



Keep

the

Light

On

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Feather Theme
Jennifer Semivan

Pastor's Welcome

Hymn #154 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Members of Sanctus

Invitation to Mission

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering *Mercy Now*
Erica Plesco and Jennifer Semivan

Doxology #95

UMH

Scripture

Matthew 25:1-13
Adrianna Marino

**CEB

Message

Keep the Light On

Jeff Nelson

The Lord's Supper

Song

Love the Lord
House Band

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't miss last week's Wednesday Night LiveStream!

You can still watch November's Wednesday Night LiveStream at rofum.org/wnl. With information on upcoming in-person worship and the charge conference, conversations with Pastor Bob Goudie and Kathy Riggs, and more, this edition of our monthly video magazine is not one to miss!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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: 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: Pecky & Vivian Lewis

Sympathy to the family and friends of Peggy Gill on the event of her death, November 5.

Sympathy to Dr. John Dorsey on the death of his daughter, Carolyn Dorsey, November 1.

Sympathy to the Boyer family on the death of their daughter-in-law, Sheila Boyer, October 27.

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

Thank you, everyone, very much, for all the lovely cards I have received.
With love, Inge Wichers.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on Tuesday morning. I voted absentee weeks ago, and like you, right now I have no idea what will be the results of this day. I am choosing to stay away from the news. I said my prayers this morning, like I try to do every morning. I am having lunch with a friend and then I'll take my boy's shopping for their mother's birthday, which is Monday. Then I'll tune in around 10:00 pm tonight to watch the results and I promised myself I would go to bed by midnight no matter if we know anything or not.

The truth is I have had this Sunday marked my calendar for months. The Sunday after the election. I have pondered and I have prayed about what to say and how to say it. I have asked the Holy Spirit for both wisdom and discernment for the right words to a congregation of people whom I love and who love each other. From years past I already know that for some of you I won't say enough about the results of the election and for others of you I will say too much. So I have simply set down worrying about trying to please everyone and I have waited for a word.

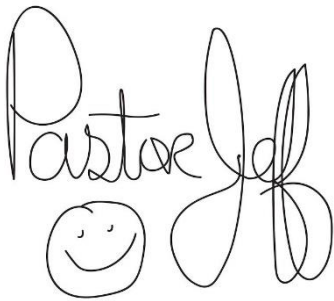
Knowing me like you do, you know that God has placed a deep concern within me for Christian unity. This unity is deeper than just getting along and just being nice. It is a unity that allows each of us to hold, share and live our deepest convictions and passions while still finding room to worship, serve and care for those whose convictions and passion differ from our own. It is a unity that transcends uniformity and frankly is just hard to put into words. You have to see it to believe it!

And it is why when I envisioned this Sunday after the election; I had always envisioned us coming to the Communion Table because frankly it is the only place where this unity has ever really made sense to me. Something happens when the body of Christ is broken and the blood of Christ is shed and everyone is invited to share in God's blessing and mercy and forgiveness and grace - something that nudges us into the unity that only Christ offers the world. And that is why I am asking you to show up for online church this Sunday and please, please, please bring your Communion elements with you - bring a piece of bread, a cracker, even a piece of fruit (some of you have

asked if you can use doughnuts) and fill a cup with juice or water or even coffee. Whatever you bring just please show up and be present at this “table.” It is my prayer that somehow in the midst of this you will realize that you are sitting at the table with your friends - some who will be thrilled by the elections results and others who will be devastated - and because of Christ’s presence in ALL of our lives, in that moment, we will be united in something truly bigger than even this important moment in the life of our nation.

Even while we are apart, we need to come together this Sunday; I hope to “see” you at the table.

Grace and Peace,

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