



We
are
here!



Postcards
from
Babylon

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	<i>Ancient Words</i> Daphne Mitchel	
Pastor's Welcome		
Hymn #437	This is My Song Tim Schoenherr	*UMH
Invitation to Mission		
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Mercy Now</i> Erica Plesco and Jason Sherman	
Doxology #95		UMH
Scripture	Jereemiah 29:4-7 Mike McNutt	**NRSV
Message	Lives Lived in Exile	Myra Moreland
Song	<i>Love the Lord</i> House Band	
Benediction		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Greens Sale for Music Guild

Music Guild green sale benefits our summer choir camp program to help offset the cost to ensure camp is affordable for every child. You can place your pre-paid orders at rofum.org/greens or by calling the church office at 248-541-4100.

WAVE Project Mobile Showers coming to our church

The WAVE Project brings mobile showers to people experiencing homelessness in our community and they are bringing those showers to Royal Oak First each Sunday in November. If you would like to be a part of the team that helps provide this ministry, contact Mike Monte at mmonte@rofum.org. Full Personal Protective Equipment will be provided by WAVE Project, including masks, gloves, face shields, hand sanitizer, and plexiglass barriers. Volunteers will help with setup and breakdown, asking COVID-19 screening questions and taking temperatures, and cleaning an assigned area.

Bills for Books

Do you remember your favorite book as a kid? Was it *Where the Wilds Things Are*, or maybe a *Thomas the Tank Engine* classic? Books become memories forever etched in our youth. ROFUM is being asked to play a role in making exciting books a personal reality for the students at Ferndale Lower Elementary School. The November and December Bills for Books initiative will help purchase a book for every child at the school. You can make special gifts to this fund at rofum.org/giving and choose the Bills for Books fund or you can drop off or mail a check made out to Royal Oak First with Bills for Books on the memo line. Donated funds will be multiplied through the Scholastic Book Club, a program which allows Ferndale Lower Elementary to stretch the money and maximize book purchases for all students. Your donation is a loving way to make a great positive activity a reality and great memory for a lifetime.

Reading with Royal Oak First for Ferndale Lower Elementary

Thursdays, November 12 through December 17, 7:00-730 pm

Do you love reading a great story to children? You can help our mission partners at Ferndale Lower Elementary School by reading your favorite short children's story online via Zoom. All you will need is a computer, phone, or tablet with access to Zoom and a picture book! For more information or to sign up, visit rofum.org/FLE.

Lunch Program Cooking Opportunities

Our Lunch program has been very fortunate with our food donations. One in particular is our weekly donation from KFC, which our guest love. We usually serve KFC each Friday. Currently, we are looking for a few volunteers to help us reheat this food. The shift is from 9:00 am - 11:30am each Friday. If you would like to help with this cornerstone ministry of the church, please contact Mike Monte at mmonte@rofum.org or call 248-840-7472.

Advent by Candlelight

Monday, December 7 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Ladies, it may be virtual but we will still come together for prayers, songs and inspirational stories as we prepare for Christmas. Our theme this year is "Hard Candy Christmas." In this unprecedented year we will recognize the hard days but find the sweetness of coming together in community at Christmas. It is a zoom event.

We'll come together as a large group for the program then break up into small groups or virtual tables. Don't miss the chance to kick off your Advent celebrations.

If you would like to sign up to be a host (hosting a small breakout group) or attend, or if you have any questions, contact Pastor Myra at MMoreland@rofum.org

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Lee & Shirley Gnegy; Judy Chambers; Todd Menig; Carol Hardt; Ed Cline; Joyce Burton; John Wagster; Jordan Altman; Diane Sexton; Laurie Foss; Greg Umstead; Marian Kremer; Inge Wichers; Betty Lawson; Marilyn McCreedy; Pam Ortner; George Bard; Jan Carlson; Karen Porter; Nancy Lorenz; Cathy Baker; Linda Jones; Kim Frentz; Diana Shornak; Krista Conyers; Dave & Sue Minch; Marilyn Hocking; James Respecki; Kevin Lasky; Lee Hoffmann; Joe Waisanen Jr; Crystal Clark; The Riggs Family

Prayers for our extended family: Richard Gifford; Susan Inch; Cheryl & Jimmy Clark; Anthonne Tracy; Sheila & Marty Boyer; Pam Payne; Mary Jo Cady; Teresa Baker; Mike Pilon; Kathy Kearns; Effie Lambros; Lorraine Bowden; Joal Brown; Lucy Sieck; Tim Bell; Laurie Harris Wiener; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19; Margaret O'Donnell; Don & Ann Anderson

Senior Spotlight: Florence Martin

Sympathy to Carlene Umstead for the death of her husband, Greg Umstead, November 6.

Sympathy to the Nahhat family for the death of Sam Nahhat's cousin, Fred Kappaz, November 6.

Sympathy to the Marsh family for the death of their cousin, Judy Brown, November 5.

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

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

We launch a new series this week called “Postcards from Babylon.” Babylon is the Old Testament symbol of exile and boy, our world right now sure feels like exile to me. In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, many of the Israelites were in Exile in Babylon. As Jerusalem fell, they were dragged from their homes to live Babylon, away from the Temple, away from all the places where they came together to worship. We have a sense of what that feels like, don’t we. We have not come into the sanctuary on Sunday morning for normal services in 9 months and at the moment ,no end to this pandemic exile is in sight. Still, God has some words for all in “exile”. In Jeremiah 29 God says, “build houses, plant gardens, get married and have children.” And one more thing, God says “seek the welfare of the place where you are.” In other words, don’t give up, live your lives, even if they look different from what you have always know. It is like that British saying from World War II, “Keep Calm and Carry on.” And that is what we have been trying to do here, at our church. We’ve been in effect, building new “houses”, new and different ways to worship. We’ve been planting gardens of hope for those who need extra care during this difficult time. Yes, both Jeff and I have done Covid-19-safe weddings and we have held funerals in new and different ways.

This week also launches our generosity campaign, your chance to make a financial pledge for the new year. It’s a different kind of campaign in this... different kind of year. There is nothing flashy this year, no parties or celebrations, just “keeping calm and carrying on.” We know these are tough financial times for so many of us. All we ask is that you talk it over with God, give back to God what you can and let us know through your pledge so that we can plan out the coming year ahead judiciously. Our Postcard from Babylon for this week features a poem by Beth Richardson. It’s our prayer for this week and a reminder that on those hard days, we are here for you; we are here for each other.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Neya