



# THE MASKS WE WEAR

AUGUST 8, 2021

ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	<i>Isn't He</i> arr. Bruce Greer	Tim Schoenherr
Welcome		Jeff Nelson
Song	<i>Ancient Words</i> Michael W. Smith	House Band
Call to Worship		Michelle Haight (9 am) Heather Diamond (11 am)
Hymn #393 (*UMH)	Spirit of the Living God	Tim Schoenherr
Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco
Children's Moment		Jeff Nelson
Time of Prayer		Jeff Nelson
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes	<i>Changed</i> Aaron Niequist	House Band
Doxology #95 (*UMH)	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
Scripture (**NIV)	Romans 12:1-2; 9-21	Michelle Haight (9 am) Heather Diamond (11 am)
Message	The Masks We Wear	Jeff Nelson
Hymn #77 (*UMH)	How Great Thou Art	House Band
Benediction		Jeff Nelson

\*United Methodist Hymnal  
\*\*New International Version

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## August School Supply Collection



This month we will be supporting our Ferndale Lower Elementary School partnership with a 'Back to School' supply collection. High-need items include: Crayola 24 pack crayons, Crayola 10-12 pack markers, Elmer's glue sticks, Ticonderoga pencils, Expo Dry Erase markers, plastic pencil boxes, backpacks, cardstock, Kleenex tissue, wipes, and hand sanitizer, but any other supplies/brands will be welcomed also. Bring your donations to Royal Oak First on Sunday or turn in at the office during the week. Thank you for helping to support the families in our community! We will conclude the month with a blessing of all our students' backpacks on Sunday, August 29, at both services.



## Service Opportunities September 3-6

Nearly 400,000 people will visit our community during Arts, Beats & Eats. Service opportunities include being a greeter at the church, being a host for our green space on the front lawn, attending to the baby-changing tent, and keeping the church tidy and hospitable. Each person that volunteers for a shift will receive free admission to the festival. Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Desk or at [rofum.org](http://rofum.org).

## Special Worship Service

Sunday, September 5, 9:30 am

Arts, Beats, and Eats Country/Americana Stage at 6<sup>th</sup> and Lafayette

We will have only one worship service Labor Day Weekend. Worshippers that day get a ticket for free admission to the festival and free parking at Royal Oak High School at 1500 Lexington Blvd. A free shuttle will drop you off and pick you up right next to the stage. If you don't plan on staying for the festival, you can park in the parking structure across the street from the church until 11:00 am. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 248.541.4100 or [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Pastor Chat

If you're new to Royal Oak First and you'd like to know more about our church or if you'd like to learn the next steps about how to become part of everything going on here, then come to the Pastor Chat.

Pastor Chat will be on Sunday, August 22 at 10 am in the Parlor and last no more than 30 minutes. We look forward to seeing you!

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

## Prayers for Our Church Family:

Michael Frank • Bob Russell • Janice Marsh • Cynthia Cline • Melinda Loftin • Tom Soboleski • Ed Cline • Karen Wetzel • Mary Lou Graeber • Audrey Leenhouts • Lloyd Ramseyer • Janet Ramseyer • Bob Russell • Lee Hoffmann • John Wagster • Neil Franks • Dave Minch • Sue Minch • Sarah Beth Wells • Todd Wells • Patricia Callahan • Maya Lane Harris • Kimberlyn Palchak • Diane Shornak • Carrie Morse • Cindy McCarthy • Betty Lawson • Fred Bowden • Marian Kremer • Nancy Lorenz

## Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Buddy Budowick • Jessica Simpson • Jack Barlow • Kathy Kearns • Margie Reese • Linda Morrell • Dora Jackler • Marc Reddekopp • Gina Mirjah • Vanessa & Katelyn Elrod • Michael McFarlane • Mike J. • Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden • Scott R. • Sally Sou • Teresa Baker •

## Senior Spotlight:

Priscilla Benson

For the complete Prayer List, please contact our Pastoral Care Team at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

*“The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are. You trade in your reality for a role. You trade in your sense for an act. You give up your ability to feel, and in exchange, put on a mask. There can't be any large-scale revolution until there's a personal revolution, on an individual level. It's got to happen inside first.”*

— Jim Morrison

*“She had blue skin,  
And so did he.  
He kept it hid  
And so did she.  
They searched for blue  
Their whole life through,  
Then passed right by-  
And never knew.”*

— Shel Silverstein, *Every Thing On It*

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

— Romans 12:2

Dear Friends,

This summer we have been using the worship experience to reflect on the spiritual lessons learned from this past year, asking questions like, “Where was God in the midst of this mess?” and “What I have learned about myself and the world?” When we created the messaging schedule a few months ago, we set aside this weekend as “Mask Sunday,” a time to reflect on what it has meant to experience much of this past year with half of our faces covered. This seemed like an interesting angle when it felt like mask mandates were firmly in our rearview mirror. In fact, we even speculated about having a ceremonial “retiring” of our masks, thanking them for their service and letting them rest.

As we have learned through the COVID 19 Pandemic, these realities are ever-shifting and changing. And so here we are on “Mask Sunday,” and we are seeing a rise across the nation, and in our community, of infections due to the Delta variant and truly we are uncertain what church or elected officials might recommend in the days and weeks to come. So needless to say, we won't be “retiring” our masks this Sunday.

Our church's leadership team meets twice a month and monitors the local COVID numbers closely as we prayerfully discern the best ways to keep each other and our community safe. At our meeting this past Monday, we decided to encourage our members to continue to do what is safest for you. If you feel most comfortable wearing a mask, then please do and we will always have one available for you if needed. Our staff will be wearing theirs more often as a way to both keep themselves, and keep our most vulnerable, especially our kids, safe. It is our privilege to stand with you in this way. And of course we will keep you posted about any changes in our approach.

So this Sunday we will still talk about masks and how they are metaphors for the human tendency to pretend to be something we are not. We sometimes even wear a “church mask” pretending to be strong when we are scared in hopes that no one might discover we actually have more doubts than we care to admit.

What does it mean to be unmasked in the presence of God and within the faith community?

I think the best advice I heard about masks came from my son's middle school track coach. It was the week that they were no longer mandated to wear a mask at outside practice. At this moment when everybody was wondering what to do he offered this very sage, and very clear, mandate: “You don't have to wear a mask if you don't want to - but if anybody makes fun of anyone for wearing one - you're off the team!”

And guess what - there was never a problem. Thank you for respecting each other - no matter where you are on this journey.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff

# STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Jeff Nelson	Lead Pastor	<a href="mailto:jnelson@rofum.org">jnelson@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1216
Jennifer Tripoli	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org">jtripoli@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1225
Bridget Nelson	Children, Youth & Family Ministries Director	<a href="mailto:bnelson@rofum.org">bnelson@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1102
Mike Monte	Community Support Director	<a href="mailto:mmonte@rofum.org">mmonte@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1108
Lee Trumbull	Communications Director	<a href="mailto:ltrumbull@rofum.org">ltrumbull@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1224
Karen Calhoun	Operations Manager	<a href="mailto:kcalhoun@rofum.org">kcalhoun@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1220
Tim Schoenherr	Music Director	<a href="mailto:tim@rofum.org">tim@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Jennifer Semivan	Children's Music Director	<a href="mailto:jsemivan@rofum.org">jsemivan@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1219
Erica Plesco	Worship Coordinator	<a href="mailto:eplesco@rofum.org">eplesco@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Tim Coleman	Audio Engineer/ Production Manager	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Kevin Walsh	Online/Video Coordinator	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Danielle Moody	Congregational Care & Family Ministries Coordinator	<a href="mailto:dmoody@rofum.org">dmoody@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1315
Ashley Erard	Nursery Coordinator	<a href="mailto:aerard@rofum.org">aerard@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Christine Ryckman	Sunday School Coordinator	<a href="mailto:cryckman@rofum.org">cryckman@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Joyce Hollingsworth	Adult Discipleship Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jhollingsworth@rofum.org">jhollingsworth@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Karla Goetz	Missions Coordinator	<a href="mailto:missions@rofum.org">missions@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Shirley Harris	Kitchen/Meal Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sharris@rofum.org">sharris@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100 ext. 1120
Fred Bowden	Building Manager	<a href="mailto:fbowden@rofum.org">fbowden@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100



**Experience Real Love, Form Real Friendships,  
Make a Real Difference**