

A Time to Cry, A Time to Remember



MAY 30, 2021

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	Pizzicato Bells Bell Choir	Sallie Lloyd
Pastor's Welcome		Jeff Nelson
Hymn	America the Beautiful Sanctus Choir Members	
Call to Worship		Sandy Prokopp
Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco
Recognition of Memorial Day		
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>When Jesus Wept</i>	William Billings
Scripture	John 11:1-44	*CEB
Message	A Time to Cry, A Time to Remember	Jeff Nelson
Song	This Is My Song	
Benediction		

* Common English Bible

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Summer Clothes Collection

In addition to food, our lunch program distributes clothing to those in need in our community. Summer is here, and the weather is heating up. We are getting a lot of requests for men's summer clothes to help keep cool in the increasing heat. If you have any gently used men's summer clothing you can donate, you can drop it off at the church on Sundays during worship or during office hours Monday-Thursday, 10-3.



Missions Coordinator Position Available

Mission and service are such a core value of our congregation, and we are in need of the right leader to join our staff team. If you are passionate about missions, have the skill set to coordinate a great team of volunteers, and have 8-10 hours a week, we would love to hear from you! The Missions Coordinator is part of our Program Team that seeks to help our congregation experience real love, make real friends, and make a real difference! Please submit a cover letter and resume to Bridget Nelson bnelson@rofum.org.

Vacation Bible School

August 8-11, 6-8 pm

Kids are naturally curious, and when you're curious about who God is, it's easy to grow your relationship with Jesus. In Vacation Bible School this summer, kids will not only get curious about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — but also about the God who created it all! They'll hear from early church leaders like Paul, Peter, John, and Timothy, who helped the first Jesus-followers wonder what made their stories unique, what gifts God gave them (and how they could use those gifts to serve), what they could learn from others, and how they could spend time with God. To register your child, visit rofum.org/vbs.



In-Person Worship



In-Person Worship will continue

Sundays at 9 & 11 am starting June 6

We are thrilled to announce that our in-person worship pilot program has been a huge success, and we will continue to offer in-person worship following the end of the program. To keep everyone safe, attendance will be limited to 50 people per service. Nursery care will be available for preregistered children age four and under, and Sunday School will be available for preregistered children age 5 -5th grade. Sign up at rofum.org/in-person-worship.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Tom Soboleski; Maya Lane Harris; Bob Russell; Diane Sexton; Aloma Mirjah; Amy Youngquist; Kimberlyn Palchak; Cece Tamm; Pete Smith; Addison Frachalla; Patricia Callahan; Bill Howell; Diane Shornak; Janet Ramseyer; Florence Martin; Cindy McCarthy; Carrie Morse; Diane Sexton; Nancy Lorenz; Betty Lawson; Sherry Giles; Fred Bowden; Marilyn McCreedy; Marian Kremer

Prayers for our extended family: Pat Quinn; Effie Lambros; Marc Reddekopp; Gina Mirjah; Kaylee; Karen White; Vanessa & Katelyn Elrod; Michael McFarlane; Joe Percy; Mike J; Tim Bell; Darryl Warren; Sue Sugden; Scott R; Sally Sou; Mary Jo Cady; Teresa Baker; Lorraine Bowden; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19

Senior Spotlight: Gwen Ross

Sympathy to Carolyn Gabler for the death of her brother, John Gabler, May 25.

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

NOTE FROM PASTOR JEFF

"We bereaved are not alone. We belong to the largest company in all the world—the company of those who have known suffering."

~Helen Keller

"When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are."

~Frederick Buechner

"Jesus wept."

~John 11:35

Dear Friends,

I played the clarinet in the Rhinelander High School marching band. Every year on Memorial Day, we would put on our kelly green polyester pantsuits with the white leather gauntlets over our wrists and spats over our high top sneakers. On the top of our head, we donned a helmet-like hat with the big white feather plume with an emblazoned H, for Hodags, on the front. (Hodags? You'll have to google it.)

Once dressed, we would gather at the south end of Brown Street and march behind a group of flag-bearing older men from the local VFW and American Legion Posts, playing songs like The Stars and Stripes Forever and The Marine Hymn. Eight blocks later, we would arrive on the courthouse front lawn and listen to the annual recitation of The Gettysburg Address. The morning would end with our best trumpet player playing Taps while wreaths were placed on the granite slab, listing the names of those from our little community who had died in combat.

I admit, as a teenager, the true significance of Memorial Day was a bit lost on me. But not anymore. Every church we have served has had veterans who lost friends in combat. Every church we have served has had families who have lost loved ones in combat. Every church we have been in has prayed for folks who have been deployed and have waited anxiously for reports of their health and well-being. And the number of men experiencing homelessness who gather here at Royal Oak First throughout the week for lunch who have served in the military are a reminder that not all casualties of war died in combat.


I remember at our very first church, we prayed regularly for a young man, Matt, who had been deployed to Iraq during the second Gulf War. We were so relieved when he finally arrived home. I was surprised one day when he showed up at the back door of our

parsonage. I invited him in, and we talked. Soon, I realized he was not there just to catch up, Matt needed his pastor to listen to a soldier's confession. Since being home, he was having trouble sleeping, he was finding himself jittery and jumpy and sometimes for no reason at all he would just start crying. He told me of the guilt he felt for surviving when some of his friends did not come home. Matt made his way to our home that day to be reminded of God's love and forgiveness.

Memorial Day matters.

This Sunday we set aside some time to remember those who have given their lives in service to our country. May God bring peace to our hearts and to our world.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". The word "Pastor" is written in a simple, slightly cursive font, and "Jeff" is written in a more stylized, cursive font. Below the word "Pastor" is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.

PS

I ask for your continued prayers as we discern ways to open the church back up safely. You can sign up to attend at rofum.org/in-person-worship.