



Christmas Wish List

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE

Sunday, November 27, 2022 11:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

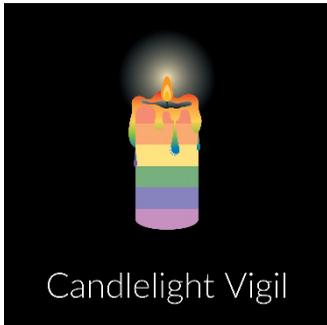
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” arr. Robert Lau	Kyle Webber
Call to Worship		Jaime Luczak
Opening Hymn #211**	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Stanzas 1,2,3,6	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
Advent Candle Lighting		Rev. David Mayer and Renee Ott
Response #204**	“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”	
Mission Moment	Noisy Bucket	
Time of Prayer		
Song	“Lord’s Prayer”	John Marsh
Offering Our Tithes and Gifts		
Musical Offering	“Prepare the Way of the Lord”	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95**	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture*	Isaiah 9:2-7	
Message	“Christmas Wish List: Hope”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #196**	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Veni Emmanuel” arr. Robert Powell	

**New International Version*

***United Methodist Hymnal*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

TONIGHT, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AT 6PM

Please join us on the church front lawn as we partner with Pronto this Sunday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m. for a candlelight vigil to honor the victims of the Club Q shootings in Colorado Springs. We will honor and remember those lost and pray for those still recovering. Pronto will be supplying hot chocolate along with the candles for the vigil.



CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF—FACEBOOK LIVE

Every Sunday in Advent starting November 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live every Sunday evening in Advent (November 27, December 4, December 11, and December 18) for a reading of a story that will get you in the spirit of the season.



CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERTS—LIVESTREAMED

Join us on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page for live mini-concerts featuring musicians from Royal Oak First. Concerts will be presented at Noon during the four Wednesdays in Advent: November 30 (Kyle Webber, organ), December 7 (Sam Garrett, vocalist), December 14 (Liz Wright, vocalist), and December 21 (Erica Plesco, vocalist and Jason Sherman, guitar). Concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and will lift your spirit with the music of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TOYS & CLOTHING FOR CASS COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

Now through December 4, our United Women in Faith (UWF) group will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and winter clothes for the kids at Cass Community Social Services. They are accepting gifts for kids ages birth to 18 years, but ask that nothing requires batteries or resemble weapons. Let's help these kids experience the joy of Christmas! Drop off after Sunday services or Monday-Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Monday, December 5 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This special Advent event for women includes a program of speakers and music followed by dessert. You are invited to host a table for friends and family or sign up to simply attend and we will assign you to a table. It will be a busy month, so we invite you to spend this evening with us, getting our hearts and minds focused on what matters most this season. Whether you want to host a table or just attend, please scan the QR code or visit www.rofum.org to sign up.



SPREAD THE CHEER!

Saturday, December 10 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Bring four dozen of your favorite type of cookie or holiday treat. You will go home with a variety platter of cookies and also a couple treat bags to deliver to the home of our church members. No need to be a baker to spread holiday cheer. We need people to send cards, to bake, kids to make cards, people to assemble bags and people to deliver. Visit rofum.org to sign up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. Worship

Families with infants experiencing their very first Christmas are invited to 9:00 a.m. worship for a special blessing and gift from the church. We are excited to celebrate this special moment with you and your newborn!

CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY



CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY

Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater - "ugly" or not! Come and spread the joy of the season with your best Christmas get-up!



A COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a community carol sing! All are invited! We will meet at the church, carol through the streets of downtown Royal Oak and finish at Royal Oak Manor. We will then head back to the church for one last sing and a time of fellowship including hot chocolate, coffee and snacks.



A FEAST OF CAROLS

Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Join us live and in person for this year's Feast of Carols Christmas Concert featuring ensembles of Royal Oak First including our Sanctus Choir, Carillon Ringers, Youth Choirs, Bands and a full orchestra. Be sure to take in the sounds of our ensembles at Royal Oak First for an afternoon of glorious music.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Longest Night Service



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Whether mourning the loss of a loved one, dealing with an illness, navigating financial struggles or simply not feeling the spirit of Christmas; this service is a quiet, prayerful moment acknowledging the difficulties of the season.

Food Pantry Donations Needed

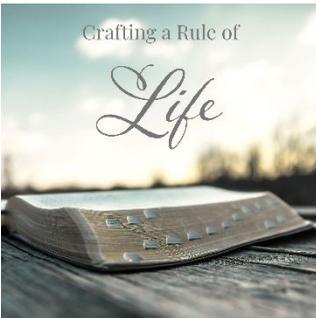


FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!

Some of the items we are in need of are: soups, canned pastas, fruit cups, cans or pouches of tuna or chicken breast, macaroni and cheese, dry pastas and sauce. These items and many other non-perishable items will help us to restock our pantry room as well as help us to continue keeping our Little Pantry box outside filled on a daily basis. Any items with easy open or pop top cans make it much easier for those using our Little Pantry. Items can be dropped off on Sundays after service or Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Crafting a Rule of

Life



CRAFTING A RULE OF LIFE RETREAT

Held January 30-February 1, 2023 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center, the Crafting a Rule of Life Retreat guides both Clergy and Laity through the process of imagining and affirming the practices in your life that act as a “truss” – intentional practices and ways of living that ground you through all life’s ups and downs. Led by Rev. Cora Glass and Rev. Jeff Nelson, your retreat time also includes times for reflection through art and nature. Scan the QR code to register or for more details.



SCAN ME

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Jim Shumaker • Natalia Tovarez • Jen Irish-Minewiser • Trisha Ferguson • Sheryl Hunter • Mary Nahhat • Diane Sexton • Faye Bond • Mark Lowman • Donna Allen • Ann Anderson • Al Simmons • Mary Lou Graeber • Lisa Rye • Audrey Leenhouts • Charlene Faunt • Marian Kremer •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Peter Edward • Rick Hocking • Linda A. • Scott Morrell • Sharon Pillow • Susan Inch • Rachel Timm • Linda Swanson • Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Tara Bouck • Joe • Mike Pilon • Larry Campbell • Phillip Makinen • Carl Gunnels • Carrie • Joan Firestone • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller • James • Edwin Gillette • Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette • Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Cyndi Luczak • Kelly • Steve Wurdock • Harold Baker • Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden •

Prayers for All That Have Been Impacted by COVID-19

Sympathies to:

Don and Nancy Matson on the death of Don's brother, Dale Matson on October 9, 2022

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.*

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

--Henri Nouwen

"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

--Vaclav Havel

Dear Friends,

And so it begins! Today is the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent is a season of waiting, a season of anticipation, a season of preparation.

So what are we waiting for? And what are we anticipating? And for what are we preparing?

We are waiting for Christmas. We are anticipating what might be waiting for us under the tree. We are preparing for parties, gatherings and all the "stuff" that we will try to fit into the next four weeks. (I get tired just thinking about it).

And in a religious sense we might say we are waiting for the baby Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

But that is not what we really are waiting for, is it?

No. We are waiting for the world to change. We are eagerly anticipating that God's Kingdom would come *"On earth as it is in heaven."* We are preparing for a world without hunger, poverty and war. A world where ALL God's children are welcome, included and safe.

So welcome to Advent. The world is waiting for us to show up and join Christ in the transformation of the world.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a simple smiley face drawn with a circle and two dots for eyes.

P.S. This Sunday evening, we take our Advent journey to the front lawn of the church at 6:00 p.m. to stand with our neighbors as we remember the five people targeted and murdered at Club Q in Colorado Springs. Join us as we continue to work to create safe spaces for EVERYONE to be their truest selves.