



**THE  
DISCIPLES**

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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## RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Cindy Vandermark; Dick LaCombe; Daphne Mitchell; Paula Derkowski; Joe Waisanen Jr; Grace Perkins; Bob & Michele Prud'homme; Crystal Clark; Marian Kremer; Betty Locke; Charlie Yago; Megan Backes; Marguerite Nowacek; Phil & Jane Button; Bill Young; Krista Conyers; Nancy Lorenz; John Wagster; Charlene Faunt; Pastor Jeff Nelson; The Riggs Family

**Prayers for our extended family:** Lucy Sieck; Jamie Radick; Pat Callahan; Effie Lambros; Margie Reese; Pam Payne; Tim Bell; Bernice Amell; Laurie Harris Wiener; Heidi and Dan Grogan; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19; Marilyn Mansfield; Scott Schell; Margaret O'Donnell; Don & Ann Anderson

**Senior Spotlight:** Florence Martin

**Sympathy** to Al, Hannah, and Cecelia Beachum on the death of their mother and grandmother, Kris Beachum.

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

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It has been a tumultuous week as we continue to face a pandemic, a natural disaster, and racial violence.

The death toll for Covid-19 has surpassed one hundred thousand in this country as states begin to reopen. Please take a moment as you read this letter, stop and pray for all the families who have lost loved ones during this pandemic.

Royal Oak First continues to follow the guidelines of our Bishop and the Governor and remains closed through June 12. We will look for new guidance at that point. In the meantime, we continue to "be a church" by connecting, praising, and worshiping God through online services and zoom calls. I pray for each of you and ask you to be cautious and stay safe.

Last week two dams were breached in the Midland area sending torrents of water into nearby homes and businesses, schools, and parks. More than 100,000 people were evacuated and downtown Midland saw nine feet of water in the streets. This week the massive cleanup began and the United Methodist Church was quick on the

scene with relief and cleaning supplies and an army of volunteers. Many of you have asked me how you might give to help the people of Midland and surrounding areas. You can donate to the Michigan Area Disaster Response fund.

Send checks to the **Michigan Conference at 1161 East Clark road, suite 212, DeWitt, Michigan 48020** It is important to include this language in the memo: **#4407 Michigan Area Disaster Response**, or you can give online by clicking here: [Give online here](#).

Finally, a tragic death in Minneapolis reminds us that racism is an issue that continues to plague this country. On May 25, George Floyd, an African American man, died in the custody of Minneapolis police. Here are the words from Bishop Bruce Ough, (from the Minnesota Conference).

*“There is more than one pandemic ravaging Minnesota and our country at this time. In addition to fighting COVID-19, we are besieged by a pandemic of racism, white supremacy, and white on black or brown violence. The tragic, racially charged, and unnecessary death of George Floyd at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers is only the latest flare-up of this pandemic—and Mr. Floyd is only the latest victim...*

*Let us not turn away or ignore the disease that has been tearing our country apart and destroying lives for centuries. This disease—the sin of racism and white supremacy—denies the teachings of Jesus and our common, created humanity. Let us renew our efforts to eradicate the disease that truly threatens our ideals and the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of so many of our neighbors.”*

We come away from this week saddened by all that swirls around us, saddened but emboldened. May we be emboldened to roll up our sleeves and help our neighbors recover from the flood; may we be emboldened to fight for justice and equality for all people; may we be emboldened to find the flickering flame of hope and stoke that fire for what is right and what is good. That flame, that fire...that is the Holy Spirit moving through our world and our lives. We honor that flame this weekend as we celebrate Pentecost. Yes, we will celebrate Pentecost. We celebrate God's grace and unending love. We celebrate the spirit of the living God. It is the flame that moves us forward.

Grace and Peace

*Pastor Meyer*