

*With Us*  
Advent 2018

Sunday, December 23  
11:00 am Traditional Worship

*All People!*

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	<i>Prophecy in Blue</i> Jennifer Semivan, Piano and Debi Szeliga, Organ	Joel Raney
Music Ministry	<i>Personent Hodie</i> Sanctus	arr. by Gustav Holst
Hymn #218	It Came upon the Midnight Clear Stanzas 1, 2 and 4	*UMH
Call to Worship		Mary Lou Graeber
Hymn #242	Love Came Down at Christmas Stanzas 1 and 3	UMH
Greeting and Invitation to Mission		
Lighting the Advent Wreath	Diane George, Chris George, & Melissa Couture	
Time with Children and Noisy Bucket		
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Messiah #11</i> Jason Storms	G.F. Handel
Doxology #95		UMH
Scripture	Luke 2:8-20	**CEB
Drama	<i>The Restaurant</i> Suzanne Barcewicz, Sam Garrett	Rikki Schwartz dir. Tracy Altman
Message	All People	Jeff Nelson
Hymn #230	O Little Town of Bethlehem Stanzas 1 and 2	UMH
Postlude	<i>Paeon on Wachtet Auf</i>	David Lasky

\*United Methodist Hymnal

\*\*Common English Bible

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



**Traditional Worship**—11:00 am  
Traditional candlelight service

**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

## New Royal Oak First Mugs are Here!

Did you remember a gift for your cousin who is coming to Christmas Dinner? What about your mail carrier? Your kid's piano teacher? If not, we have an idea! Our new travel mugs make excellent Christmas gifts. There are two styles of travel mugs available for \$10 each and the classic ceramic mugs are available for \$5 each. Contact George Marck at [gmarck@rofum.org](mailto:gmarck@rofum.org) or stop by the Welcome Table this weekend!



## 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](mailto:ski@rofum.org) if you have any more questions. Make your reservations by January 4!

## 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. The fun includes camping, hiking, rock climbing, and rappelling. 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](mailto:springtrek@rofum.org) for more information.





# PRAYER LIST

**Prayers for our church family:** Eileen Albers; Jayden Bryant; Nancy Lorenz; Paul Kremer; Vel Lowman; Gene Davis; Brad & Judy Ather; Charlene Faunt; Mary Anne Tempest; Jenny Lowman; Nate DeAngelo; Lisa Rye; Ed Rowe; Jackie Bell; Janet Cork; Kris Hanstrom; Dian Wurdock; Don & Marilyn McCreedy; Suzanne Hughes; Anne Brace; Bill & Nancy Schuman; Ann Anderson; Stephanie Smallwood; Charles White; Pam Shewchuck

**Prayers for our extended family:** Larry Buger; Tim Johnson; Hermann Fleissmann; Dan Grogan; Julie Fuller; James & Susan Chamberlain; Susie Inch; Jackie Pingel; Dave Jensen; Beth Zimmerman; Patrick Tamm; Brian Boozan; Helen McGee; Chuck Bartley; Clayton Simons; Nancy Sydanmaa; Marshall Dunlap

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Vera Miller

Please contact our Pastoral Care Team at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@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 5. You can pick them up on Saturday, January 5, between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall or after both services on Sunday, January 6. 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 [sharris@rofum.org](mailto:sharris@rofum.org).

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...”

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## Pasty Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # and/or email address \_\_\_\_\_

Meat \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Total # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-Up time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Saturday, January 5 \_\_\_\_\_

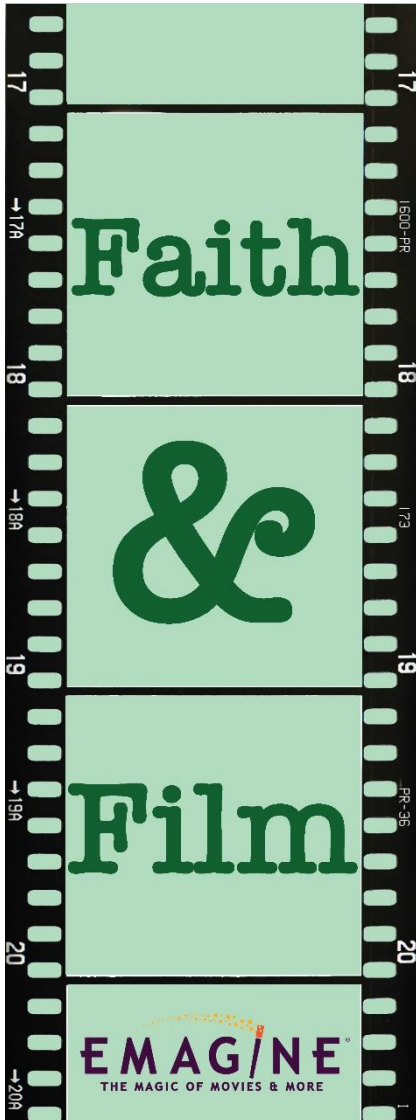
Sunday, January 6, following 9:00 service \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, January 6, following 11:00 service \_\_\_\_\_

Questions or allergy considerations? Contact Shirley Harris at 248-765-5617 or [sharris@rofum.org](mailto:sharris@rofum.org).

# 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](mailto: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.



*Poinsettias Decorating our  
Sanctuary*

**In Memory Of**

Carol Couchenour  
Marie & Jim Dunstan  
David Fick  
Ed Keller  
Don Hocking  
Debbie Reda  
Mable Harmon  
Peg Lowman  
Bill & Virginia Hassberger  
Our family members  
no longer with us  
Ann & Anthony Andrus  
and Louis Somers

**In Honor Of**

Bonnie Barber – Happy Birthday!  
Peggy Gill  
Audrey Leenhouts  
My amazing husband, Chris  
Phyllis Hassberger  
Rick & Elsa Reynolds  
Virginia Sleeman

**Given By**

Steve & Kara Couchenour  
The Dunstan Family  
Audrey Fick & Amy Rhoades  
Kara Hocking  
Marilyn & Kara Hocking  
Marilyn & Kara Hocking  
The Lowman Family  
The Lowman Family  
The Plaxton Family  
The Simms and  
Heckman Families  
Mike & Linda Somers

**Given By**

Joyce & Ken Burton  
The Lowman Family  
The Lowman Family  
Nan Orletski  
The Plaxton Family  
The Plaxton Family  
Her loving family



# UMCOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Our congregation has contributed to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in honor or in memory of the following:

## In Memory Of

Claud & Ruth Bosworth  
John Buxton  
Leslie & Mildred Buxton  
Robert & Jane Jacobs  
LeRoy Scheibner  
Frank & Jackie Kinney  
Evelyn & Erv Kondrat  
David Leenhouts  
Arthur & Gertrude Miller and  
James & Isabelle Retaskie  
Ronaldo & Noreen Bucciarelli  
Cal Sleeman  
Shirley Campbell  
Joe Gardner  
Donald Goff  
Glenn Goff

## In Honor Of

Andrew & Paul Kondrat

## Given By

Susanne Bosworth Buxton  
Susanne Bosworth Buxton  
Susanne Bosworth Buxton  
Mike Dabney  
The Evans Family  
Steve & Janet Kinney  
Mike & Charlene Kondrat  
The Leenhouts Family  
Arthur & Delores Miller  
  
Julie & Craig Sleeman  
His loving family  
The Suarez Family  
John & Phyllis Wagster  
John & Phyllis Wagster  
John & Phyllis Wagster

## Given By

Mike & Charlene Kondrat

# CALENDAR

## 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
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour .....Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Pageant Rehearsal .....Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Angelus and Alumni Rehearsal .....Choir Room

## Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....Fellowship Hall
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

## Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas

Office Closed

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....Fellowship Hall
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## Wednesday, December 26

Office Closed

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
3:15 pm	Piano Lesson .....Choir Room
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon .....Room #403

**Thursday, December 27**

7:00 am Men's Morning Fellowship.....Nello's Eatery  
9:00 am Mrs. Mason's Candies..... Kitchen  
10:30 am Lunch Program.....Fellowship Hall  
1:00 pm Shawl Ministry.....Fellowship Hall  
5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal.....Sanctuary

**Friday, December 28**

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  
4:00 pm Wedding.....Sanctuary

**Saturday, December 29**

4:00 pm Worship.....Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 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  
12:00 pm Fellowship Hour.....Fellowship Hall

**Monday, December 31 – New Year's Eve**

Office Closed

10:30 am Lunch Program.....Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, January 1 – New Year's Day**

Office Closed

10:30 am Lunch Program.....Fellowship Hall

# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

When I stumbled upon this quote from Karl Barth, one of the 20th century's greatest theologians, this past week, it stopped me in my tracks:

*"This much is certain, that we have no theological right to set any sort of limits to the loving-kindness of God which has appeared in Jesus Christ. Our theological duty is to see and understand it as being still greater than we had seen before."*

We have no right to set any sort of limit to the loving-kindness of God! Imagine how different the history of the church would have been if people of faith had not spent so much time setting limits on God's love, trying to decide who was in or out or who was worthy to receive the blessings of Christian community. Just imagine if all that time and energy that was spent on line drawing and limit setting was spent extending the love and kindness to as many people as possible, especially those who needed it the most. The history of the church and, dare I say, the history of our world would have been very different.

The message of Christmas is really pretty radical. We claim that in Jesus Christ a clear message has been sent: God's loving-kindness truly knows no bounds! That is what Jesus did during his earthly ministry. He hung around with the people who had been told their whole lives they were not acceptable, reminding them that they too were children of God. He ate with the people who had always been denied access to the blessing of fellowship, declaring that God was as present at this table as God was present in the Temple. Frankly, the only people Jesus even really had any problems with were those who used their faith to place limits and boundaries on others, especially those who needed God's mercy and care the most.

Today, we hear the Christmas angel make a bold declaration, "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people!"

All people!

All means all. There are no loopholes or exceptions. All people! God's loving-kindness is meant for all people. That means it is meant for you! That means it is meant for me! That means that God's loving-kindness is meant for the person sitting next to you this morning, the neighbor down the street, the man living under the bridge, the coworker who annoys you, the immigrant waiting at the border, and the police officer guarding that border.

All means all. God's loving-kindness is available to all people. That is the heart of the Christmas message.

Grace and Peace,



Pastore Jeff