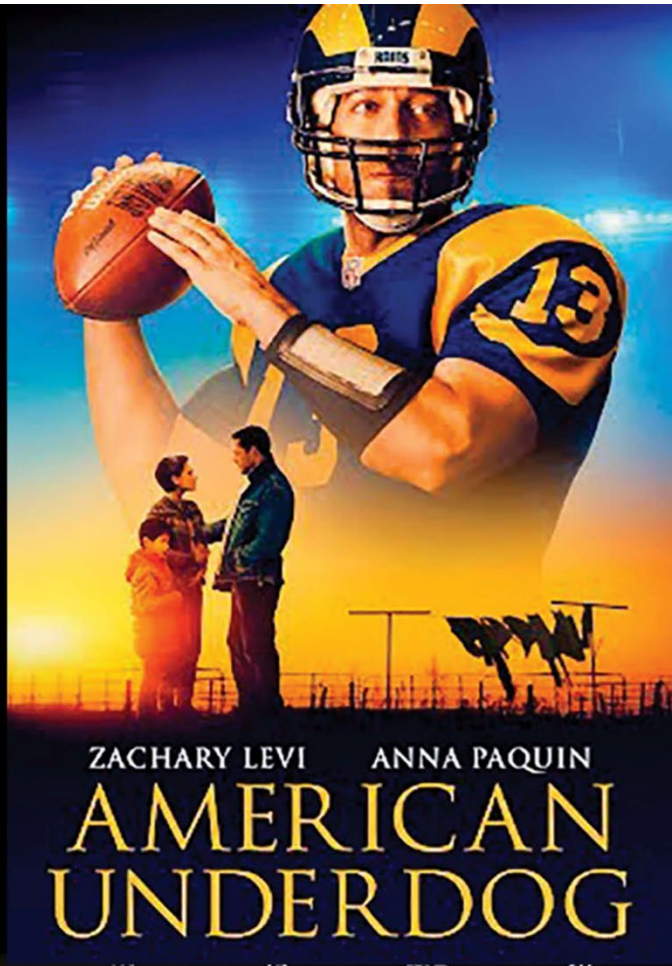


**Sunday**

**January  
30**

**11:00  
a.m.  
Worship**



**Faith**

**&**

**Film**

**ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**www.rofum.org • 248.541.4100**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Prelude</b>	“Aurelia” arr. John S. Dixon	Kyle Webber
<b>Bell Peal</b>		Amy Rhoades
<b>Hymn #415</b> (*UMH)	“Take Up Thy Cross”	Congregational Singing
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Tim Ryckman
<b>Musical Response</b>	“Rooted in Love”	Congregational Singing
<b>Invitation to Mission</b>		Jeff Nelson & Erica Plesco
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		Tim Ryckman
<b>Offering Our Gifts and Tithes</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Love Changes Everything” Vince Gill	Erica Plesco & Tim Schoenherr
<b>Doxology #95</b> (*UMH)	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	Congregational Singing
<b>Prayer of Dedication</b>		Jeff Nelson
<b>Scripture</b> (**CEB)	Matthew 16:24-26	Tim Ryckman
<b>Message</b>	Losing in Order to Win	Jeff Nelson
<b>Song</b>	“Keeper of the Stars” Tracy Byrd	Tim Coleman
<b>Hymn #399</b> (*UMH)	“Take My Life, and Let It Be”	Congregational Singing
<b>Benediction</b>		Jeff Nelson
<b>Postlude</b>	“Fanfare in G” John S. Dixon	Kyle Webber

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Atul Gawande

Being Mortal

## “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. **On Wednesdays, now through February 23 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to sign up.

First Thoughts



ABIDE

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

We now offer two new weekly emails from Pastor Jeff and our other pastors/preachers. “First Thoughts” is a moment of inspiration and information on what God is doing in our church and community. “Abide” is a weekly devotional geared for the men of our congregation. **Email us at [firstthoughts@rofum.org](mailto:firstthoughts@rofum.org) with your email address and let us know which devotional you would like to receive.**

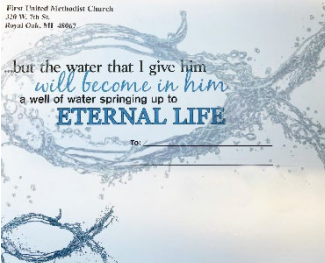
## MEN'S WINTER GEAR COLLECTION



## 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)**, and **men's winter socks**. Thank you for supporting our Lunch Program guests!

First United Methodist Church  
200 W. 20 St.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

2022 Royal Oak First offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up at the Welcome Desk! If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, we'll begin mailing them out on Wednesday, February 9. Contact Karen Calhoun at [kcalhoun@rofum.org](mailto:kcalhoun@rofum.org) if you have any questions.



# ROYAL OAK FIRST MISSIONS

## NEEDS FOR REDFORD BRIGHTMOOR INITIATIVE

Our friends at the Redford Brightmoor Initiative are above and beyond grateful for the support that we show them on a regular basis. Thanks to a large recent donation, they do not currently need the hygiene items we had planned to collect in February (but will gladly take items if you already purchased them). We still want to support them as they fill a huge need in the community.

Here is a list of items we are collecting that their families need but struggle to afford: **paper towels, dish soap\*, cleaning products\*, laundry detergent\*, Band-aids, Ziplock bags, garbage bags, batteries, lightbulbs, smoke alarms, hand warmers, extension cords/power strips, and car items such as oil, antifreeze, washer fluid** (*\*please send regular family size, not bulk Costco size.*)

## REDFORD BRIGHTMOOR INITIATIVE PRODUCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To support our partnership with the Redford Brightmoor Initiative, Royal Oak First members have provided fresh produce to the Brightmoor Free Store once a month for the past two years. This is an easy service opportunity that makes a big impact for families in need. We could use two more shoppers in February, and any future month you are able. Sign up after service or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org).

# Share the Love



## SHARE THE LOVE

Help us share the love! In the week leading up to Valentine's Day, we hope to send a card to every member of our church.

Then, during Valentine's Day weekend, we hope to make and deliver 100 bags of treats and notes. So, we need everyone's hands!

We need people to:

- send cards
- bake
- make cards (kids and adults)
- assemble bags
- deliver

Please visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) or visit the information table after service to sign up. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



Starting February 1, we will be offering a  
Time of Prayer every Tuesday from 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Join one of our Pastors in the Sanctuary to review the  
prayer list, share our own joys and concerns and spend  
some time in silence with God.

Contact Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org)  
with any questions.



# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

## **Prayers for Our Church Family:**

Charlene Faunt • Mike Long • Carol Lewis • John Dorsey • Amanda Fitch • Marilyn Hocking • Jon Rye • Betty Latimer • Kevin Richardson • Craig Sleeman • Brian Cook • Al Simmons • Grace Perkins • John Wagster • Bruce Conrad • Phil and Jane Button • Dorthea Schuldeis • Carl Sweet • Todd Wells • Nancy Lorenz • Lisa Rye • Marian Kremer • Tom Soboleski • Janet Ramseyer • Patricia Callahan • Maya Lane Harris • Diane Shornak • Carrie Morse •

## **Prayers for Our Extended Family:**

Aurelia DeGala • George Russian • Tom Dunstan • The Broderik Family • Beth Roselle • T.B. • Chrystl Roman • 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:**

Sheryl and Kerry Hunter on the death of their sister Lisa Vanderham, January 11, 2022

## **Prayers for All That Have Been Impacted by COVID-19**

For the complete Prayer List,  
please contact Danielle Moody at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

“Destiny. It belongs to the underdogs,” said then St. Louis Rams football coach Dick Vermeil, played by actor Dennis Quaid, in this week’s film “American Underdog.” The film is a movie fairytale based on the true-life story of former NFL quarterback Kurt Warner who went from stocking shelves at the Hy-Vee grocery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to winning the Super Bowl. It is truly an underdog story.

I love a good underdog story. Whether it is “Rocky,” “The Karate Kid” or “The Shawshank Redemption,” I am inspired by stories about the triumph of the human spirit. They leave me hopeful that at the end of day, good people will get their chance to shine.

*What are some of your favorite underdog stories?*

The truth is God is also on the side of the underdog. In fact, our faith is an underdog's faith. Whether it's David vs. Goliath, Moses vs. Pharaoh, Joseph vs. his brothers, the God of our Bible is often on the side of the smaller, weaker, and poorer among us.

In fact, the Jesus story is the ultimate underdog tale. Think about it. Jesus was born in a small, backwater village to working poor parents. He did not have any formal degrees or titles. He held no formal positions of power. He had only two dozen followers who themselves were not remarkable in any worldly sense. Jesus hung out with the underdogs of society, people who could not fight any great armies or buy any influence. Jesus died a criminal's death in a very public and humiliating manner. God raised this man from the dead. Not a political leader or war hero or great theologian or some pious preacher. No, God raised Jesus, the poor Palestine peasant preacher and said this will show the world what my power and love look like.

I remind us all of this because at one time or another, and maybe even especially right now, we can feel like the odds are against us. For all kinds of reasons, we can worry that no matter how we try - we cannot win. And in these kinds of moments, it can be easy to think God has either forgotten you or is conspiring against you. That is why truly seeing our scriptures as the story of the Underdog God on the side of their underdog people is essential.

So show up this Sunday, either online or in person, as we explore what it means to be an underdog and embrace an underdog faith.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple smiley face drawn with a circle and two dots for eyes.

P.S. - Like many of you Detroiters, I too, am firmly on the side of our adopted underdog Matthew Stafford. May he take it all the way!