

I'll Be
Home
for
Christmas



DECEMBER 20, 2020
ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
rofum.org • 248-541-4100

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	<i>Christmas Rhapsody</i> Jennifer Semivan	
Pastor's Welcome		
Hymn #203	Hail to the Lord's Anointed	*UMH
Invitation to Mission		
Celebration of New Members		
Lighting of the Advent Wreath		The Watkins Family
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>One Small Child</i> Jeni Clark	
Doxology #95		UMH
Scripture	Luke 2:1-7 The Haight Family	**NRSV
Message	There's No Place Like Home	Myra Moreland
Closing Song	<i>Home on Christmas Day</i> Katrina Van Maanen	
Benediction		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent is here!

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.

Live Nativity

December 20 & 24, 4:00-6:00 pm

See the nativity scene come to life on the church lawn. This is a wonderful chance to safely gather with our church family and witness the joy of the season. Masks and social distancing are required.

The Longest Night Online Worship

December 21, 7:00 pm, via Zoom

Join us for our Longest Night online worship meant to help us embrace the silence of the moment on the longest night of the year. [Click here to sign up](#) to attend the service.

December Missions Collection

We are 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 people 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 donate to the "Hats, Gloves, and Hand Warmers" fund at rofum.org/giving.

Lunch Program Clothing Ministry

In addition to providing lunches, we also provide clothing and hygiene products to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in our community. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, contact Carolyn Gabler at 248-342-3112. We are also accepting donations of men's winter clothing, boots, coats, long johns, etc. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept other donations at this time.

WAVE Project Mobile Showers

The WAVE Project brings mobile showers to people experiencing homelessness in our community, and they bring those showers to Royal Oak First each Sunday. 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 the 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

Christmas Pageant

10:00 am & 8:00 pm

Watch our children tell the Christmas story in a new way, streaming at 10:00 am and 8:00 pm.

Live Nativity

4:00-6:00 pm

See the nativity scene come to life on the church lawn. Masks and social distancing are required.

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm

Join us at rofum.org/live for an online Christmas Eve experience.

Candlelight Prayer Service

9:00 & 11:00 pm

Join us on the church lawn for a short candlelight service to celebrate Christ's birth. Masks and social distancing are required.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Brad & Judy Ather; Colin Walbridge; Krista Conyers; The Richardson Family; Jayden Bryant; Marianne Peck; Todd Menig; Joyce Hollingsworth; Lee & Shirley Gnegy; Marian Kremer; Inge Wichers; Betty Lawson; Nancy Lorenz

Prayers for our extended family: Tara Bouck; Sally Sou; Anni Richardson; John McClure; Mary Sleeman; Joe & Dionne Chzanowski; Kelly & Charley Connolly; Lorraine Murdoch; Paul Edward; Richard Gifford; Cheryl & Jimmy Clark; Anthonne Tracy; Mary Jo Cady; Teresa Baker; Kathy Kearns; Lorraine Bowden; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19

Senior Spotlight: Ron & Marianne Peludat

Sympathy to the family and friends of long-time member Alice Bentley for her death, December 10.

Sympathy to the family and friends of long-time member Ginny Borts for her death, December 16.

Sympathy to Sara Youngquist for the death of her father, Stuart Youngquist, December 15.

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

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I have been blogging this Advent season about imagination. I began with a quote from Albert Einstein. “Logic gets you from A to Z, but imagination takes you there.” We often think of Advent as a journey, a journey to Christmas, and I believe in 2020 more than ever, we need our imaginations to help take us there. Finding hope and peace and joy in the midst of this season of quarantine and suffering requires us to open our hearts and our minds in new ways. Marcus Borg reminded us that the imagination is important. “It is where our images reside—our images of what is real, what life is about, and how, then, we should live. In this sense, consciously or unconsciously, everybody lives, or tries to live, in accord with their imagination.”

Our imaginations set the stage for what is real, for the deep truth. We see that in the Christmas story written by the Gospel writers of the New Testament. The Christmas story was recorded decades after the birth of Christ, recorded from memory with a framework that would inspire generations of imagination. The important thing to remember is the great truth that was recorded. God came to be with us through Jesus the Christ. “God with us” is the great truth wrapped in the scenes and the stories of Christmas

This week in the blog, Richard Rohr taught us how we can find and explain joy in the midst of sadness and suffering. “Cosmic or spiritual joy is something we participate in; it comes from elsewhere and flows through us. It has little or nothing to do with things going well in our own life at that moment.” I don’t know about you, but I find great hope in that.

Sunday, we light the candle of Love and look at how that first “home” for Jesus (the stable) was a symbol of God’s love, not just any love, unconditional love. The same unconditional love that shone brightly in the dingy stable shines today, cutting through the shadows of a pandemic that grips the world. That love defines our “home” for Christmas, and there is no place like home.

Grace and Peace at Advent,

Pastor Meya