



*Postcards  
from  
Babylon*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Let Everything That Hath Breath: All Creatures*  
Tim Schoenherr

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Song *Silver Bells*  
Carillon Ringers

Invitation to Mission

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering *Forever Young*  
*Mike DeTavernier*

Doxology #95 \*UMH

Scripture Jeremiah 29:11-24 \*\*CEB  
The Nader Family

Message Homecoming Jeff Nelson

Hymn #694 *Come, Ye Thankful People*  
Liz Wright

Benediction

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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. Royal Oak First 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](http://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 that 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.

## **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](mailto:MMoreland@rofum.org)

# RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Marianne Peck; Jayden Bryant; Ginny Borts; Todd Menig; Joyce Hollingsworth; Lee & Shirley Gnegy; Judy Chambers; Carol Hardt; Ed Cline; Joyce Burton; John Wagster; Jordan Altman; Diane Sexton; Laurie Foss; 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:** Cheryl Castellani; Lorraine Murdoch; Paul Edward; 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; Tim Bell; Laurie Harris Wiener; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19; Margaret O'Donnell; Don & Ann Anderson

**Senior Spotlight:** Marguerite Nowacek

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

Dear Friends,

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I came in on Thanksgiving morning to be a part of our lunch program. I stand in awe and gratitude for this community's commitment to feeding the hungry.

We spent the rest of the day at home just the four of us (well, six of us if you count the dogs!). Bridget had signed us up for a "do it yourself 5k" to support the Food Bank Network of Michigan. So we got our teenage boys out of the house for an hour of "forced family fun." We had a nice meal together, complete with Grandma Garvey's Irish Soda Bread. We made the boys watch The Karate Kid (part of their mother's 80's pop culture program and to prepare them to watch Cobra Kai). We played Ticket to Ride, Yahtzee, and Splendor, our favorite board games. We had a good time being a family together. As I spent my time with God this morning, I felt this deep sense that despite all the craziness around us, all was right in my world. I pray you, too, were able to find some moments of joy and contentment.



I want to bring you up to date on a few things happening around here in the next couple of weeks.

### **Generosity Campaign:**

This weekend you will receive your 2021 Estimate of Giving Card. This estimate helps us plan for the upcoming year. We know that this year may have brought changes and challenges to your personal and family budgets. We understand and are here to support you in any way we can. Follow the Spirit's leading, knowing that we continue to let God's light shine through your faithfulness and generosity.

### **Advent and Christmas Schedule:**

This Monday begins our Advent journey to Christmas. Our theme is, "I'll be Home for Christmas." Together we will bring the reality of Christ into our homes. [Click here to view](#) our schedule of offerings and events. Please find ways to connect with us during this season.

### **Christmas Yard Sign: (Coming Soon)**

I love how we have used our front lawns and windows to share our message of hope with neighbors. After a political season where so many yard signs highlighted our divisions and differences, it is great to offer a message that brings us together. Our message is simple: Hope has not been canceled. Watch your email to see when they will be available for pickup or email Jennifer at [jtropoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtropoli@rofum.org) if you would like one delivered.



## **Our Christmas Mission:**

Making Christ's love real by being the hands and feet of Jesus is what this season, and frankly, every season is all about! And it is what makes Royal Oak First such a special community. Our ministries of compassion and care are not canceled and, in fact, are probably the best ways we can celebrate this Christmas season.

I am so grateful for your support of Metro Detroit Youth Club's Royal Oak Chapter Christmas Basket program. All ten families were adopted within a week! You are amazing! I told our friends at the club that we will definitely be able to adopt more families next year.

I am excited to invite you into our congregation-wide Christmas collection of winter hats, gloves, and hand warmers for our lunch program and our partner at the NOAH Project, one of Detroit's frontline ministries with persons experiencing homelessness. You can drop these items off on Monday through Friday 10 am - 3 pm at the church, at the Live Nativity on December 20, or you can make a donation to the "Hats, Gloves, and Hand Warmers" fund on our website at [rofum.org/giving](http://rofum.org/giving).

It is exciting to find these creative ways to be the church in these challenging times! I am so proud to be connected to this resilient, compassionate, and faithful community.

You make Christ's love real!

Stay safe.

Stay well.

Stay connected.

Stay hopeful.

Christmas has not been canceled!

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff