

# It is Good to Be Together

Sunday, September 22  
11:00 am Worship

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	<i>Aria</i>	Craig Phillips
Hymn #2221	In Unity We Lift Our Song	*FWS
Call to Worship		
Song #2226	Bind Us Together	FWS
Greeting and Invitation to Mission		
New Members		
Music Ministry	<i>For Good</i> Kelsey Lockwood	Stephen Schwartz
Time of Prayer		
Mission Moment		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Ubi Caritas</i> Sanctus	Maurice Duruflé
Doxology #95		**UMH
Scripture	Ecclesiastes 4:8-12 Matthew 18:20 Acts 2:44-47	***CEB ****KJV CEB
Message	It is Good to Be Together	Jeff Nelson
Hymn #555	Forward Through the Ages	UMH
Postlude	<i>Fanfare on Nicaea</i>	Nancy Hill Cobb

\* Faith We Sing  
\*\* United Methodist Hymnal  
\*\*\* Common English Bible  
\*\*\*\* King James Version

# ONE VOICE

Benefit Concert featuring  
Cantata Academy Chorale

Sing Out, Detroit!

Sanctus

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 4:00 PM**

benefiting The Ruth Ellis Center

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

WITH FORMER  
NFL PLAYER  
LUIS SHARPE

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28  
9:00 AM



Sunday, September 29

Pot-Luck Dinner at 5:30 pm

Show at 6:30 pm

# OPPORTUNITIES

## **Sock It To Me September**

Our friends at the NOAH Project hand out over 10,000 pairs of socks every year. Each September, they hold a sock collection contest, Sock It To Me September. After two years as champions, we lost the coveted Golden Sock Award, coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> with over 2,000 pairs of socks. Help us reclaim 1<sup>st</sup> place and bring a package or two (or ten) of new socks any time in September.



**Sock-It-To-Me  
September!**



## **One Voice: ChoirFest**

**Sunday, September 22, 4:00 pm**

Many groups call Royal Oak First their home, including a few musical ensembles. Three of those groups, Sing Out Detroit!, Cantata Academy Chorale, and Sanctus, are joining forces for their first-ever combined concert. Each group will offer their own songs before uniting as one voice. A freewill offering will benefit the Ruth Ellis Center.

## **Evening Receptionist Position Available**

Now that our building is open and we are busier than ever, we have a new staff position available. As a member of the administrative and hospitality staff, the Evening Receptionist will serve as a welcoming face for our evening classes, choirs, support groups, committees, and visitors. For more information, visit [rofum.org/jobs](http://rofum.org/jobs) or contact Jennifer Tripoli at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).





## Join a Grow Group

The ConnectGrowServe Ministries at Royal Oak First work to help us connect to each other, grow in faith and knowledge, and serve others in the name of Christ. This fall, we are launching 13 new Grow Groups to help us grow spiritually and personally. Classes begin the week of Monday, October 7. For more information about these classes, check out our course catalogue, or contact the church office at [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org).

## Free Yoga with Soul Stretch Yoga

**Mondays at 7:00 pm and Wednesdays at 7:30 pm**

September is Yoga Month, and our friends at Soul Stretch Yoga are offering free yoga throughout September to Royal Oak First Members. All are welcome, so come try.



## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday, September 28, 9:00 am**

All men are invited to join us for breakfast, fellowship, and prayer with former NFL player Luis Sharpe. If you have any questions, contact Roger Boyer at [mensfellowship@rofum.org](mailto:mensfellowship@rofum.org).

## Comedy Sportz

**Sunday, September 29**

**5:30 pm Potluck**

**6:30 pm Show**

Join us for an evening of family fun. First, a potluck dinner. Next, an amazing show from Comedy Sportz, the family-friendly comedy troupe that does improv as a competitive sport. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$20 per family.



## Introducing First Friends

**Tuesdays, 9:00 am-11:00 am, beginning October 1**

First Friends gives parents/caregivers space to play with their children and friends in a safe, friendly space outside their own home. A staff member will be here to greet you and answer any questions. This is a drop in play time, as you are able, with no structure or staffing.

## United Methodist Women

**Thursday, October 3, 1:00 pm**

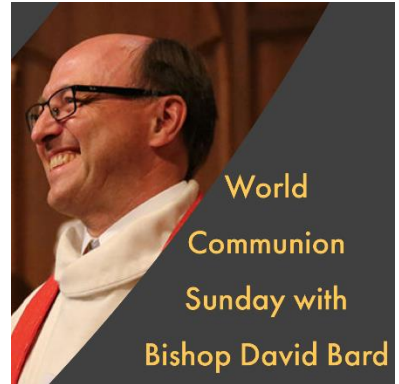
The UMW program speaker for October will be Stacey from Cass Community Activity Center for the Developmentally Disabled Adults. She will be presenting the history, current activities and what is hoped for the future of the Cass Activity Center. Stacey will bring two of her "brightest stars" to talk with us also. All are welcome to join us in the Parlor and learn more about this important Center supported by the Methodist Church.



## World Communion Sunday

**Sunday, October 6**

Celebrate our connection to the global Church with the Bishop of the Michigan Area, Rev. Dr. David Bard. Bard's preaching brings deep insight and a hopeful vision for the future of the church, along with plenty of charm and humor. He will lead us in communion, sharing this sacred meal with churches around the world. Following the 11:00 am worship service, join us for a special celebration brunch of our renewed building and all the people that saw the project through.



## African Children's Choir

**Sunday, October 13, 9:00 & 11:00 am**

They have been featured on popular television shows, including "The Tonight Show" and American Idol," now they are going to be at Royal Oak First! Don't miss this Sunday as we're led in worship and music by the African Children's Choir, a group of African children, aged 7 to 10 years old. As part of the organization Music for Life, your offering will help provide education, discipleship, and leadership training for thousands of children as they work to break cycles of generational poverty.



## Aging In Grace

**Sunday, October 13, 12:30 pm**

Medicare & Medicaid in Layman's Terms with Janice Roble, MSW, CSW ACSW

**Sunday, October 20, 12:30 pm**

Legal Aspects of Aging with Craig Sleeman, Attorney

**Sunday, October 27, 12:30 pm**

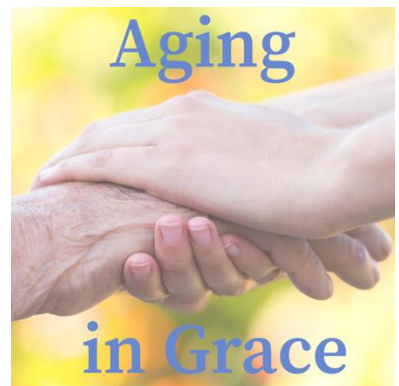
Normal Cognitive Decline vs. Dementia: When to Worry with Lynn Breuer, LMSW, CHC

**Sunday, November 3, 12:30 pm**

Successful Aging Through Financial Empowerment with LaToya Hall, MSW

**Sunday, November 10, 12:30 pm**

Mental Health Concerns of Aging with Matthew Swarts, MSSW, LMSW







## **Nut Sale by United Methodist Women**

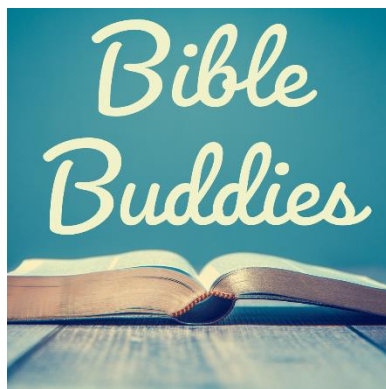
**Orders due Sunday, October 13**

The Annual United Methodist Women Nut Sale starts today! Pistachios, Pralines, Mixed Nuts, Pecans, Cashews, Chocolate Covered Raisins, Chocolate Peanuts, Malted Milk Balls, Milk Chocolate Almonds, and Dark Chocolate Almonds are available, so there is something for everyone. This is a pre-order-only sale, so make sure you place your orders by Sunday, October 13. Pick up an order form at the Connect Here Desk. If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Cline at 248-496-0261 or [nuts@rofum.org](mailto:nuts@rofum.org).

## **Bible Friends**

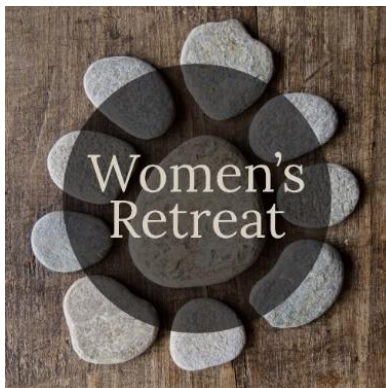
**Sunday, October 20, 11:00 am worship service**

The annual gesture of a Bible Buddy presenting a Bible to a third-grade student does more than provide a Bible to a child. Bible Buddies pass on a bit of their faith and values. If you are interested in becoming a Bible Buddy or purchasing a Bible for a child, contact Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org) or sign up at the Connect Here Desk.



## **Women's Retreat**

**Friday, November 1 – Sunday, November 3**



Join us for a weekend of friendship and connecting with other women. Campfires, activities, small groups, and book discussions await us at Lake Huron Retreat Center.

The cost is \$175 for a triple-occupancy room, \$197 for a double, or \$247 for a single. If the price is restrictive for you, let us know. We will not allow that to get between you and a weekend of friendship.

If you have any questions, contact Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org).



# RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Neal Harris; Janet Kinney; Karen Parke; Ken Burton; Alice Bentley; Ann Cline; Dorothy Matsumoto; Diane Sexton; Marge Youngs; Melinda Loftin; Jill Paswater; Betty Latimer; Shirley Gnegy; Vince Notarantonio; Marianne Peck; Lloyd Ramsayer; Lee Hoffmann; Art & Delores Miller; Dick & Judy Bryan

**Prayers for our extended family:** Carol Barney; Paul Edward; LeeAnna Radick; Pam Payne; Tim Murphy; George Underwood; Kris Beachum

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Phyllis Hassberger

This list includes prayer concerns from the past six weeks.

For the complete Prayer List, please contact our  
Pastoral Care Team at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### **AA Meetings**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:00 pm in the Parlor

### **Nar-Anon**

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room

### **Straight Spouse Network**

Second Friday of each month at 6:45 pm in the Parlor

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 22

9:00 am	Worship & Missions .....	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery;	
	Sunday School – Bible Times Square (Chapel)	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour .....	Gathering Space
10:15 am	Pastor Chat.....	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room
11:00 am	Worship & Missions .....	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery;	
	Sunday School – Bible Times Square (Chapel)	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour .....	Gathering Space
12:15 pm	Pastor Chat.....	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room
2:45 pm	One Voice: ChoirFest Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	One Voice: ChoirFest Concert .....	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	One Voice: ChoirFest Afterglow .....	Parlor
5:30 pm	Cantata Academy Chorale .....	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Youth Group Dinner .....	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Youth Group .....	ROY Commons (Youth Room)
7:00 pm	Youth Choirs .....	Bible Times Square (Chapel)
8:00 pm	Youth Group Seniors Small Group.....	National Coney Island

## Monday, September 23

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
12:30 pm	Team Huddle Staff Meeting .....	ROY Commons (Youth Room)
2:00 pm	Director Team Meeting .....	ROY Commons (Youth Room)
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons .....	Sanctuary
6:00 pm	AA Meeting .....	Parlor
6:00 pm	Piano Lesson .....	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Girl Scouts .....	ROY Commons (Youth Room)
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts .....	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Bible Times Square (Chapel)

## Tuesday, September 24

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons .....	Parlor
6:00 pm	Sing Out Detroit .....	Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Women's Book and Bible Study .....	ROY Commons (Youth Room)

## Wednesday, September 25

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Sermon Practice .....	Sanctuary
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) .....	The Avenue Restaurant
1:00 pm	Piano Lesson .....	Parlor
3:15 pm	Piano Lesson .....	Sanctuary
3:30 pm	Violin Lessons.....	Parlor
5:30 pm	Holy COW.....	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
6:00 pm	AA Meeting .....	Parlor
6:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsals .....	Drama Room, Sanctuary, Choir Room
6:30 pm	Infant/Toddler Music .....	Bible Times Square (Chapel)
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon .....	ROY Commons (Youth Room)
7:30 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Bible Times Square (Chapel)

## Thursday, September 26

10:00 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Shawl Ministry.....	Parlor
3:00 pm	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
6:00 pm	Brew with Your Buds Men's Fellowship.....	Jolly Pumpkin
7:00 pm	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary & Choir Room

## Friday, September 27

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study .....	Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Roga Chair Yoga .....	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Therapeutic Rehab .....	Kitchen
6:00 pm	AA Meeting .....	Parlor

## Saturday, September 28

9:00 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast.....	Fellowship Hall
9:30 am	Ascend Church .....	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Worship .....	Sanctuary

# NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It was in college that I reconnected with my faith. I was searching for meaning and purpose (it was the quintessential, “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?” moment that many young 20 somethings go through.) It was during that time someone talked to me about Christ and pointed me toward what it might mean to live my life for a purpose higher than just my own personal gain. So it was on a Tuesday afternoon, in late October, in my dorm room at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, that I asked Jesus into my life.

Now the ground didn't shake.

The ceiling didn't open.

I didn't hear any voices.

But my life was different from that moment on.

When I look back on that time in my life, what I now realize is that it wasn't that prayer that made the real difference in my young faith. What helped me grow was the invitation to be a part of a small group study. Someone lead me to pray that prayer on Tuesday afternoon and then had the wisdom to invite me to join a circle of other young men trying to answer the same questions I was trying to answer. That small group made my faith real. That small group gave me new friends to walk with on this new journey.

Without that group, I would have prayed that prayer and that probably would have been the end of it. The seed of faith planted within me might not have taken root if I wasn't able to explore, question, and discuss my faith with others. We laughed and listened, encouraged and prayed for each other. I believe the path toward the life I am living today was set in motion in those few months spent with that small group of other people looking to understand and grow in their faith.

I learned a valuable lesson that year. Faith is not something you do by yourself—it is something we do together.

As your pastor and friend, there is nothing more that I want than for you to grow in your faith and the best way that I know how to do that is to do so in community, the company of others.

Today is your day to sign up for our Fall Grow Groups—a 6-week small group journey where you can grow in your faith and connect with the people of your church. There are a lot of different topics. They are happening at a lot of different times. After worship today, Pastor Myra and the leaders of the groups will be there to help you sign up.

Looking forward to being on this journey together!

Grace and Peace,

