



messy spirituality

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Prelude | <i>Thy Word</i> | |
| Pastor's Welcome | | |
| Hymn | Hold Us Together | |
| Invitation to Mission | | |
| Time of Prayer | | |
| Offering Our Gifts and Tithes | | |
| Musical Offering | <i>El Shaddai</i> Grace Huber | |
| Doxology #95 | | UMH |
| Scripture | Matthew 18:15-20 James Coleman | *CEB |
| Message | Messy Spirituality | Jeff Nelson |
| The Lord's Supper | | |
| Communion Music | <i>Come As You Are</i> Jennifer Semivan | |
| Song | Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) | |
| Benediction | | |

* Common English Bible

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, 6:00 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.

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 or email Astrid Harrod and Jennie Notarantonio at RBI@rofum.org.

Youth Group Returns Next Week!

Sunday, September 13, 3:00-4:30 pm, on the lawn

Youth Groups resume next week. If your middle or high school student would like to participate, contact Bridget Nelson at bnelson@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.

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.

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: Theophil & Dolores Bratta

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

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Let me just say that I am proud of you.

This weekend will be the 26th week that we haven't gathered together in the building for worship. Isn't that wild!

I remember thinking this would be over by Easter. And then by summer. And here it is Labor Day weekend.

So let me just say it again - I am proud of you.

You are keeping the faith.

You are running this race with bravery and grace.

You have continued to support your church through your prayers, your gifts, and your service. God is surely with us on this journey, and even though the building is closed, because of your faithfulness, our church is very alive.

I want to take a moment to highlight some important happenings in the life of the church.

Virtual Communion this Sunday

This Sunday, September 6, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion in our online worship. We will end the service with The Great Thanksgiving, the prayer service that brings us to Christ's table. Although we will be physically separate, we will be connected in the Spirit. In order to participate, you will need some bread to break and a cup to drink. It doesn't matter what kind of bread you bring and simply fill your cup with juice, wine, or water. We will be together in this powerful reminder of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Wednesday Night Livestream (WNL)

I want to invite you to tune in this Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 pm for our brand new monthly video magazine, Wednesday Night Livestream. (Think a cross between Good Morning America and The Daily Show.) This month WNL will unveil our fall program, bring updates on mission, and catch up on who in our community has been in need of special prayers. I will also do a special segment on the slogans that didn't make our latest church lawn sign. This is another way to stay up to date on what is happening with your

church. You can connect to WNL by going to our website at www.rofum.org on Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Small Church: Sundays at Sundown

Next Sunday, September 13, at 6:00 pm, we will continue our Small Church gatherings. We are expanding the participation to 50 persons. The evening service of simple music, prayer, and reflection will be held on the front lawn with socially distanced seating and masks required. [Click here to sign up](#) or call Danielle Moody in the church office at 248-541-4100 ext. 1315.

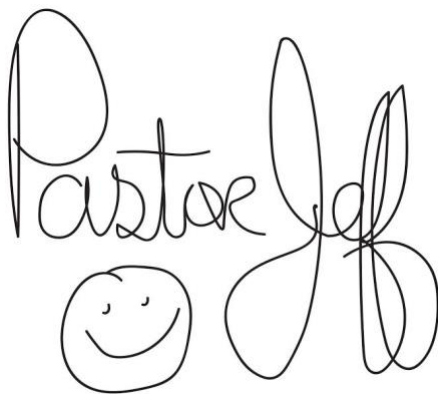
I am proud of you!

Proud of your faithful endurance.

And now, I am proud of your courageous innovation.

Make no mistake that God is with us on our journey and that together we are making a difference.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Joel". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.