



THE  
IN-BETWEEN

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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, sponsor a walker (Lucille Evans, Greg Umstead, or Carlene Umstead) from the Royal Oak First Team, or sponsor the entire 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).

## **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.

## **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](http://rofum.org/fall-small-groups).

## **Mailing List Sign Ups**

While we are kept apart by the pandemic, our prayers and concerns continue to grow. If you would like to receive a weekly update on the prayer list, sign up at [rofum.org/maillinglist](http://rofum.org/maillinglist) or contact Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org).

# RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Betty Locke; Joyce Hollingsworth; Jan Carlson; Karen Porter; 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; Bill Young; The Riggs Family

**Prayers for our extended family:** Joleen Duprey; 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:** Bob Foote

**Sympathy** to the family and friends of Dian Wurdock, on the event of her death, September 20.

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

Dear Friends,

## NOTE FROM THE PREACHER

It is my honor to introduce another emerging voice from our community to our pulpit this weekend. Robin Oesterwind has been journeying with Royal Oak First for almost two years. I remember meeting her for the first time and being inspired by her deep wisdom, theological insight, and her knowledge and curiosity of the biblical texts. As she shared her story, it was clear that she was a person after God's heart and had a call to ministry that needed to be honored.

Robin has a deep faith and a lifelong connection to the church. Growing up in the non-denominational tradition, Robin was immersed in worship, bible

study, summer camp, and prayer meetings. She definitely knows the language and the rhythm of the church.

Robin attended Bible College, where she began to wrestle more deeply and struggle more honestly with the nature of the God she encountered in Christ. The questions deepened as she sought to understand her call in the midst of a church that does not always fully recognize her leadership as a woman, as a single mother, or as a same-gender-loving person. Robin was grateful to connect with Royal Oak First, a place she felt welcomed and affirmed. You have given her a place to wrestle without judgment and a place to serve and to lead. During my leave Robin became an anchor for me, helping me struggle and reclaim the ways God was at work in my life.

It is an honor to invite her to preach for us today, and I yield the rest of this letter for Robin to share a word of introduction with you.

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Thank you, Jeff, for the warm welcome not only to share in the pulpit, but also to share again in the life of the church at Royal Oak First. It is no small thing to me to stand in this space today of belonging... and every single person reading these words - every member, every partner, every pray-er for this ministry - is a part of that. Your commitment to making the love of Christ truly real to everyone builds a bridge for people

like me - who once thought that they were outside of the church and maybe even outside of God's love - to find home.

~Robin