



It's
**About
Time**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Share the Love!

Help us share some love! In the week leading up to Valentine's Day we hope to send a card to every member of our church. During Valentine's Day weekend, we hope to make and deliver 100 bags of treats and notes. So, we need everyone's hands! We need people to send cards, people to bake, kids to make cards, people to assemble bags and people to deliver. [Click here to sign up](#) or contact Danielle Moody at dmood@rofum.org if you have any questions.

Ash Wednesday

February 17

It is almost the beginning of Lent and our journey to Easter. Visit rofum.org/live at 7:00 pm for an online worship service. You can also stop by the church 7:00 am-7:00 pm to receive ashes, pray, and partake in Holy Communion. More information is coming soon.

Lenten Retreat

February 19 & 20

We are blessed to have Rev. Kevin Smalls from Hope UMC and our own Pastor Jeff host a special Lenten retreat. We will come together over Zoom with our siblings from Hope UMC for a time of reflection, prayer, and conversation with God and each other. More information is coming soon.

Offering Envelopes are Here!

New 2021 Offering Envelopes have arrived. Stop by the church Monday-Thursday, 10:00-3:00, to pick up your envelopes or call the office to have them mailed to you. If you would prefer to give online, you can set up one-time or recurring giving on our website at rofum.org/giving. If you have any questions about online giving, contact Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@rofum.org.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Jeff Harris; Joe & Jean Foster; Lee & Shirley Gnegy; Bill Howell; Peggy Waisanen; Jake Tripoli; Ron & Marianne Peludat; Joe Waisanen, Jr.; Kristin Frey; Joe McGee; Janice Martin; Krista Conyers; The Richardson Family; Marianne Peck; Todd Menig; Joyce Hollingsworth; Marian Kremer; Inge Wichers; Betty Lawson; Nancy Lorenz

Prayers for our extended family: Anni Richardson; Lori Karoitt; Mary Ann Standing; Scott R; Juli Sweet; Laurella Perser; Neil Franks; Paul Brown; Jim Brown; Tara Bouck; Sally Sou; 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: Joe & Peggy Waisanen

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

NOTE FROM THE PREACHER

Dear Friends,

When I last wrote to you, the events of January 6th at our nation's Capitol had not yet happened. I imagine that these moments had an impact on you. They definitely did on me.

The events of January 6th were deeply disturbing for me. I felt sick to my stomach and was in tears as I watched the events unfold. I feared for the lives of protestors, police officers, the press, politicians, and their staff. For me, one of the most disturbing moments was seeing the gallows that had been constructed on the Capitol steps. A hangman's noose, meant to remind us of a not too distant past where the lynching of African Americans was a means to terrorize local citizens into not advocating for societal changes. Symbols such as this one, and the beliefs they represent, stand against everything I am as a follower of Christ.

In the aftermath of these events, our nation paused to remember the life and ministry of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a young activist and divinity student, I immersed myself in the writings and sermons of Dr. King. It was his commitment to non-violent resistance that most intrigued and challenged me. He understood non-violent resistance as the way followers of Christ must respond to the sins of war, racism, and poverty. Non-violent resistance is not passive. It does not seek to simply have us all be nice, be polite, and get along. It seeks to expose the destructive nature of oppression, and at the same time awaken, and convert the consciousness of one's "enemies." That weekend, I re-read Dr. King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, written to churches like ours and pastors like me, as a call to get off the sidelines when social change is so clearly needed. If you haven't read it in a while, or have never read it all, I recommend you take the time to read and meditate on his truly pastoral and prophetic words. [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#)

Royal Oak First is a multi-partisan community. We are not of one mind. I have, however, seen us be of one heart. A heart committed to the struggle for inclusion. A heart for those struggling with poverty. A heart for social justice. A heart for our elders, children, and young families. And a heart for loving, caring for, and serving each other that has the possibility of transforming our lives and the communities we call home.

So what is it that, despite our differences, gives us this shared heart?

Well, I can only think of one thing: the person of Jesus. We look to him and the ways he lived, loved, and led his ministry. And so, as we come together this weekend for worship, we will look to Jesus and commit ourselves once again to the example he set for us to follow.

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink 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.