

An open book with a bookmark is shown in the foreground, resting on a patterned surface. The background is a soft, ethereal light with rays emanating from the top center, creating a sense of divine light or inspiration. The overall tone is peaceful and spiritual.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

FEBRUARY 14, 2021
ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Craig Scott Symons

Pastor's Welcome

Hymn #258

O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair
Liz Wright

*UMH

Invitation to Mission

Josh Wright

Time of Prayer

Mike Monte

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering

So Will I (Billion X)
Erica Plesco

Hillsong

Scripture

Mark 9:2-9

**NIV

Message

The Transfiguration

Josh Wright

Closing Song

Revelation Song
House Band

Benediction

* United Methodist Hymnal
** New International Version

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Lenten Book Study

Wednesdays February 24-March 24, 10:00-11:30 am or 7:00-8:30 pm

Join Pastor Jeff for this study on the deeper meaning of the days of Holy Week. Each class will begin with a talk from Pastor Jeff and then the group will be split into smaller groups with discussion leaders. Studying this book through Lent will prepare us for a deeper understanding of the events of Holy Week, so we can experience it in a new way. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Pastor Chat

February 28, 12:30 pm

Pastor Chats are an opportunity for people who are new or visiting the church to ask any questions you may have about our church and community. If you are interested in participating in our virtual Pastor Chat on Zoom, you can call the church office or contact Bridget Nelson at bnelson@rofum.org to RSVP.

Men's Retreat

March 5 & 6

Calling all the men of the church! It's been too long since we were able to get together and be in fellowship with one another. Join Pastor Jeff online for this chance for men to connect with God and each other! No preparation necessary, just a zoom friendly device and some time to share with other men from your church family. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Drive-In Communion

March 7, 10:30 am

This Lenten season, we are offering as many opportunities as possible to come together safely in worship. Join us for music and communion in the church parking lot.

Week of Prayer

March 15-18

One of the hardest parts of this pandemic is being away from our sanctuary. Find a time this week to come in, spend some time in the sanctuary and pray for the people in your life, the people in our church and our community and world. This can be for an individual or a household group. There will be music playing and a candle you can light. Join us in this special week of prayer and reconnecting with our most sacred space. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Enneagram Retreat

March 26 & 27

One of the most ancient spiritual ways of understanding human beings is the Enneagram. Whether you already know "your number" or not, come learn about this enlightening tool of self-discovery. We will be led by Laura Witkowski from the Michigan Conference staff, who has been trained in helping others grow through the Enneagram. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Thank you...

Inge Wichers would like to thank her church family for all the kind get-well and birthday cards she received. Thank you for sharing the love of God.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

March 28

Watch our Palm Sunday worship services at 9 and 11 am or join us at 10:30 am on the church lawn to gather, wave our palms, and make a ruckus as we celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Holy Thursday

April 1

Watch our 7 pm online worship service or come to the church lawn at 7 pm for a hymn sing and partake in communion as we commemorate Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Good Friday Worship

April 2

Join us at 12 pm on the church lawn for an impactful in-person Good Friday worship service remembering Jesus' final day.

7 Last Words Preached

April 2

Tune in at 12 pm to this collaborative worship experience with preachers and musicians from area churches lifting up Jesus' last words on the cross.

7 Last Words Poetry Slam

April 2

You don't want to miss this livestreamed event at 7 pm where poets and musicians muse on Christ's last words. Unique, poignant, and compelling, the 7 Last Words Poetry Slam offers insights into Christ's humanity and divinity in his final moments.

Easter

April 4

Easter Sunday is finally here! Celebrate the resurrection with us for an in-person worship celebration on the church lawn at 10:30 am. Be sure to watch the Children's Easter Play at 8 am on our website and our Easter worship services at 9 and 11 am.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Fred Bowden; Woody Siddall; Sue Minch; Christine Ryckman; Cecelia Tamm; Nate Grose; Bob Giles; Marilyn McCreedy; Neil Franks; Bruce Conrad; Carol Hardt; Jeff Harris; Joe & Jean Foster; Bill Howell; Peggy Waisanen; Ron & Marianne Peludat; Kristin Frey; Janice Martin; Todd Menig; Marian Kremer; Nancy Lorenz

Prayers for our extended family: Bill Mason; Paul Edward; Tim Bell; Darryl Warren; Steve Zemonian; Troy & Amber DuPrey; Sue Sugden; Mindy Grissom; Lori Karoitt; Mary Ann Standing; Scott R; Laurella Perser; Paul Brown; Jim Brown; Tara Bouck; Sally Sou; John McClure; Mary Sleeman; Joe & Dionne Chzanowski; Kelly & Charley Connolly; 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: Theophil & Dolores Bratta

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

NOTE FROM THE PREACHER

Dear Friends,

When I was a kid, I loved books. On Saturdays, I would often ride my bike to my neighborhood library and spend hours there wandering through the stacks, looking for books I found interesting. I would often be the last person there when it closed! Most kids loved PE or Art, but library time was my favorite part of the school week. I'd prowl the stacks in the little library in the basement of my elementary school and take mental notes of what I wanted to check out the next time. I loved reading, and I took a book with me wherever I went, even on my paper route! I still make sure my backpack is stuffed with books and magazines whenever I go on vacation.

I loved books because they allowed me to go places. I could sail with the Vikings, run through battlefields, chat with Mythological gods and goddesses, and even Choose-my-own-Adventure. Books were more than an escape,

though. Reading books (at least the good ones) helped me better understand the world I lived in. The more I read, the more connections I could see between what happened in the past and what was going on around me.

One of my favorite books to read was the Bible. My love of the Bible was encouraged by my mother, who would read Bible stories to my sister and me almost every morning at breakfast. I loved the stories of Jesus and the letters of Paul and the other apostles, but what captured my imagination the most was the Old Testament with its kings, prophets, battles, and other drama. As I got older and went back to read the Bible as a teen and adult, those stories were so etched into my brain that I saw the connections between the Old and New Testaments on every page. I became convinced that to understand Jesus, we have to understand what came before him.

When I was a kid, I did a lot of reading on my own, but now we have an opportunity to read together as a church with our Lenten Study groups! See below for information on those and other exciting opportunities coming up!

Grace & Peace,

Josh Wright

Lenten Book Study:

Wednesdays at 10:00 am-11:30 am or 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Starting February 24, through March 24.

We are encouraging our congregation to be reading Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Entering the Passion: A Beginners Guide to Holy Week*. [Click here to purchase the book](#). Levine's book will help us grow deeper in our understanding of Jesus' mission and ministry.

We will gather on Zoom where Pastor Jeff will go over the highlights of the reading for the week and then we will breakout into smaller groups for discussion.

We are especially excited that Dr. Levine will join via Zoom on March 24 to discuss her work and answer our questions.

[Click here to sign up to be a part of the class.](#)