



*Forgiven?*

**FORGIVEN.**

Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:00AM  
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>		Tim Schoenherr
<b>Song</b>	“Everlasting God”	
<b>Song</b>	“Hosanna (Praise is Rising)”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Kyle Webber & Jeff Nelson
<b>Mission Moment</b>	Noisy Bucket	
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Response</b>	“Be Still”	
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Praise Unfolding” arr. Sandra Eithun	Carillon Ringers
<b>Doxology</b>	“Give Thanks”	
<b>Prayer of Dedication</b>		
<b>Scripture*</b>	Mark 2:1-12	
<b>Poem</b>		
<b>Message</b>	“Forgiven? Forgiven.”	Erica Plesco
<b>Song</b>	“Waking Up”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Sending Music</b>		House Band

*\*New International Version*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SOCK-IT-TO-ME-SEPTEMBER!

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. It is our goal to contribute 2022 socks to NOAH this year, in addition to restocking the supply at Outreach on 7th. **Please bring a package or two of NEW MEN'S CREW SOCKS to church between now and October 3.**



## HANDS WITH DETROIT

The goal of Hands with Detroit is for United Methodists throughout the region to join together to support our neighbors in Detroit during the weekend of October 1st. Royal Oak First has signed up to participate in two ways: we will help establish a new dog park near Cass Community Services on Saturday, October 1, AND we will pack sandwiches/lunches on Sunday, October 2 that we can send to the NOAH Project. Visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) or scan the QR code to sign up.



## THE GOSPEL IN BLACK AND WHITE ON FACEBOOK LIVE

**Mondays, Sept. 26-Nov. 28 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

Join Pastor Jeff and his friend and colleague Reverend Dr. Kevin Smalls, Senior Pastor at Southfield Hope, for an online discussion on the Gospel of John focused uniquely on the different perspectives in interpretations of the Jesus story from both a Black and White perspective. Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to register.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS USING WISDOM OF THE ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOP**

**Fri., Sept. 30, 6-8 p.m. & Sat., Oct. 1, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

One of the most ancient spiritual tools for understanding human beings is the Enneagram. In this 1.5 day workshop facilitated by Joyce Hollingsworth, you will learn about the Enneagram, increase your own self-awareness and gain new insight into your relationships with others – especially those different from you. Together we will see how the wisdom of the Enneagram can help us better follow Jesus' call to love others and love yourself. Join us to see with new eyes what makes you “tick”, get to know and develop deeper connections with others at church, and move beyond the shallows in your spiritual journey. Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to register.



## **24/6: DISCOVERING THE ANCIENT WISDOM OF SABBATH FOR A MODERN WORLD**

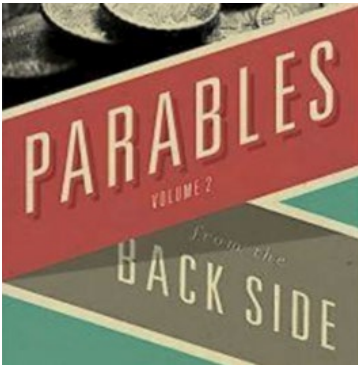
**ON ZOOM**

**Sundays, October 2-November 6 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Using Matthew Sleeth's book "24/6: A Prescription for a Healthier, Happier Life" as a guide, Pastor Jeff Nelson will help us discover the powerful invitation to, "Remember the Sabbath and Keep it Holy." The Sabbath is about letting go of the controls one day a week and letting God be God. Purchase your copy of the book at your bookstore of choice. Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to register.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## PARABLES OF JESUS

**Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Nov. 16 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. OR 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

This is about the parables of Jesus led by Pastor Jeff Nelson using J. Ellsworth Kalas' book "Parables from the Back Side Volume 2". Purchase your copy of the book at your bookstore of choice. Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to register.



READING THE BIBLE  
— AGAIN —  
FOR THE FIRST TIME



## READING THE BIBLE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

**Thursdays, Oct. 6-Nov. 17 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.**

Join Pastor Bridget Nelson for a discussion on the book "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time". Theologian Marcus Borg invites Christians to "take the Bible seriously without taking it literally". Join us as we take another look at the Bible in a fresh new way to find its guidance for an authentic life of faith. Purchase your copy of the book at your bookstore of choice. Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to register.



## CHAIR YOGA CLASSES AVAILABLE

Chair Yoga classes, presented by our own Kimberlyn Palchak's "in.balance" are back. The classes will include: Mindful Meditation, Seated Yoga, and Focused Breathing. Classes are on Tuesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. and Thursdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the 2nd floor Chapel. To sign up, scan the QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Big Boy Night is Back!**

**Tuesday, October 25, 4-8pm**



After a two-year COVID interruption, our **Big Boy Night** is returning this fall! Mark your calendar for **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, FROM 4-8 PM.**

The Big Boy is at 30460 John R, between 12 and 13 Mile, in Madison Heights.

This is a fundraiser sponsored by Royal Oak First's Music Guild. All proceeds from Big Boy Night will support our summer choir camp. The restaurant is giving us 10% of all sales between 4 and 8 PM. Pick up a card at the Connections Table in the Narthex after worship to present to cashier for us to receive the 10% back.

Every 30 minutes we will be raffling off lots of wonderful items donated by our members. Most people leave with a gift or two.

And there is something new this time. We are raffling off a new 42" Smart TV at the end of the evening! You need not be present to win. Raffle tickets will be \$5. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase at the Connections Table in the Narthex after worship starting on Sunday, October 2.

Come on out and meet your church friends for a tasty dinner, maybe win a prize or two and support our youth ministry.

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Mary Nahhat • Donna Allen • Faye Bond • The Fall Family • Diane Sexton •  
Diana Shornak • Mark Lowman • Ian Kobb • Ann Anderson •  
Shirley Gnegy • Al Simmons • Charles Courtney • Mary Lou Graeber •  
Art Miller • Lisa Rye • Bob Foote • Tom Soboleski • Audrey Leenhouts •  
Mike Long • Charlene Faunt • Marian Kremer •

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

Margie Reese • Cheryl Castellani • Jamie Wittenberg • Carrie •  
Joan Firestone • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller •  
James • Neil Franks • Edwin Gillette • Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette •  
Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Wally Bojan • Shelley • Cyndi Luczak • Kelly •  
Steve Wurdock • Grandma Johnson • Harold Baker • Jethro Horton •  
Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden •

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

### **Sympathies to:**

Family and friends of Bob Vandermark, former member and cousin of Cindy Vandermark, on his death, September 19, 2022

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,  
please contact Danielle Moody at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I was reading this morning in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Paul was encouraging the early church to "live lives worthy of their calling in Christ."

What makes us worthy of such calling? Not what we might think.

I would think that Paul would challenge his followers to great acts of faith and charity. Paul would ask them to prove their relationship with Christ by traveling to far off places to share their faith or building bigger ministries to feed and take care of the hungry and homeless.

This is not what Paul points us towards when it comes to living worthy lives. No, Paul says these are the marks of a life that reflects our faith: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." ---Ephesians 4:2

Be patient. Bear with one another in love.

Think about that for a minute. Paul only gives this counsel because he knows that sometimes in the Christian community people will drive each other a little crazy. Sometimes we will irritate and frustrate one another. Sometimes we will disappoint and fail one another.

Paul is clear. The Christian life is the human life and therefore we can never be perfect. Therefore the distinguishing mark of our faith is the call "to be patient, bearing with one another in love."

That is just a fancy way to say we need to forgive each other - all the time.

How are you at forgiveness?

Is there anyone who needs your forgiveness?

What about forgiving yourself - how's that going?

This Sunday Erica Plesco, fresh off her honeymoon, will help us think about how forgiveness works in our lives and world. Thanks Erica!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.