



# REPARATIONS

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Virtual Communion**

### **Beginning Sunday, September 6**

We don't know about you, but we miss sharing communion. As we continue to adapt to life in a pandemic, we will share in the monthly spirit and act of communion, through our remote connection. Together we will consecrate and share our individual bread and "wine" during online worship. Next Sunday, be sure to prepare some communion elements for yourself and your family before worship. That way, we can all celebrate the sacrament together, while apart.

## **Small Church: Sundays at Sundown**

### **Beginning Sunday, September 13, 6:30 pm**

We will gather on the lawn to share in musical meditation, a message of inspiration, and a time of communal prayer and fellowship. These weekly services will be held at 6pm each Sunday through October 4th. Each gathering is limited to 50 people, so please make sure to reserve your spot for each service you wish to attend. Visit [rofum.org/links](http://rofum.org/links) to reserve your spot, or contact Danielle Moody at 248-836-7394 ext. 1315.

## **Produce Collection for Redford Brightmoor**

During the pandemic, we have not stopped donating fresh produce to our friends at Redford Brightmoor Initiative once a month. RBI still serves about 50 families per week at their curbside Free Store each Saturday. On the second Friday of each month, four of us each purchase enough produce to create 13 assorted bags of items to donate. (You will be reimbursed for your expenses). One of us drives the 52 pre-assembled bags of produce down to RBI on Saturday morning by 8am. If you are interested in helping with this monthly effort, please sign up at [rofum.org/links](http://rofum.org/links) or email Astrid Harrod and Jennie Notarantonio at [RBI@rofum.org](mailto:RBI@rofum.org).

## **Methodist Children's Home Birthday Club**

### **Deliver gifts by Monday, September 14**

Our friends at the Methodist Children's Home Society still need our help providing birthdays for the boys in their care. There are 7 boys with birthdays in September and, while we can't provide a party during the pandemic, we can still make sure that they get birthday gifts. If you would like to donate gifts or wrapping paper, sign up at [rofum.org/links](http://rofum.org/links).

# RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Greg Umstead; John Wagster; Peggy Gill; Diana Shornak; Carol Hardt; Mike Monte; Pat Blagg; Joan Johnson; Krista Conyers; Dave & Sue Minch; 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; Paula Derkowski; Joe Waisanen Jr; Crystal Clark; Marian Kremer; Betty Locke; Bill Young; The Riggs Family

**Prayers for our extended family:** Kathy Kearns; Bonnie Politowski; Effie Lambros; Linda Baker; Steve & Peggy Zelonium; Lorraine Bowden; Joal Brown; 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; Margaret O'Donnell; Don & Ann Anderson

**Sympathy** to Steve Weber and the Weber family on the death of Steve's mother, Rosamond Weber, August 24.

**Senior Spotlight:** Priscilla Benson

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,

I want to lift up two important things happening in the life of our church this week:

## **Introducing Small Church: Sundays at Sundown**

Throughout history, the Christian church has always found ways to gather. Whether it was in homes or around campfires, in hotel conference rooms, or in packed sports arenas. In good times and bad, during times of peace and war, underground or out in the open, the Body of Christ has always come together.

Gathering - it is what the church does.

So how do we gather in the midst of a global pandemic when social distancing is necessary?

In small, safe ways.

This past month we have started some small, safe ways to come together for fellowship and prayer. These gatherings filled up quickly, with many asking if there would be more to follow.

That is why I am excited to announce that we will continue and expand our Small Church gatherings in September. Beginning Sunday, September 13, we will gather at 6:00 pm. This will be a time for a quiet evening service of prayer, music, and reflection - a meaningful way to begin the week.

Participation for these events will be expanded to 50 people. An email will go out on Monday with all the dates, details, and sign-up options. You can also call Danielle Moody at (248) 541-4100 x1315 if you need help reserving your spot.

Remember: in-person gatherings will only be possible if everyone commits to the safety and social distancing guidelines that will be clearly laid out. Together we keep each other safe.

If this feels right for you, know that we would love to see you. If this is not the right way for you to connect right now, please know we understand, and we look forward to "seeing" you for online church and other virtual ways to stay connected.

However we gather, it is always a blessing to be connected to God and one another.

Gathering - it is what the church does!

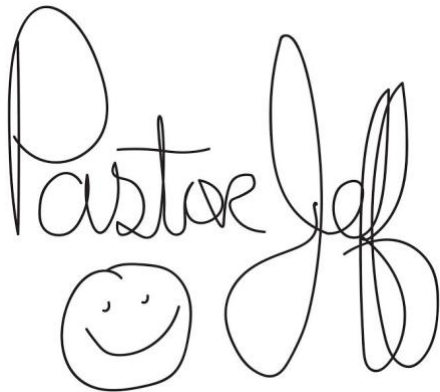
## **Welcoming Reverend Kevin Smalls**

I am so excited that Reverend Kevin Smalls will be our preacher this week. Kevin is the senior pastor of Hope United Methodist in Southfield, Michigan,

one of our area's largest and most influential United Methodist congregations. Kevin is a native of Washington DC and was recruited to come to Michigan because of his reputation in the national church as a preacher, leader, and thinker.

Most importantly, I can tell you that Kevin Smalls is a good friend with a great heart. When I took a leave of absence earlier this year, Kevin was quick to reach out and offer his support and prayer. Through many honest and heartfelt conversations, my friend helped me see the ways I might use the time in my life for a deeper and more fruitful future. Kevin became your pastor's pastor. I am beyond grateful for his friendship, and so it is a great joy to invite him to bring a word to us this weekend.

Grace and Peace,



Handwritten signature of Pastor Jeff and a smiley face.