

In Focus
Advent 2019

The Angel

*But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. I bring
you good news that will
cause great joy for
all the people."
Luke 2:10*

*Sunday, December 8
9:00 am Worship*

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Introit	Luke 2:9-10 Sam Nelson	*CEB
Song	Angels We Have Heard on High	
Song	Oh What a Glorious Night	
Welcome		
Invitation to Mission		
Advent Wreath Lighting		The Backes Family
Baby's First Christmas		
Mission Moment		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Christmas Spirit</i> Jayne McGee	Donna Summers
Scripture	Luke 2:9-12 Janet Kinney	CEB
Drama	<i>Blinded By the Light</i> Tracy J. Altman and Shawn Polito	Mark Talaga
Message	The Angel	Myra Moreland
Focus	<i>Shine</i> Erica Plesco and Jason Sherman	Ed Roland
Song	Hark! the Herald Angels Sing	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

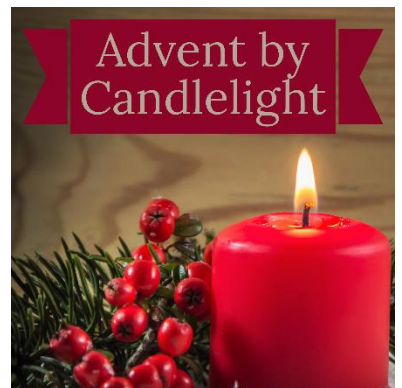
The combined choirs of Royal Oak First are coming together to bring you *Ave: Songs of Mary*, our annual Christmas Concert. Mark your calendars and don't miss this highlight of our season. If you have any questions, **contact Caleb Williams at caleb@rofum.org**.

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**.

Advent by



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**.

Produce Collection for Redford Brightmoor Initiative

Our friends at the RBI Free Store provide fresh produce to their shoppers every Saturday, and we are going to help. You can sign up to bring two bags of produce to Royal Oak First or transport the donations to RBI on the second Saturday of every month. Slots are limited, so sign up soon. Sign up online at rofum.org/links or **contact Astrid Harrod at rbi@rofum.org** if you have any questions.



**CHRISTMAS
SWEATER WEEKEND**

Christmas Sweater Weekend

December 14 & 15

Next weekend, we celebrate the joy of Advent. Wear your best Christmas Sweater (pretty or ugly) and get a special family photo after worship. This nostalgic Polaroid will be a perfect addition to any refrigerator door or Christmas tree.

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.



THE DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS



Detroit Lutheran Singers Concert

Saturday, December 14, 7:00 pm

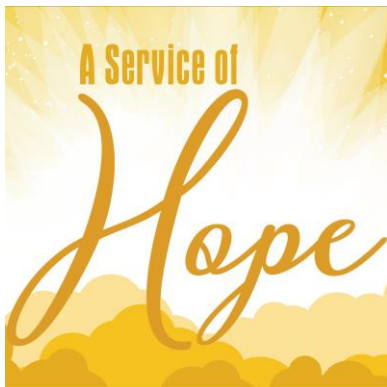
Come see this wonderful local choir perform their Christmas Concert, *Magnificat: Good News of Great Joy!* Detroit Lutheran Singers includes many members of our very own Sanctus choir. General Admission is \$15, Students and Seniors are \$10, Children under 12 are free. Tickets are available at the door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





Service of Hope at Birmingham First Monday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Our friends and neighbors at Birmingham First invite you to this gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. We come together to find strength in community, to remember God's promises, and to share hope for tomorrow. If you have any questions, **contact the church office at office@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 or you would like to volunteer to run the store, **contact Myra Moreland at mmoreland@rofum.org**.



Decorative Cross Sale

Decorative crosses are available for purchase following worship services. Proceeds from the sales will 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**.

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**.

Evening Receptionist Position Available

As a member of the administrative and hospitality staff, the Evening Receptionist serves as a welcoming face for our evening classes, choirs, support groups, committees, and visitors. For more information, visit rofum.org/jobs or **contact Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@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**.

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**.



Soul Stretch Yoga: Move and Mellow

Mondays, 7:00 pm

Part vinyasa, part yin, and all yoga. Get moving and build some heat then let it mellow with long holding postures. Great for relaxing the active body or activating the body for more activity. Come and try your first class here for free! For more information, check out their website at soulstretch.org.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Sue Hughes; Dorothy Matsumoto; Lynn Nord; Kip Tull; 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: Mary Healander; Patrick Tamm; Carl Wilson; Marilyn Tovarez; Josie Nunez; Kris Beachum

Senior Spotlight: Yvonne Quinn

Sympathy to Randy Riggs on the death of his mother, Carol Barney, December 1.

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 8

9:00 am	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
12:15 pm	Men's Steering Team.....	1 st Floor Conference Room
1:00 pm	Christmas Concert Rehearsal	2 nd Floor & Choir Room
2:00 pm	Christmas Concert	Sanctuary
3:00 pm	Christmas Concert Afterglow	Gathering Space
4:00 pm	Christmas Concert	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Christmas Concert Afterglow	Gathering Space

Monday, December 9

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	Bible Buddy Craft Night.....	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Advent By Candlelight Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Endowment Team Meeting	1 st Floor Conference Room
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Chapel

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 am	First Friends.....	Nursery
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight Table Setting	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons	Parlor
6:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight Refreshments	Gathering Space
6:00 pm	Sing Out Detroit!	Theater
7:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight Afterglow	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball.....	Addams Elementary School
9:00 pm	Sing Out Detroit	Theater Room & Chapel

Wednesday, December 11

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
2:00 pm	Piano Club	Parlor
3:15 pm	Piano Lesson	Sanctuary
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
7:00 pm	Knowledge Circle	Parlor
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon	ROY Commons
7:30 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Chapel

Thursday, December 12

10:00 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Shawl Ministry.....	Parlor
3:00 pm	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
6:15 pm	Staff/Parish Relations Committee	1 st Floor Conference Room
7:00 pm	Faith & Sexuality Meeting	The Office Coffee Shop
7:00 pm	Annual Church Conference.....	Sanctuary

Friday, December 13

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
11:00 am	Bread Making.....	Kitchen
1:00 pm	Therapeutic Rehab Sandwich Making.....	Kitchen
6:00 pm	AA Meeting	Parlor

Saturday, December 14

8:00 am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Ford Tour.....	Fellowship Hal
9:30 am	Ascend Church	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Worship	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Detroit Lutheran Singers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Detroit Lutheran Singers Concert.....	Sanctuary

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

If you drive north on I-75 then go west for a bit to Mackinaw City, you will find a park known around the world as one of the darkest places on the earth. Seriously, the Headlands International Dark Sky Park is one of ten places in the world designated as a “dark park” because it is virtually free from light pollution. Why is that important? In this dark park you will see the heavens like you have never seen them before. When you go to the park, you stumble along a dark path and “feel” your way to benches where you can sit back, look up and be amazed by the stars.

The darker the night, the brighter the light.

This week, as we focus on the Angels, I am drawn to the fact that they chose the darkest part of world to come and bring the brightest light. The Angels came to the shepherds who were out in the fields far away from the lights of the city, far away from the warmth of society.

This weekend, we continue down the sacred road of Advent and focus in on the Angels who bring “good news and great joy for all people”. We’ll be lighting the candle of peace this week. Come and find both the peace and the joy of the season.

Grace and Peace at Advent,

*Pastor
Myra*