

Entering the Passion:
Risky Love



Risk Telling The Truth

MARCH 7, 2021
ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *What a Wondrous Love is This* arr. John Carter
 Jennifer Semivan

Pastor's Welcome

Hymn# 89 Joyful, Joyful *UMH
 Mary Nahhat

Invitation to Mission Erica Plesco

Time of Prayer Bob Prud'homme

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering
 What Does the Lord Require of You

Scripture Mark 12:38-44; Genesis 22:9-14 *NRSV

Message Risk Telling the Truth Bob Prud'homme

The Table of Communion

Closing Song *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* Hillsong
 House Band

Benediction

* United Methodist Hymnal
** New Revised Standard Version

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.

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.

Virtual Church Conference

March 17, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Check your email on Wednesday, March 17, for a link to our special Virtual Church Conference to approve candidates for ministry.

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.](#)

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 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 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: Betty Lawson; Ed Cline; Fred Bowden; 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; Ron & Marianne Peludat; Kristin Frey; Janice Martin; Todd Menig; Marian Kremer; Nancy Lorenz

Prayers for our extended family: Lynne Hartshorn; Karen S.; Chad Ludtke; Ronald Avesian; Julie Leigh; Paul Edward; Tim Bell; Darryl Warren; Steve Zemonian; Troy & Amber DuPrey; Sue Sugden; Lori Karoitt; Mary Ann Standing; Scott R; Laurella Perser; Paul Brown; Jim Brown; Tara Bouck; Sally Sou; John McClure; Mary Sleeman; 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: Bob Foote

Sympathy to Gianna Cuda for the death of her father, Bill Mason, February 25.

Sympathy to Jan Carlson for the death of her wife, Margerie Miller, March 2.

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

NOTE FROM THE PREACHER

Dear Friends,

While it has been less than a full year, it feels like it has been more than two years since we have been able to come together in community. You are all missed, and I look forward to a time when we can again join together as a physical community, even as we are connected through the distance in the present moment!

This Sunday, I am privileged once again to share a Sermon with you. I have to tell you, it has been just a little weird taping instead of being there live with you, but I can tell you that as I looked out over the sanctuary, I really could see your faces in the pews, in the balcony, and beyond in our gathering space! It always leaves me with a sense of awe and, at the same time, a feeling of peace, but that sits on my heart as a sense of loss. Everything is still the same, and all around us is different.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we have just finished our 2nd week of the Lenten Book Study- "Entering the Passion of Jesus." It has been a blessing for Michele and me to join and share a little of ourselves and have a little of yourselves shared with us at the same time; it really helps us feel connected with you, if only for a brief time. Thanks for being there for us!

This Sunday, we will be sharing a Drive-In Communion together again at 10:30 am! I remember the last time we shared this was with Pastor Myra last summer. I have vivid memories of singing and sharing God's Grace with each of you in your autos as if it was last week. I was able to take a photo or two and then was able to use them in my "Theology of Evangelism" class's final project last December. Thank you to Pastor Myra for allowing me to use her photos from in the back of a pickup truck as she shared the Message and blessed the Eucharistic Meal with us. I have no doubt that my professor enjoyed it! I look forward to sharing this sacred, blessed time with you again this weekend. Please plan on joining us this Sunday.

Seminary is progressing well for me. I will have completed a little over $\frac{3}{4}$'s by May of the required studies. I hope to add a couple of back-to-back courses

on the "Ecology of Theology"- or maybe it should be called "Theology of Ecology"? At any rate, there is a new Program at Garrett Seminary that works within the Chicago/Evanston Community, but that requires an in-person class; however, there has been no decision from the seminary as to whether or not we will be able to meet in person next fall or spring, I've heard that some seminaries have already made the decision to not meet in person during the 2021-2022 academic year, we will just have to wait and see. At any rate, I am planning on be through with my theological education at seminary in spring or summer of 2022 at the latest. I was interviewed by the District Board of Ordained Ministry in February and was approved to advance to the state Board Of Ordained Ministry for Provisional Commissioning in my role as Deacon with you. Thank you for your encouragement and your prayers of support as we trudge this road to happy destiny together!

Peace and Blessings in Christ,

Deacon Bob