

A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a grassy field. The sky is filled with golden and blue clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a wooden manger with a white cloth and straw is visible on the right side. The field is covered in tall green grass.

AWAY FROM THE MANGER

Sunday, December 26, 2021 11:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	"Carol of the Bells" arr. Mark Hayes	Tim Schoenherr
Bell Peal		Amy Rhoades
Hymn #246 (*UMH)	"Joy to the World"	Congregational Singing
Call to Worship		Joan Johnson
Musical Response	"Angels We Have Heard on High" (Refrain only)	Congregational Singing
Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson
Time of Prayer		Joan Johnson
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	"Adore Him" Kari Jobe	Erica Plesco
Doxology #95 (*UMH)	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"	
Scripture (**CEB)	Luke 2:41-52	Joan Johnson
Message	Away From the Manger	Jeff Nelson
Hymn #251 (*UMH)	"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"	Congregational Singing
Benediction		Jeff Nelson
Postlude	"In Dulci Jubilo" arr. McDonald	Tim Schoenherr

**United Methodist Hymnal*

***Common English Bible*



**ROYAL OAK
FIRST**
A United Methodist Church

20
22

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Holiday Office Hours

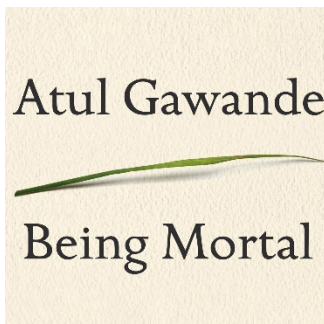
HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 27, Tuesday, December 28 and Monday, January 3.



VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING WITH PASTOR JEFF

We are planning to hold a virtual town hall meeting with Pastor Jeff on Sunday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. During the meeting, we will have updates from various church areas (i.e. finance, personnel, etc.) along with answers to your questions submitted ahead of time, followed by open comments. Please email your questions for Pastor Jeff and Royal Oak First by Thursday, January 6 to ltrumbull@rofum.org or call the church office at 248.541.4100. There will also be a form at the front desk that you can fill out with your questions. We will record the meeting so if you cannot attend, we can send you the recording. We are excited for as many of you to participate on Zoom as possible!



“BEING MORTAL” BOOK DISCUSSION

Using the bestseller “Being Mortal”, we will engage in conversations about how to live a life with meaning to the last with dignity and joy. We will uncover our deepest wishes and find ways to live more fully now and how we can encourage that for others in our lives. Beginning Wednesdays, January 26-February 23 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Visit www.rofum.org to sign up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



“FIRST THOUGHTS” AND “ABIDE” DEVOTIONALS AND THOUGHTS EMAIL

We are launching two new weekly emails from Pastor Jeff and our other pastors/preachers that will be delivered to your inbox weekly beginning in January 2022. The first email is “First Thoughts”, a moment of inspiration and information on what God is doing in our church and community. The second email is “Abide”, a weekly devotional geared for the men of our congregation. If you are interested, please email firstthoughts@rofum.org with your email address and let us know which devotional you would like to receive, “First Thoughts” or “Abide”.



CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE

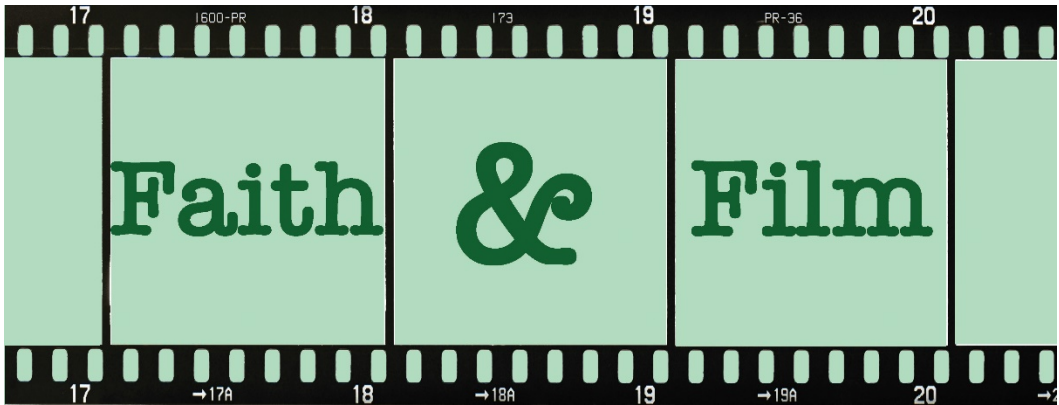
The Custodian is responsible for the appearance, cleanliness and maintenance of the building and grounds. If you are interested in joining our team, you can find a full job description at rofum.org/jobs or if you have further questions, please contact Jennifer Tripoli at 248.541.4100 or jtripoli@rofum.org.

MEN'S WINTER GEAR COLLECTION



NEW NEEDS FOR MEN'S WINTER GEAR!

We need the following items: men's gloves/mittens, **men's winter boots**, men's winter hats, **long/thermal underwear tops and bottoms (L, XL, XXL)**, men's winter socks and **sleeping bags**. Thank you for supporting our Lunch Program guests!



FAITH & FILM IS BACK!

Royal Oak First is going back to the movies! For three Monday nights in January, we will head over to the MJR Troy Movie Theater at Maple and Livernois Roads at 7:00 p.m. to see a current movie together. Tickets are only \$8.50. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 248.541.4100 or office@rofum.org. The theater we will be in is reserved just for Royal Oak First. **We will be requiring all attendees to wear a mask while inside the theater.**

Monday, January 10—"WEST SIDE STORY"

Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks -- two rival gangs vying for control of the streets.

Monday, January 17—"SING 2"

Can-do koala Buster Moon and his all-star cast of animal performers prepare to launch a dazzling stage extravaganza in the glittering entertainment capital of the world. There's just one hitch -- he has to find and persuade the world's most reclusive rock star to join them. What begins as Buster's dream of big-time success soon becomes an emotional reminder of the power of music to heal even the most broken heart.

Monday, January 24—This film will be announced soon, so keep watching this space!

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Nancy Matson • Grace Perkins • Michael Frank • Lillian Cook • Brian Cook •
Sue Parisi • John Wagster • Ron Peludat • Don McCreedy • Bruce Conrad •
Yvonne Bashur • Rachel Fitzpatrick • Beckham Boozan • Phil and Jane Button •
Dorthea Schuldeis • Dorothy Matsumoto • Carl Sweet • Al Simmons •
Barb Simmons • Laci Basel • Todd Wells • Nancy Lorenz • Lisa Rye •
Charlene Faunt • Marian Kremer • Tom Soboleski • Janet Ramseyer •
Neil Franks • Dave Minch • Patricia Callahan • Maya Lane Harris •
Kimberlyn Palchak • Diane Shornak • Carrie Morse •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Michael Tucker • Tom Dunstan • The Broderik Family • Beth Roselle • T.B. •
Chrystl Roman • Tina Bell • Jethro Horton • Flora Jones • Deni Bartley •
Earl Hendrickson • Evert & Kay Burchell • Effie Lambros • The Pushman Family •
Marc Reddekopp • Michael McFarlane • Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden • Sally Sou •
Teresa Baker •

Sympathies to:

James Coleman on the death of his grandmother, Jean Pierce on December 20,
2021

Friends and family of James Carr on his death, December 23, 2021

Prayers for All That Have Been Impacted by COVID-19

For the complete Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is the Sunday after Christmas. Even in more predictable times, the Sunday after Christmas is always a little strange. You are never quite sure what to do on this Sunday. While Christmas seems to be behind us - the New Year is still in front of us.

What are we supposed to do? Look back with joyful remembrance? Look forward with hopeful anticipation? The answer is both. We look back to make sure we don't leave anything important behind. We look ahead so that we figure where we are going next.

Looking back, 2021 was one of the most unpredictable years of our lives. But there are things we don't want to leave behind. For me 2022, will be the year of deepening personal spiritual practices of silence, stillness and Sabbath. I am bringing those things with me into 2022.

What are you bringing with you into the New Year? Together we will look at this on Sunday.

A brief word about the COVID surge:

The truth is this is a dynamic, ever changing reality. Adjustments will just be par for the course and we will do our best to keep you informed of our latest protocols and safety measures. Like you, I am disappointed that we need to strengthen our protocols once again. I cannot thank you enough for your grace and flexibility.

We are going to do our best to keep our in-person worship experiences open. In order to do this, masks will be required when in our building at all times. We will continue to space our seating. We will offer beverage service prior and after services and encourage everyone to not linger long after worship.

We are so thankful for the teams that have enhanced our online worship experience, as this continues to be the safest option for those not yet vaccinated or not ready for gathering in person.

This has been quite a journey. I am glad to be on it together. We give thanks to God for the strength and resilience to keep the faith.

Know that our entire team is here to support you. Please contact any of us if we can answer any questions or assist you in any way at office@rofum.org or 248.541.4100.

Happy "in between" Sunday!

