



The Inner Critic



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Holy Ground*

Pastor's Welcome

Hymn #559 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation *UMH
Neal Harris

Invitation to Mission

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering *Secrets* Mary Lambert
Sam Garrett

Doxology #95 UMH

Scripture Luke 8:40-48 **CEB
Al Beachum

Message The Inner Critic Erica Plesco

Song Come as You Are

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 to reserve your spot, or contact Danielle Moody at 248-541-4100 ext. 1315.

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. Sign up at rofum.org/fall-small-groups.

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 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.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Dian Wurdock; Nancy Lorenz; Cathy Baker; Linda Jones; 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: Mike Pilon; Kathy Kearns; Bonnie Politowski; Effie Lambros; Steve & Peggy Zelonium; Lorraine Bowden; Joal Brown; Tracy & Paul; Lucy Sieck; 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: Howard Emory

Sympathy to the Nader family on the death of Brian's mother, Linda, September 11.

Sympathy to Robin Oesterwind on the death of her grandmother, Ethel Keller, September 13.

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

I would like to thank my Church family for all of the support, cards, phone calls, meals and a few socially distanced visits.

All of these things definitely helped in my recovery.

Love, Mike Monte

NOTE FROM THE PREACHER

Dear Friends,

I lived at home the summer between my junior and senior years of college. I spent most of that summer flipping burgers at Burger King, hoping to make enough money to pay tuition for the upcoming semester. That summer was different because earlier that year I had renewed my faith and returned to the church.

The pastor at the time of my home church in little old Rhinelander, Wisconsin learned from my parents about my renewed faith. He invited me to have lunch and tell him my story. Afterward, he invited me to preach for my church in the following weeks. I was 22 years old. I had no formal theological training. He barely even knew me but he gave me a chance to preach. And he trusted that God was doing something in me that needed to be shared. His invitation set in motion my journey towards pastoral ministry.

I have never forgotten that moment. So, ever since then, I have been committed to giving folks a chance to share their voice with their church. Each of the next two weeks, you will hear and experience two of these emerging voices. The first will be Erica Plesco. Erica and her partner Jason have been a part of our community for the past three years. During that time, we have watched her leadership grow in the life of our community. The call of God is clear in her life.

And so it is my pleasure to welcome her to our pulpit. And so I gladly yield the remainder of this letter for Erica to introduce herself to you.

Thank you, Jeff!

It's hard to believe how much my life has changed in these three years! As I sat across from Pastor Jeff in a well-used booth inside of Pronto, talking about the concepts of religion and sharing appetizers, I never would have imagined that in the short span of 1,000 days, I'd be offered the privilege of bringing

“The Word” to this congregation-People I’ve come to know as some of my closest friends and family.

From the earliest days of sitting in the pews and receiving the message, to haveing the courage to join Sanctus and our 9 am Praise Band, it’s been an amazing journey that has brought my life a level of spirituality and connection I never thought possible for a “heathen” like me!

Like so many questioning where God may fit into their lives, Royal Oak First offered a safe space for both Jason and me to learn and grow into our faith as Christians, without judgment. I’m so honored to share a bit of my belief(s) and story with you this weekend, and I can’t wait to see what the future has in store for this church and its people.

Peace, Love, and all that Jazz,

Erica