

A stylized teal map grid with an orange diagonal stripe. The grid consists of various colored lines (teal and orange) forming a network of streets. The orange stripe runs diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right. The teal lines form a grid of squares and rectangles of varying sizes, representing a city street layout.

Who is My Neighbor Really?

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Jan Carlson; Marilyn Hocking; James Respecki; Kevin Lasky; Bruce and Ginny Conrad; Jenny Lowman; Lee Hoffmann; Inge Wichers; Betty Latimer; Barb Nicholas; Sue Parisi-Reid; 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: Tracy & Paul; Lucy Sieck; Jamie Radick; Pat Callahan; Pam Payne; Tim Bell; Laurie Harris Wiener; Heidi and Dan Grogan; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19; Marilyn Mansfield; Margaret O'Donnell; Don & Ann Anderson

Senior Spotlight: Gwen Ross

For the complete Prayer List, please contact our
Pastoral Care Team at prayers@rofum.org.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The title of the New York Times article on Thursday of this week read, "Another record-breaking day in America." It seems like every day we are breaking a new record and not in a good way. The United States saw almost 60,000 new cases of Covid-19 in one day; we are now looking at more than three million cases recorded across our country. Even more disturbing, the number of deaths due to the virus has started to climb at an alarming rate. I don't know about you, but I need to be reminded of these numbers. It is so easy to become complacent. I look up, and before I know it, I am stopping by the grocery store on a regular basis. Yes, I'm wearing a mask, but the truth is, I have started to let down my guard. Friends, this is no time to weaken our resolve to stay safe and help keep others safe.

I had not planned to be in Michigan this week; I had planned to make my annual trip to Duke Divinity School. Because of the pandemic, classes are online, and for this year, my "Duke days" are taking place in my house. Of course, I miss the campus and getting to know other pastors from around the

country, but I am grateful for all of the extra work it took to get the lectures and zooms set up for us.

I am grateful that Bob Prud'homme has agreed to preach this Sunday. Bob has been in Divinity School at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary for the past year, on the path to becoming a United Methodist Deacon. We are blessed to have Bob in the pulpit this weekend; he brings a powerful message. I hope you will join us online this Sunday at 9 am and 11 am.

The big announcement for this week is that we have hired Tim Schoenherr as the new (permanent) Music Director. Tim was with us in an interim position just before we went into quarantine, so many of you saw and got to know him. As we searched the country for a permanent Music Director, we kept coming back to Tim. There was simply no one better suited for our church than Tim Schoenherr, and we are grateful that he has agreed to join our team. You'll get a chance to hear from Tim on Sunday.

Please take care everyone and stay safe,

Pastor Neya