. **Please DO NOT put any money in the UMW mailbox. You may pay for your order when you pick it up.** You may also mail your orders to Cynthia Cline at 713 Knowles St, Royal Oak, MI 48067 or email your orders to Cynthia at nuts@rofum.org. Your orders will be filled and ready for pick-up after the worship services on November 18 and 19.

### Checks should be made payable to UMW

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| _____ Chocolate Covered Raisins - \$7.50 | _____ Pistachios - \$10.50 |
| _____ Chocolate Peanuts - \$8.25         | _____ Pralines - \$10.50   |
| _____ Malted Milk Balls - \$8.25         | _____ Mixed Nuts- \$10.50  |
| _____ Milk Chocolate Almonds - \$10.00   | _____ Pecans - \$10.50     |
| _____ Dark Chocolate Almonds - \$10.00   | _____ Cashews - \$10.50    |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Order Pick up following:

4:00 pm Saturday Service \_\_\_\_\_

9:00 am Sunday Service \_\_\_\_\_

11:00 am Sunday Service \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Cline at (248)496-0261  
or nuts@rofum.org.

Additional forms are available for pick-up at the *Here I Am Lord* Table.

# SCHEDULE

## Sunday, September 23

|          |  |                               |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Worship .....                                    | Sanctuary                     |
|          | Nursery, Preschool, & K-5 – Fellowship Hall      |                               |
| 10:00 am | Fellowship 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                  |                               |
| 12:00 pm | Fellowship Hour .....                            | Fellowship Hall               |
| 5:30 pm  | Youth Choir Rehearsals .....                     | Choir Room, Rooms #403 & #414 |
| 6:00 pm  | Cantata Chorale .....                            | Sanctuary                     |
| 6:45 pm  | Youth Group & Dinner .....                       | Fellowship Hall               |

## Monday, September 24

|          |                                    |                       |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Mason's Candies .....              | Kitchen               |
| 9:00 am  | Core Meeting .....                 | Choir Room            |
| 10:30 am | Lunch Program & Clothing Day ..... | Fellowship Hall       |
| 11:00 am | Director's Meeting .....           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor |
| 7:00 pm  | Boy Scouts .....                   | Fellowship Hall       |
| 7:00 pm  | Soul Stretch Yoga .....            | Sanctuary             |

## Tuesday, September 25

|          |  |                       |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| 10:30 am | Lunch Program .....                    | Fellowship Hall       |
| 11:30 am | Sermon Practice .....                  | Sanctuary             |
| 11:45 am | Roga (Chair Yoga) .....                | Choir Room            |
| 3:30 pm  | Piano Lessons .....                    | Choir Room            |
| 6:00 pm  | Sing Out, Detroit! .....               | Choir Room, Sanctuary |
| 7:00 pm  | Staff/Parish Relations Committee ..... | Church Office         |
| 7:00 pm  | Women's Book and Bible Study .....     | Royal Oak Taphouse    |

## Wednesday, September 26

|          |   |                               |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Mason's Candies .....                       | Kitchen                       |
| 9:30 am  | Bulletin Meeting .....                      | Choir Room                    |
| 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  | Children's Choir Rehearsals .....           | Choir Room, Rooms #403 & #414 |
| 6:30 pm  | Carillon Bell Choir .....                   | Sanctuary                     |

## Wednesday, September 26 continued

|         |   |               |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 6:30 pm | The Hobbit Devotional Book Study .....      | Church Office |
| 6:30 pm | The Way Forward Informational Meeting ..... | Sanctuary     |
| 7:30 pm | House Band.....                             | Sanctuary     |
| 7:30 pm | Nar-Anon .....                              | Room #403     |

## Thursday, September 27

|          |                               |                    |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 am  | Men's Morning Fellowship..... | Nello's Restaurant |
| 9:00 am  | Mason's Candies .....         | Kitchen            |
| 10:00 am | As We Gather Service .....    | Fellowship Hall    |
| 10:30 am | Lunch Program .....           | Fellowship Hall    |
| 1:00 pm  | Shawl Ministry.....           | Fellowship Hall    |
| 7:00 pm  | Sanctus Choir Rehearsal ..... | Choir Room         |

## Friday, September 28

|          |  |                 |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 10:30 am | Lunch Program .....                      | Fellowship Hall |
| 1:00 pm  | Therapeutic Rehab Sandwich Making.....   | Kitchen         |
| 6:30 pm  | Earth Keepers Ministries UMC Global..... | Sanctuary       |

## Saturday, September 29

|          |                     |           |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 10:00 am | Ascend Church ..... | Sanctuary |
| 4:00 pm  | Worship .....       | Sanctuary |

## Sunday, September 30

|          |  |                       |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Worship .....                                    | Sanctuary             |
|          | Nursery, Preschool, & K-3 – Fellowship Hall      |                       |
| 10:00 am | Fellowship 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                  |                       |
| 12:00 pm | Fellowship Hour .....                            | Fellowship Hall       |
| 12:30 pm | Staff/Parish Relations Committee .....           | Church Office         |
| 1:15 pm  | Church Conference.....                           | Sanctuary             |
| 5:30 pm  | Youth Choir Rehearsals.....                      | Choir Room, Room #414 |
| 6:00 pm  | Cantata Chorale.....                             | Sanctuary             |
| 6:45 pm  | Youth Group & Dinner.....                        | Fellowship Hall       |

# LETTER FROM THE PREACHER

Dear Friends,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome my friend and colleague, Reverend Dr. Christina Wright to our Sunday pulpit this weekend. Reverend Wright is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church and is currently the interim manager and chaplain for the Department of Spiritual Care at the University of Michigan Health System. A native of Marshall, Michigan and a graduate of Northwestern University and Harvard Divinity School, Christina has dedicated her ministry to helping people, institutions and communities organize to experience Christ's mercy and justice.



For most of her adult life, Christina has been working for healing and wholeness within the United Methodist Church. As a self-proclaimed “church nerd,” Christina has been attending our denomination’s General Conference for years, where every four years elected delegates from around the world come together to make the important decisions about the life and direction of the church. Christina understands the inner working of the United Methodist Church. She knows our polity, our procedures and has a good sense of the politics facing our church today.

That knowledge and passion is, in part, why we have asked her to bring us the message today, and why we asked her to lead our workshop on The Way Forward this Wednesday at 6:30. The United Methodist Church has come to an important point of decision-making around performing marriages for same-gender-loving couples and ordaining LGBTQ persons as pastors in our churches. In February, a special General Conference will be held in St. Louis where important decisions will be made. On Wednesday, Christina will help us better understand the issues, some of the proposed changes, and how those decisions might impact our local ministry. There will be time for discussion and chances to ask questions.

So, we welcome and thank Reverend Wright for being with us this Sunday, and we are grateful for her willingness to share her experience and knowledge with us later this week.

Welcome, Christina!

We are glad you are here!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jodi". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with a wide, open-mouthed grin.