

In Focus
Advent 2019

The Star

*When they saw the
star, they were
filled with
joy.*

Matthew 2:10

*Sunday, December 1
9:00 am Worship*

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Introit	Matthew 2:9-10 Hannah Richardson	*CEB
Song	We Three Kings	
Song	Love Came Down at Christmas	
Welcome		
Invitation to Mission		
Call to Prayer		
Advent Wreath Lighting		Dana & Dave Beatty
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Birthday of a King</i> Mary Nahhat	William Harold Neidlinger
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10 Crystal Reed	CEB
Message	The Star	Jeff Nelson
Focus	<i>Sky Full of Stars</i> Ken Stringer and Mike McNutt	Coldplay
Communion		
Song	The First Noel	

OPPORTUNITIES

Mission Trip to Ghana Interest Meeting

Sunday, December 1, 12:15 pm

A few weeks ago, Pastor Myra announced in her sermon that the church will be leading a mission trip to Ghana in November of 2020. If you think you may be interested in joining this trip, you are invited to a meeting to gauge interest and begin planning the trip. If you aren't sure you can commit to the trip yet, you are still encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, contact Amy Brown at ghana2020@rofum.org.



Christmas Concert presented by United Methodist Women

Thursday, December 5, 1:00 pm



United Methodist Women cordially invite all members and friends to enjoy an afternoon of holiday music to begin our musical adventure into the Advent and Christmas season. We are honored to welcome the "L'Anse Creuse High School Select Ensemble" as they bring us joyful holiday and Christmas selections. John Paul Clark is Director of choirs and Suzanne Nahhat Bianchi is accompanist for

this festive program. Please put this date on your "to do" calendar to happily begin the Advent season with us and also remember to invite friends and family. Refreshments in the parlor will follow the program.

Christmas Poinsettias and UMCOR Contributions

Orders due on Sunday, December 8

Each Christmas, our Sanctuary is decorated with Poinsettias and special contributions are made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in honor or memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 22, and during our Christmas Eve services. The names of the donors and those to be honored or memorialized will be included in the bulletin that weekend. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia or make a special contribution to UMCOR, fill out an order form at the Connect Here desk or online at rofum.org/umcor.





Ave: Songs of Mary Christmas Concert

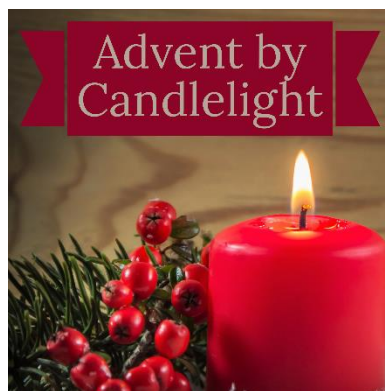
Sunday, December 8, 2:00 & 4:00 pm

The combined choirs of Royal Oak First are coming together to bring you *Ave: Songs of Mary*, our annual Christmas Concert. Mark your calendars and don't miss this highlight of our season. If you have any questions, **contact Caleb Williams at caleb@rofum.org**.

Advent by Candlelight

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 pm

All the women of the church are invited! Join us for Advent by Candlelight which will include a program of speakers and music followed by dessert and fellowship. Come be inspired by the true meaning of the season! To ensure everyone has a seat, please sign up to attend. Child Care is provided. If you have any questions, **contact Bridget Nelson at bnelson@rofum.org**.



Annual Church Conference



Annual Church Conference

Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm

At this important meeting we will discuss the past year at Royal Oak First and our plans for next year, including a vote on the future of our church governing system. In preparation for this important meeting, please pick up the Governing Board Proposal at the Connect Here desk. If you have any questions, **contact Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@rofum.org**.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, December 14, 9:00 am

Join the men of the church for a delicious breakfast before traveling to the Henry Ford Factory Museum in Detroit. If you have any questions, **contact** mensfellowship@rofum.org.



Detroit Lutheran Singers Concert

Saturday, December 14, 7:00 pm

Come see this wonderful local choir perform their Christmas Concert, *Magnificat: Good News of Great Joy!* Detroit Lutheran Singers includes many members of our very own Sanctus choir. General Admission is \$15, Students and Seniors are \$10, Children under 12 are free. Tickets are available at the door or online at DetroitLutheranSingers.com.

Bake Sale and Live Auction for St. Jude's

Sunday, December 15, 12:15 pm

Royal Oak Youth member Tyler Young is holding a bake sale to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Sign up to bring baked goods at the Connect Here desk and stop by the parlor on the 15th for the bake sale and live auction. If you have any questions, **contact Myra Moreland** at mmoreland@rofum.org.



Christmas Collection for Ferndale Lower Elementary School



Free Store is open on Friday, December 20

Our new mission partner, Ferndale Lower Elementary School, is providing a free Christmas store for their students to shop for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. We are collecting small, \$5 toys, puzzles, and gifts to fill this free store so each child can choose three gifts to brighten the Christmas season. Bring your gifts to the collection tree in the Narthex by December 15. If you have any questions, **contact Myra Moreland at mmoreland@rofum.org**.

Decorative Cross Sale

Decorative crosses are available for purchase following worship services to support the Lunch Program. Small crosses will be \$12 and large crosses will be \$15. These lovely crosses are all unique and a wonderful gift idea for the coming Christmas season. If you have any questions, **contact Diane Sexton at 586-350-1751**.



Nut Order Pick-Up

The Nut Orders for United Methodist Women have arrived and are available for pick up and payment in the 1st Floor Conference Room. There are extra nuts available for purchase if you did not get the chance to place a pre-order. The proceeds from this sale go to support local, national, and international missions. The United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who has supported these important missions.

Royal Oak First Mug Sale

How many Christmas gifts are you planning on buying this year? If that number is intimidating, we have an idea that can help you cross off a few entries on your list. Our travel mugs make excellent Christmas gifts. There are two styles of travel mugs available for \$10 each. **Contact George Marck at gmarck@rofum.org** or sign up at the Connect Here Desk to place an order.



God Loves You Grocery Bags for Sale



These sturdy and colorful bags are a great way to reduce plastic waste while spreading our message: God loves you, and there is nothing you can do about it. For only \$5 each, the sale of these bags will go to support our Creation Care Environmental Ministry, including expanding our reuse and recycling activities at the church. If you have any questions, please **contact Nancy Thompson at 248-541-6008.**

Men's Chorus

Rehearsals are on Sundays, 12:30 pm

Singing together brings people together, but not all of us can commit to a weekly choir. Caleb Williams is putting together a one-off men's choir to sing a brand new arrangement of the lively Caribbean carol The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy at our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 8. If you have any questions, **contact Caleb Williams at caleb@rofum.org.**





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 treat you have always wanted to share, **contact Mike Monte at mmonte@rofum.org**. If you are willing to share your recipe, we would be happy to print copies for you.

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. Our next set of Grow Groups begins in January. For more information about these classes, check out our course catalogue or **contact the church office at office@rofum.org**.

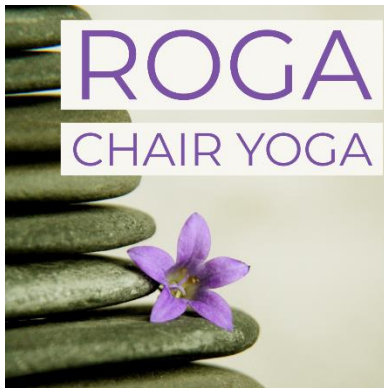
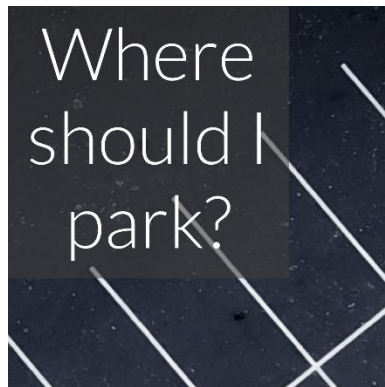


The Mitten Tree

Each year, we fill the United Methodist Women's Mitten Tree with new adult-sized hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for our daily lunch program. This year, we are adding food for the lunches, too. Helpful food items include peanut butter, fruit cups, pudding, raisins, individual serving chip bags, cookies, granola bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, and juice boxes. You can drop off your donations at the tree in the tower entrance. If you have any questions, **contact Kathy Riggs at 248-390-4345**.

Parking on Sundays

We are a bustling church, especially on Sundays, and we have a small parking lot. We ask that those who are able park in the free parking structure on Lafayette at 5th St, to make sure there is room in the parking lot & on the streets around the church for visitors and our more vulnerable members. If you have any questions **contact Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@rofum.org**.



Roga Chair Yoga

Fridays at 10:00 am

Yoga can improve flexibility, relieve muscle tension, and improve moods. If that sounds good to you, come to Roga Chair Yoga every Friday for a free session of relaxing chair yoga. If you have any questions, **contact the church office at office@rofum.org**.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Phyllis Hassberger; Betty Locke; Judy Ather; Vel Lowman; Sue Buxton; Inge Wichers; Suzanne & Jack Hughes; Lee Hoffmann; Janice Marsh; Marissa Haight; Margery Youngs; James Ansell; Debi Harmon; James Respecki; Karen Parke; Dick LaCombe; Dick & Judy Bryan

Prayers for our extended family: Patrick Tamm; Carl Wilson; Marilyn Tovarez; Josie Nunez; Kris Beachum

Senior Spotlight: Ron & Marianne Peludat

Sympathy to Ann Cline on the death of her daughter-in-law, Jan Scott, November 24.

Sympathy to the Watkins family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Norma Jean Wilke, November 26.

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.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1

9:00 am	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
9:00 am	Worship & Communion	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
11:00 am	Worship & Communion	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
12:15 pm	Ghana Trip Interest Meeting	Youth Room
12:30 pm	Men's Choir	Choir Room
5:30 pm	Youth Group Dinner	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Youth Group	ROY Commons
7:00 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsals.....	Choir Room & Sanctuary

Monday, December 2

9:30 am	Director Team Meeting	1 st Floor Conference Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
3:45 pm	Youth Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
6:00 pm	AA Meeting	Parlor
6:00 pm	Refueling Our Faith Using Motors	Duggan's Irish Pub
6:30 pm	Detroit Lutheran Singers	Sanctuary & Gathering Space
6:30 pm	Girl Scouts	Youth Room
7:00 pm	Scout Troop 1601	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Chapel
8:00 pm	Music Guild Meeting	Choir Room

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 am	First Friends.....	Nursery
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Blood Pressure Class	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons	Parlor
6:00 pm	Sing Out Detroit!	Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball.....	Addams Elementary School

Wednesday, December 4

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
3:30 pm	Violin Lessons.....	Parlor
5:30 pm	Holy COW Dinner	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	AA Meeting	Parlor
6:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsals	Theater, Science Room, Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Carillon Bell Choir	Room #307
6:30 pm	Infant & Toddler Music Experience	Bible Times Square
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon	ROY Commons
7:30 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Chapel

Thursday, December 5

9:30 am	United Methodist Women Executive Meeting.....	Parlor
10:00 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	United Methodist Women Concert	Sanctuary
3:00 pm	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
3:00 pm	United Methodist Women Concert Afterglow.....	Parlor
7:00 pm	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary & Choir Room
8:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Brewery Night	Griffin's Claw in Birmingham

Friday, December 6

9:00 am	Piano Tuning.....	All Pianos
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 Sandwich Making.....	Kitchen
6:00 pm	AA Meeting	Parlor

Saturday, December 7

10:00 am	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Parents' Day Out	2 nd Floor
4:00 pm	Worship	Sanctuary

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

Today is December 1st and today we officially begin our journey to Christmas. Together we will seek out ways to bring into the deepest meaning of the season—the simple but profound truth that God is with us.

We have been visited. God is not some distant deity, residing in some heaven light-years away. In the coming of Christ, we see that God has walked with us, lived among us, felt our pain and knew our joy. The whole message of Christmas is that God may act in us, through us, among us and even beyond us.

Here at Royal Oak First, we want to invite to journey with us this season I hope that this truth becomes real for each of us. Make space to come to worship each Sunday. Sing with us the songs of the season. Listen to the retelling of our timeless story. Participate with us in the mission and service that extends this truth beyond our walls.

Make sure you enjoy the Christmas Concert and the Advent by Candlelight experience. Find a Christmas sweater to wear on Joy Sunday (December 15). And plan to attend a service on Christmas Eve.

This Christmas season is upon us. May our journey together be spirited and spirit-filled!

God is good.

God is with us on this journey.

May this Christmas invite us all to experience the hope, peace, joy, and love that sit at the center of what it means to people of faith and goodwill.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Jed". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.