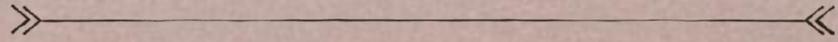


# The Road of the Hardened Heart



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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Pastor's Welcome

Hymn 389 *Freely, Freely* \* UMH  
Sandy Prokopp

Invitation to Mission

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering *Forgiveness* Matthew West  
Andrew Lindblom

Doxology #95 UMH

Scripture Matthew 18:21-35 \*\*CEB  
Jennifer Tripoli

Message *Messy Spirituality* Jeff Nelson

Song *Wide Enough For Me*

Benediction

\* United Methodist Hymnal  
\*\* Common English Bible

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### **Sundays at 6:00 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 248-541-4100 ext. 1315.

## **Children, Youth, & Family Programs Return This Week!**

Youth Group, Sunday School To Go, and Holy COW resume this week. If your family would like to participate, contact Bridget Nelson at [bnelson@rofum.org](mailto:bnelson@rofum.org).

## **Fall Small Groups**

### **Beginning Sunday, October 4**

We will begin our next series of "Small Groups". Although a little different during this season of "remote connection", we consider this platform one of the easier ways to stay connected in spirit and community during these challenging times. This season we will offer a variety of different groups and topics. Be on the look out for sign up options via email on Monday, September 14.

## **Sock-It-To-Me September**

Socks are the most requested item at homeless shelters and outreach programs across the country. This September, we are asking for your help in collecting socks for our friends at the NOAH Project and for our own Lunch Program. If you would like to donate socks, you can drop them off at the church Monday through Friday, 10:30-11:30 am, during our Lunch Program. We understand that not everyone feels safe going to the store or stopping by the church so you can also make a contribution to our Sock Fund and we will buy the socks for you. \$1 provides 1 pair of socks. Visit [rofum.org/giving](http://rofum.org/giving) to make a contribution. It may seem small, but a donation of socks makes a real difference in the lives of those in need.

# CROP Hunger Walk

## The Week of October 4

The annual CROP Hunger Walk helps provide funding for local food programs (including our Lunch Program) and projects supported by Church World Services to end world hunger. There are two ways you can participate in this essential mission: sign up to be a walker, or sponsor a walker from the Royal Oak First Team. Due to the ongoing pandemic, walkers will take their walks any time during the week of October 4 to keep everyone safe. To sign up as a walker or sponsor a walker, visit [rofum.org/crop](http://rofum.org/crop).

## RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Kim Frentz; Tim Schoenherr; 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:** Jorge Suarez Sr.; 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

**Senior Spotlight:** Betty Cairns

**Sympathy** to the family and friends of longtime member Marcia Armstrong on the event of her death, September 9.

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,

This Sunday has typically been our Fall Kickoff. Fall Kickoff has been a day when weekend worship was packed, Sunday School and Youth Group are in full swing, and our fall programming is unveiled. The day would often culminate with lots of food, fun, and friendship.

Things are definitely different this year, but I am grateful to announce that thanks to the dedication and innovation of our leadership and staff, Royal Oak First will continue to connect, grow, and serve. So, as we have in years past, let me announce the highlights of our fall program.

## **Connect:**

**Online Worship:** This will continue to be the core of our connection. Each week we seek to bring you uplifting music, thoughtful messaging, and timely announcements about the happenings here at Royal Oak First.

**Small Church Gatherings:** Beginning this Sunday through October 4, we will gather on the church lawn for an evening prayer and vespers service. These services will begin at 6:00 pm and last around an hour. This is a great way to connect with some of your church family. [Click here to reserve your spot.](#)

**Zoom Prayer Room:** On the last Tuesday of each month at both 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, we will gather online for prayer and support. This is another great way to connect with each other as we pray for one another, our church family, and our world. [Click here to sign up.](#)

**Weekly Prayer Concerns:** Praying is one of the greatest gifts we can offer each other. Beginning the week of October 4, we will email a weekly list of the people and other prayer concerns that we are asking the congregation to hold in prayer. If you are interested in receiving this update, [click here to subscribe](#). Also, if you have a prayer concern you would like added to the list, please email Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org).

**Caring Calls:** Keeping our folks connected and cared for is central to who we are. We are looking for people who are willing to call 3 to 5 of our members a month to check in and offer care and support. If you are willing to be a part of our calling team, please email Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org). We will provide training and monthly support for our callers.

## **Grow:**

Beginning in October, we will offer several opportunities for you to take a class. These classes will cover a wide range of topics, meet a variety of times and offer in both person and virtual options. An email will come out early next week with a link to group descriptions and sign-ups.

## **Serve:**

Sock it to Me September: Once again, we will be supporting our partners at the NOAH Project, one of Detroit's leading homeless relief organizations, and our own bag lunch program by collecting socks in September. Please help us care for our brothers and sisters by buying a pack or two of socks. You can drop them off during our lunch program, Monday through Friday, 10:30 am - 11:30 am, at our Sunday evening small church gatherings or on Saturday, September 29, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. You can also make a monetary donation on [our website](#), and we will be happy to buy the socks for you.

## **Children, Youth, and Family Ministries:**

Sunday School To Go, Youth Group, and Holy COW (mid-week for elementary-aged kids) all start back up this month! We look forward to gathering safely outside. If you need more details on these calendars, please contact Bridget Nelson at [bnelson@rofum.org](mailto:bnelson@rofum.org).

As you can see, even in these interesting times, our church is continuing our mission of making Christ's love real. In order to best help you connect with our fall program, we have revamped the front page of our website to be the one-stop-shop on the latest programming. Go to [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) and look to the banner scrolling across the top, and you will find the information you are looking for. If you are stuck, please call or email the church office, and our team will be able to assist you.

Welcome back! It will be a different season, but we believe that God will lead us through.

Grace and Peace,

