

Entering the Passion:
Risky Love



***Risking
the Loss
of Friends***

MARCH 21, 2021

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Missions Collection

The lunch program is a cornerstone ministry of our church. Each weekday we hand out bagged lunches and hot meals to approximately 35 people in our community experiencing food insecurity or homelessness. This month, we are collecting pudding, jello, applesauce, and fruit cups; and juice boxes or pouches to include in the bagged lunches. You can drop off your donations at the church Monday-Thursday, 10-3, or you can make a financial contribution at rofum.org/giving, and we will do the shopping for you.

Lenten Concert: *From Darkness to Light*

March 21, 12 pm – Time Correction

Join us for a short online musical meditation that acknowledges the challenges we've faced as people, as a church, as a community, and as a country in 2020 and 2021. We will also offer a brief remembrance of Ginny Borts, a long-time member of the Sanctus Choir. [Watch the concert here.](#)

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.](#)

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

March 28

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

Holy Thursday

April 1

Stop by the church 4-7 pm for Drive-Up Communion then watch our online worship service as we commemorate Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Good Friday Worship

April 2

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

7 Last Words Preached

April 2

Tune in to rofum.org/live at 12 pm to watch 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 live-streamed 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 in the church parking lot 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: Mark Thatcher; Bruce Conrad; Christine Ryckman; Abby Tripoli; Logan Haines; Roger Johnson; Lucille Evans; Betty Lawson; Ed Cline; Fred Bowden; Bob Giles; Marilyn McCreedy; Neil Franks; Carol Hardt; Ron & Marianne Peludat; Kristin Frey; Marian Kremer; Nancy Lorenz

Prayers for our extended family: Gertrude Geiger; Effie Lambros; Leslie Inch; Joe Percy; Mike J; Tim Bell; Patricia Callahan; Mike Carr; Karen S.; Chad Ludtke; Ronald Avesian; Paul Edward; Darryl Warren; Troy & Amber DuPrey; Sue Sugden; Lori Karoitt; Mary Ann Standing; Scott R; Tara Bouck; Sally Sou; John McClure; 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: Lee Hoffmann

Congratulations to Nicholas & Ashley Alsup, for the birth of their son, George Nicholas Alsup, March 13.

Sympathy to Mike Monte for the death of his sister-in-law, Pat Monte, March 8.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Jan Carlson for her death, March 17.

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

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I can feel the change of seasons. The days are getting longer, the temperatures are getting warmer, the crocuses are poking their brave little heads through the cold ground and the Robins are returning from their wintering down south. Spring is coming!

This year the change in season is more than just a change in the weather. It feels like we are slowly emerging from this incredibly challenging year. We are beginning to glimpse the time when we will be able to gather again for worship, friendship, and service. My kids are going back to school! I can't wait to see my dad and brother. We are hopeful that health and wholeness are beginning to return to our community and world. It feels like the change of season is upon us.

In our church life together, we are also getting ready for a new season. We are three-quarters of the way through Lent, and Easter is on the horizon. Easter brings into the reality that Christ's love is present and real, is alive and at work in our lives and world. In this year, there were moments when the powers of death and division were in control; Easter comes with the quiet but strong assurance that God is with us, for us, and among us.

Holy Week begins next Sunday. Services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday will all be available on our YouTube channel and our website at rofum.org/live. In addition, we will have in-person gatherings and experiences for each of these holy days.

Due to the success of this month's Drive-In Communion, we will be doing Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday in our parking lot using the FM radio transmitter so you can listen, sing and pray along. Services for Palm Sunday and Easter will be at 10:30 am and Good Friday will be at 12 noon. We will celebrate Maundy Thursday similar to what we did for Ash Wednesday with drive-up Communion and prayer through our Lafayette entrance from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Then on April 18, we will begin a 7-week pilot of in-person worship back in our sanctuary! All of the information about returning to worship in the sanctuary can be found at rofum.org/in-person-worship.

Oh, and how could I forget Fish Fry. We have Royal Oak First's famous Friday Night Fish Fry for carry-out on March 26 and April 2. [Click here to place your order.](#)

We walk with the God who walks through every season of life.

I look forward to seeing you.

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.