



THE PATH TO THE



UNKNOWN

JANUARY 10, 2021
ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
rofum.org • 248-541-4100

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
Alice Bentley

Pastor's Welcome

Song Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore *UMH
Beth Simms

Announcement from Compass Team

Invitation to Mission

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering *I will Always Love You* Dolly Parton
Erica Plesco, Jason Sherman, Jennifer Semivan

Scripture Ruth 1:19-22; 2:19-23 **NRSV
Erica Plesco

Message The Path to the Unknown Myra Moreland

Closing Song *Blessed Assurance*
House Band

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farewell Zoom Coffee Hour for Pastor Myra

Join us for this special Zoom Coffee Hour to say farewell to Pastor Myra as she heads to Nashville to continue her education. [Click here](#) to join the 10:00 am Zoom call, or [click here](#) to join the 12:00 pm Zoom call.

Winter Small Groups

We are offering a set of 4-week small groups, beginning this week! There are a variety of topics and times to choose from, and all are welcome. Visit rofum.org/SmallGroups to find a way to stay connected to our church family this winter.

January Missions Collection

Many of our lunch guests sleep out in the cold, and one of the most common questions we get asked each winter is if we have any blankets. Help us stock up on new warm blankets to help keep our lunch guests safe this winter. Drop off donations of new blankets Monday-Thursday, 10:00-3:00 all month.

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.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Joyce Nelson; Joe McGee; Janice Martin; Brad 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: Neil; Paul Brown; Jim Brown; Jim Castellani; 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: Carl & Shirley Shafer

Sympathy to Brad Ather for the death of his wife, Judy Ather, December 27.

Sympathy to Adrianna Marino for the death of her grandfather, Tom McCabe, December 27.

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

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

First, let me say how grateful I am for these past four and a half years. Thank you for your kindness, your caring, and certainly for your patience as I launched into ministry. Looking back, I have seen some amazing moments of God at work through all of you. There were great mission moments of hospitality and caring, especially for the homeless and hungry. Together, we have shared moments of laughter and tears as we connected to God through worship (often unconventional worship). The moments of songs, costumes, and community during our “movies series” are memories I will always cherish. Like life itself, our time together was not without twists and turns, bumps and bruises. Remember that temporary wall at the back of the narthex during

construction? I joked that there was nothing truly behind that wall, that the gathering space and the parlor were figments of someone's imagination. Then the wall came down. For a short time, we basked in the newness of the space, unaware that a few months later, we would literally shut down the building as the world locked down in pandemic.

Here at Royal Oak First, you have given me the space to teach and preach and even to lead the church for an interim time. I cherish every moment. And, just as I was getting comfortable, getting to know so many of you, and feeling the confidence of roots planted in the community of Royal Oak First, I began to hear God whisper, "don't get too comfortable, there more to this adventure."

The adventure now carries me to Nashville to finish up my Master's in Divinity. I won't be going right away; I will concentrate on one more virtual semester that begins in a couple of weeks. Then I will launch out and be back in my home town and back on the Vanderbilt campus. I hope to return to Michigan and the Michigan conference in 2022 and complete the track of ordination to become an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

For our service this week, we are going deep into the book of Ruth, looking at the story of this woman who left the comfort of her homeland to venture into the unknown. Sound familiar? The story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, is powerful and has lots to tell us about love and relationship with God and with each other. Join us on Sunday.

One last thing. Since I am not able to see you all and say goodbye in person, we are hosting a Coffee Hour Zoom after each service this Sunday. Please jump on the zoom and help me give you all a virtual hug. Visit rofum.org/Myra to join the Zoom calls.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Myra