



*I Just Want
to Celebrate!*

Sunday, September 5, 2021
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song	“Celebrate” Medley	House Band
Welcome		Jeff Nelson
Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco
Time of Prayer		Jeff Nelson
Unison Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Song	“It’s a Great Day to Be Alive” Travis Tritt	Laci Marie
Scripture (*NIV)	Luke 15:11-24	Erica Plesco
Message	I Just Want to Celebrate!	Jeff Nelson
Song	“Walking on Sunshine” Katrina and the Waves	House Band
Benediction		Jeff Nelson

*New International Version

UNISON PRAYER

Gracious God,

Thank you for the gift of today.

Refresh us. Invite us to discover your presence in each person that we meet.

In every event that we encounter, teach us when to speak and when to listen. When to ponder, and when to share.

In moments of challenge and decision, attune our hearts to the whisperings of your wisdom.

As we undertake both ordinary tasks and new adventures, gift us with simple joy.

When our day goes well, may we rejoice. When it grows difficult, surprise us with new possibilities.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

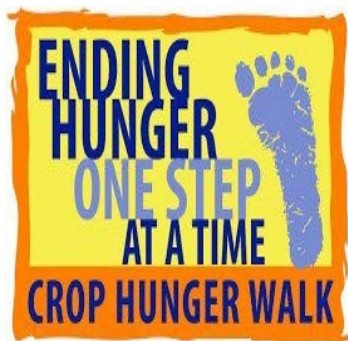


We Need Ushers and Greeters

You can help make worship a powerful, welcoming experience for others! We have opportunities for people to serve as ushers and greeters. Pick some days to create a regular schedule...like ushering for all the even number months or greeting on the first Sunday of every month. And if you know someone who might like to share some time volunteering with you, send them this information and invite them! Volunteering is a great way to get to know people in your church family! Visit the Welcome Desk or www.rofum.org to sign up.

2021 Crop Hunger Walk

Would you like to stomp out hunger? On September 19th, area churches will be joining together with a common goal of raising awareness and funds to feed the hungry, both locally and globally. Show your support by joining the ROFUM team as a walker or by sponsoring our team members with a donation. A \$15 donation will provide a family with egg laying chickens; a \$65 donation will provide a family of four with meals for nearly two months. More information is available at the Welcome Desk at Royal Oak First or you can www.rofum.org. Please reach out to Lucille Evans at lucilleevans@gmail.com with additional questions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Saturday Night Worship

Please plan to join us on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 4:00 pm, in the Parlor for the first Saturday Night Worship in over a year! We are planning to meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. We are in search of those who can serve as a guest preacher, song leader, support audio needs, or play the piano or a musical instrument on a rotational basis. Please contact Joyce Russell at 586-758-4729 or russ28@att.net for more information.



Fall Kickoff

Fall Kickoff is September 12th!

Please mark Sunday, September 12th on your calendar and plan to join us for the kick-off of the 2021-22 program and worship year. Sunday School and Youth Group will begin that Sunday and Holy COW, our midweek music and fellowship program for kids, will start that Wednesday. Whether you join us in person or online for worship, we are looking forward to beginning this journey together.



Sock-It-To-Me

September

Sock-It-To-Me September is Back!

New socks are one of the most important items for homeless folks in the winter. Our friends at The NOAH Project (at Central UMC) give out over 10,000 pairs of socks annually as part of their work supporting the homeless of Detroit. In past years, Royal Oak First has contributed thousands of socks to support The NOAH Project, and we've set a goal to contribute 2021 additional socks this year. Bring a package or two of NEW MEN'S TUBE SOCKS to church between September 7th and October 3rd, and help us reach our goal. Sock-It-To-Me!

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Bob Prud'homme • Ed Cline • Michael Frank • Janice Marsh • Nancy Thompson •
Aloma Mirjah • Nancy Lorenz • Marilyn Hocking • Charlene Faunt • Cynthia Cline •
Melinda Loftin • Tom Soboleski • Karen Wetzal • Audrey Leenhouts •
Lloyd Ramseyer • Janet Ramseyer • 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 •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Rosemary Piatt • The Pushman Family • Buddy Budowick • Jessica Simpson •
Jack Barlow • Kathy Kearns • Linda Morrell • Marc Reddekopp • Gina Mirjah •
Michael McFarlane • Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden • Sally Sou • Teresa Baker •

Sympathies to:

The family of Estella Mazur on her death, August 31, 2021

Senior Spotlight:

John and Georgia Boyse

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

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

“People of our time are losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation...a confrontation, giving attention to the transcendent meaning of one's actions.”

-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

“Why do you wait for someone to throw a party to wear the dress you want? Celebrate when you want not when you're asked.”

-Sarvesh Jain

“Celebrate good times, come on!”

-Kool and the Gang

Dear Friends,

Today (Sunday) is National Cheese Pizza Day.

Tomorrow in addition to it being Labor Day it is also both Rosh Hashanah and Fight Procrastination Day.

Tuesday is a personal favorite, National Salami Day and Wednesday is National Ampersand (&) Day.

Thursday is National Teddy Bear Day.

Friday is Swap Ideas Day.

And we end the week on Saturday with Make Your Bed Day, National Pet Memorial Day and 9/11 Remembrance Day (has it really been 20 years?).

...continued on next page

Go to the internet and you can literally find a holiday to celebrate every single day of the year. And yes, while some of the reasons for celebrating are a bit out there, the point is pretty clear - there is always something to celebrate.

Our world is in need of this reminder. The last year and half has been hard. We have been challenged to find joy in the midst of the mundane. Sometimes we wondered if there would ever be a day where we would celebrate together again.

That's why I am glad we are here - in the middle of the annual Arts, Beats & Eats Festival to have worship this morning. This annual celebration of music, arts and culture brings together people from different ages, races and backgrounds. It is truly a rich mixture of our greater community. And we get to be a part of it!

We truly do have much to celebrate.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff