



With Us
Advent 2018

Sunday, December 16
9:00 am Worship

Great Joy

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song He is Born

Call to Worship

Song With Us

Greeting Your Neighbor

Invitation to Mission

Lighting the Advent Wreath Dan, Mary, and Lukas Evans

Time with Children

New Members

Time of Prayer

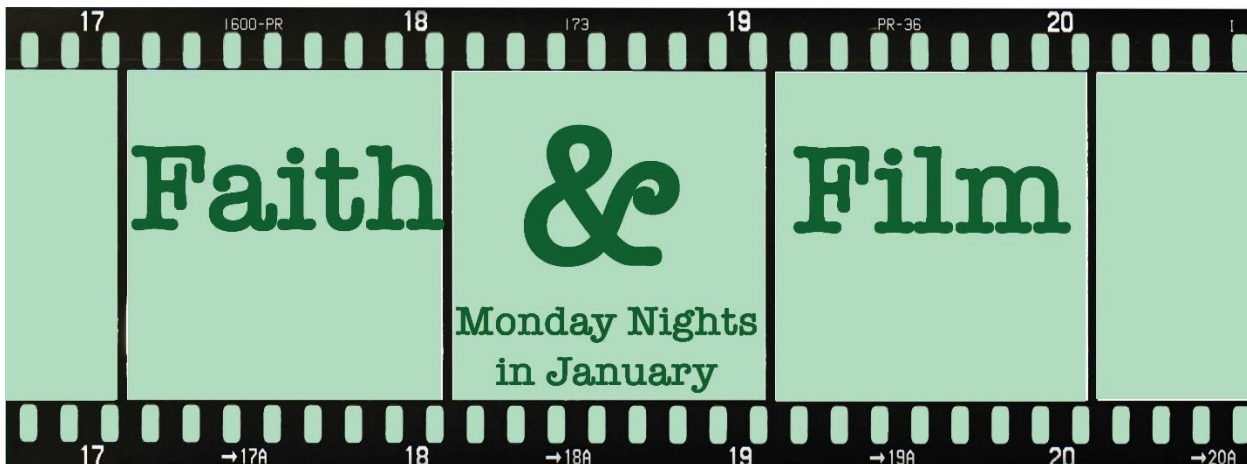
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Anderson
Amy Rhoades and Liz Wright, Handbells

Scripture Luke 2:8-20 *NRSV

Message Great Joy Myra Moreland

Song Joy to the World
Stanzas 1, 2 and 4





Events

Church-Wide Community Caroling

Sunday, December 16, 4:00 pm

The Longest Night

Thursday, December 20, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Traditional Worship—11:00 am

Children's Christmas Pageant—3:00 pm

The story of the first Christmas, told by children

"Blue Jeans" Christmas Eve—7:00 pm

Christmas Eve with a praise band, youth choirs, and candlelight

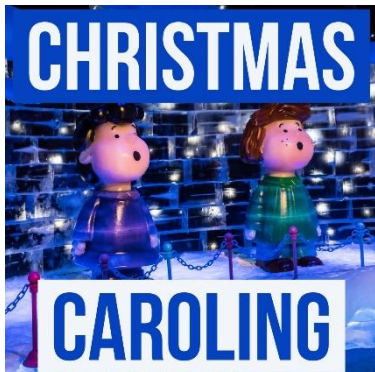
Festive Traditional Service—9:00 pm

Traditional candlelight service, with Sanctus and Carillon Bells

Candlelight & Communion—11:00 pm

Traditional candlelight service with communion

OPPORTUNITIES



Community Caroling

Sunday, December 16, 4:00 pm

Help us spread the love and light of Christmas to our community and make some new friends doing it! Meet at the church on Sunday, December 16, then go out into the community to sing Christmas Carols and shine the light! If you have any questions, contact Caleb Williams at caleb@rofum.org.

Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24, 3:00 pm

We would love your children to be part of our Christmas Pageant at the 3:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve! All children, preschool through 5th grade who are in town for the holiday, are invited to be part of this event.

Our rehearsals will be:

Wednesday, December 19, 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Sunday, December 23, 12:30 - 1:00 pm, following 11:00 worship.



Please consider joining us for this very special event. No choir experience necessary! Contact Jennifer Semivan at jsemivan@rofum.org to let us know how many of your family can participate.



Winter Activities Weekend

January 25-27, 2019

Invite your friends and join us for a weekend of winter activities in Roscommon, MI. Cross Country Skiing, Snow Shoeing, Ice Fishing, and Bowling are conveniently located near our base lodge adjacent to North Higgins Lake State Park.

Sign up at the Welcome table or contact Bob Berard at 248-545-8668 or ski@rofum.org if you have any more questions. Make your reservations by January 4!

Bring Your Favorite Holiday Treat!

Do you have a special baked goodie that you make for Christmas? 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, contact 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.



Spring Trek April 1-6, 2019



Royal Oak First Adventures is pleased to announce Spring Trek 2019 at Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer, TN. This is organized as a family oriented gathering but with special arrangements to accommodate unaccompanied youth whose parents are unable to participate. Informational meetings are scheduled for Monday January 7, at 7:00 pm and Wednesday January 9, at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall (same information at both meetings). Contact Jon Cline by text at 248-561-2975 or by email at springtrek@rofum.org for more information.

The Longest Night: A Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 20, 7:00 pm

For many, the Christmas season can be painful, whether they are mourning the loss of a loved one, navigating financial struggles, or simply not feeling the spirit of Christmas. This service is a quiet, prayerful moment, acknowledging the difficulties of the season. Contact Caleb Williams, Minister of Worship and Arts, at caleb@rofum.org for more information



PRAYER LIST

Prayers for our church family: Gene Davis; Brad & Judy Ather; Charlene Faunt; Mary Anne Tempest; Jenny Lowman; Nate DeAngelo; Lisa Rye; Valin Szymkowski; Ed Rowe; Gwen Ross; Jackie Bell; Alice Bentley; Janet Cork; Kris Hanstrom; Dian Wurdock; Don & Marilyn McCreedy; Ken Burton; Lloyd Ramseyer; Roger Johnson; Suzanne Hughes; Anne Brace; Bill & Nancy Schuman; Ann Anderson; Ed Rowe; Dona Wells; Rebecca McNaughton; Stephanie Smallwood; Charles White; Lee Hoffmann; Sherry Giles; Pam Shewchuck; Vel Lowman; Ron & Marianne Peludat; Margaret Simmons

Prayers for our extended family: Dan Grogan; Annie Richardson; Julie Fuller; James Chamberlain; Susie Inch; Nichelle Marshall; Jackie Pingel; Dave Jensen; Susan Chamberlain; Pat Strelecki; Beth Zimmerman; Patrick Tamm; Gerald Sessions; Barbara Mitchell; Brian Boozan; Helen McGee; Judy Gettel; Chuck Bartley; Clayton Simons; Nancy Sydanmaa; Marshall Dunlap

Homebound Member of the Week: Florence Martin

Sympathy to Cecilia Tamm on the death of her mother, Lucille, on December 10.

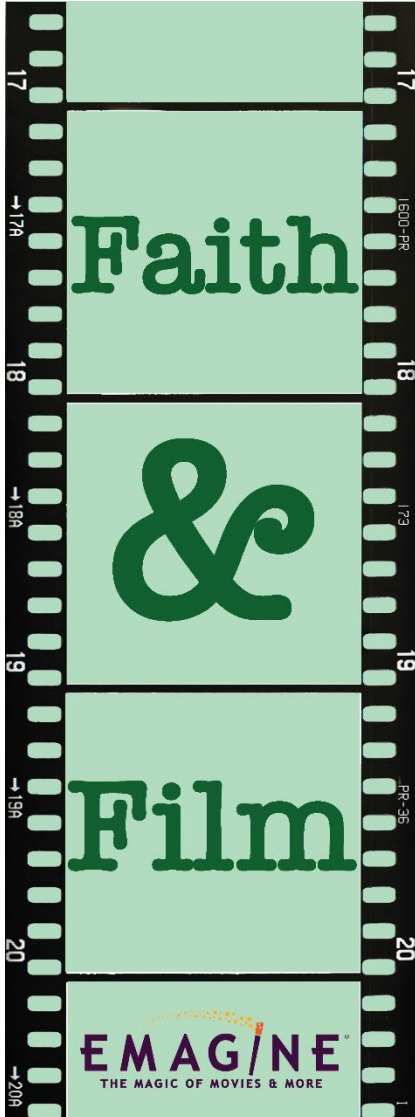
Please contact our Pastoral Care Team at
prayers@rofum.org with any prayer concerns.

The Chancel Flowers are in celebration of Jean and Joe Foster's 50th wedding anniversary.



FAITH & FILM

Royal Oak First is going back to the movies! Our second annual Faith and Film series comes home to Royal Oak. Monday nights in January, we will head over to the Emagine Theatre at 11 Mile and Main at 7:00 pm to see a current movie together. Tickets are only \$7 (a \$5 discount at this premiere theatre.) Contact the church office at 248-541-4100 or office@rofum.org.



January 7 – Welcome to Marwen

When a devastating attack shatters Mark Hogancamp and wipes away all memories, no one expected recovery. Putting together pieces from his old and new life, Mark meticulously creates a wondrous town where he can heal and be heroic.

January 14 – Mary Poppins Returns (all kids 12 and under are free!)

The mysterious Mary Poppins returns to Depression-era London to visit Jane and her brother Michael, now a father of three, and helps them rediscover the joy they knew as children.

January 21 – Aquaman

When Arthur Curry learns that he is the heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis, he must step forward to lead his people against his half-brother, Orm, who seeks to unite the seven underwater kingdoms against the surface world.

January 28 – The Upside

Inspired by a true story, *The Upside* is a heartfelt comedy about a recently paroled ex-convict who strikes up an unusual and unlikely friendship with a paralyzed billionaire.

SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 16

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
4:00 pm	Church-Wide Caroling	Meet in Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm	Cantata Eurotour Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Royal Oak Youth Christmas Party.....	Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 17

9:00 am	Core Team Meeting.....	Choir Room
9:00 am	Mason's Candies	Kitchen
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Directors' Meeting.....	2 nd Floor
7:00 pm	Missions Meeting.....	Choir Room
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Trustees Meeting.....	Room #403

Tuesday, December 18

9:00 am	Mason's Candies	Kitchen
10:00 am	Pastor Jeff's Book and Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	Sermon Practice	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Roga Chair Yoga	Choir Room
12:30 pm	Staff Meeting.....	Sanctuary
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons	Choir Room
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball	Addams Elementary School
7:00 pm	Pub(lic) Theology.....	HopCat
7:00 pm	Women's Book and Bible Study	Contact Myra Moreland
9:00 pm	Sing Out! Detroit.....	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 19

9:00 am	Mason's Candies	Kitchen
9:30 am	Bulletin Meeting	Choir Room
10:00 am	United Methodist Women Book Study	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)	The Avenue Restaurant
3:15 pm	Piano Lesson	Choir Room

Wednesday, December 19 continued

5:00 pm	Drama Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Holy COW (Church On Wednesday) Dinner	Fellowship Hall
6:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsals	Choir Room, Rooms #403 & #414
6:30 pm	Carillon Bell Choir	Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon	Room #403
8:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga	Room #414

Thursday, December 20

7:00 am	Men's Morning Fellowship	Nello's Eatery
9:00 am	Mrs. Mason's Candies	Kitchen
10:00 am	As We Gather Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	The Longest Night Blue Christmas Service	Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:00 pm	Choir Christmas Social	Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 21

9:00 am	Mason's Candies	Kitchen
9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Therapeutic Rehab Sandwich Making	Kitchen

Saturday, December 22

4:00 pm	Worship	Sanctuary
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Sunday, December 23

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
12:00 pm	Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsals	Choir Room, Rooms #403 & #414
6:45 pm	Youth Group Dinner	Fellowship Hall
7:15 pm	Youth Group	Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

11:00 am	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
3:00 pm	Children's Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	"Blue Jeans" Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
9:00 pm	Festive Traditional Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
11:00 pm	Candlelight & Communion Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

“I’ve got that joy, joy, joy, joy... down in my heart! Where? Down in my heart!”

This children’s song plays inside my head so often during the holidays. But I have to admit, sometimes the word that echoes through my mind is the “WHERE?” I look at the world around me. I look into my own heart and say “Where?” Where is the Joy? In the chaos of the busiest time of the year, our lives and our hearts get so cluttered that we lose sight of the Joy that came to the world at Christmas. We clutter our lives and our hearts with all of those crazy Christmas expectations that pull at us. We want to give the perfect Christmas gifts, have the perfect Christmas decorations, have perfectly behaved children in those perfect Christmas outfits. It is no wonder we lose sight of the JOY.

It is right there in the scripture that we will read again this week. The angel comes to the shepherd and says, “Behold, I bring you good news of great joy!” As Jeff reminded us last week, that good news is that God came to earth on Christmas night. Emmanuel, God-with-us. God IS with us. God is moving in the world and in our hearts. Will we take the time to recognize God at work? Is there still room in our lives, in our hearts, for what God is doing in the world this Christmas?

This Sunday we are talking about the JOY. Bring it on. And to get us all in the right mood, it is Christmas Sweater Sunday. There will be crazy sweaters, pretty sweaters, fun and not-so-pretty sweaters... you name it. As we always say, “all are welcome here.” Sometimes it is good not to take ourselves too seriously. The joy of Christmas is already here. We simply need to see it, receive it, “behold” it. So, this Sunday and every Sunday, we wear whatever will prepare your heart to feel the Joy of the season. We come and hear that old, old story one more time. We pray together, sing some carols together, and feel the love.

Grace and Peace at Advent,

Pastor Myra