



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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Prelude</b>	“Echo Noel” D’Aquin	Kyle Webber
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Brian Semivan
<b>Opening Hymn #220</b>	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b>		Semivan Family
<b>Response #204**</b>	“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”	
<b>Mission Moment</b>	Methodist Children’s Home	Carrie Ann Piechocki
<b>Anthem</b>	“Rise Up, Shepherd” arr. Brenda E. Austin	Carillon Ringers
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		Brian Semivan
<b>Offering Our Tithes and Gifts</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” arr. Larson	Sanctus Choir
<b>Doxology #95**</b>	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
<b>Scripture*</b>	Luke 1:39-45	
<b>Message</b>	“Christmas Wish List: Joy”	Josh Wright
<b>Closing Hymn #224**</b>	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” arr. Daniel Gawthrop	

*\*New International Version*

*\*\*United Methodist Hymnal*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NEW YEAR SANDWICH/LUNCH ASSEMBLY FROM HOME

Would you like to start the New Year in service? We've designed an opportunity for many households to sponsor another NOAH Project lunch together. You can sign up to make 30 sandwiches or 30 lunches at your home to be delivered to church on Sunday, January 8. Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) for more information and to sign up!



SCAN ME



## CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF—FACEBOOK LIVE

Join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live for the next two Sunday evenings (December 11 and 18) at 7:30 p.m. for a reading of a story that will get you in the spirit of the season.



## GIFT WRAPPING EVENT AT METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME & SOCIETY (MCHS)

Maureen Martin is coordinating a group of volunteers to wrap Christmas gifts at the Methodist Children's Home & Society on Monday, December 12 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. With 32 boys currently living at MCHS, volunteers to wrap are very appreciated and needed. Scan QR code to sign up.



SCAN ME



## COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Join us for a community carol sing on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERTS

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 for the next two Wednesdays. December 14 (Liz Wright, vocalist), and December 21 (Erica Plesco, vocalist and Jason Sherman, guitarist). Concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and will lift your spirit with the music of the season.



## “A FEAST OF CAROLS” CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m. join us live and in person for this year’s “A 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.

## 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.

## ONLY ONE SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1

Remember, there is only one worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25 and on Sunday, January 1. There will be no Sunday School on those days. We will return to our normal service times of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 8.



Sunday, December 25  
& Sunday, January 1

Only one service at 10:00 a.m.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CRAFTING A RULE OF LIFE RETREAT

Led by Rev. Cora Glass and Rev. Jeff Nelson and held January 30-February 1 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center, this 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. Scan the QR code to register or for more details.



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## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

**4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream:** Children’s Christmas Pageant - a service for children and families. The children of Royal Oak First will present the story of the first Christmas. Music will be provided by our Children’s Choirs. **7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream:** “Blue Jean Christmas” - a modern worship experience. Come as you are and worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will have a service of candlelight and our Youth Band and Youth Choir will perform. The nursery will be open for this service only. **9:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream:** Traditional Christmas Eve worship service featuring Sanctus Choir, organ, piano and a brass quintet. A service of candlelight will conclude our worship. **11:00 p.m. – Outside:** Join us outside on our front lawn for a simple, yet Holy worship experience in the dark of night as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A service of candlelight will be included.

## Royal Oak First Swag Store

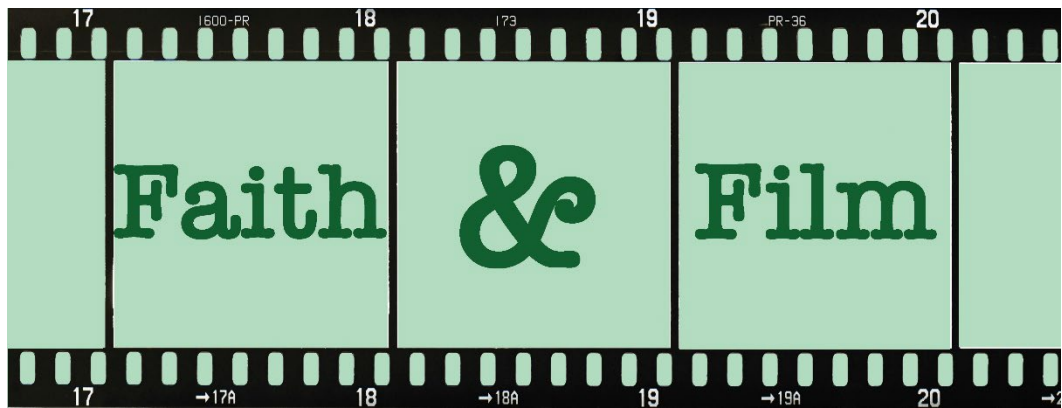


## CHURCH SWAG IS HERE!

Looking for some awesome Christmas gifts? Wanna tell everyone that your church is the coolest one around? We have t-shirts (short sleeve and long sleeve), sweatshirts, hats and even a t-shirt for your doggie (you could try putting it on your cat, but we wouldn’t recommend that!). Scan QR code or visit [www.rofum.org](http://www.rofum.org) to order.



SCAN ME



## FAITH & FILM 2023

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](mailto:office@rofum.org). The theater we will be in is reserved just for Royal Oak First.

### **Monday, January 9—"I Wanna Dance With Somebody"**

Discovered by record executive Clive Davis, Whitney Houston rises from obscurity to international fame in the 1980s to become one of the greatest singers of her generation. A joyous, emotional, heartbreaking celebration of the life and music of Whitney Houston, one of the greatest female R&B pop vocalists of all time, tracking her journey from obscurity to musical superstardom.

### **Monday, January 16—"Puss & Boots: The Last Wish"**

Puss in Boots discovers that his passion for adventure has taken its toll: he has burnt through eight of his nine lives. Puss sets out on an epic journey to find the mythical Last Wish and restore his nine lives. Kids get in free for this movie!

### **Monday, January 23—"A Man Called Otto"**

Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.



# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Karla Ringeisen • Polly Tan • Tom Soboleski • Al Knappenberger •  
Karen Porter • Pat Callahan • Barb Simmons • Corey Haines •  
Jim Shumaker • Sheryl Hunter • Natalia Tovarez • Jen Irish-Minewiser •  
Mary Nahhat • Diane Sexton • Faye Bond • 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 • Sue Sugden •  
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 •

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

### **Sympathies to:**

The family and friends of Mark Lowman on his death, December 2, 2022

The Haines Family on the death of Heather Haines' father, John R. Schniers on December 2, 2022

The Mikell Family on the death of Christie Mikell's grandfather, John Aoun on December 1, 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,

It is Pink Candle Sunday.

Along the four week journey of Advent, we light a candle each Sunday to mark our way to the gift of the coming Christ.

Three of those candles are purple. The purple is meant to call us to reflection and introspection. Advent is a time to ask God to search our hearts and help clear away any of the attitudes and distractions that keep us from more fully knowing the love and peace of Christ.

But on the third Sunday, we light a pink candle. What's that all about?

Pink Candle Sunday is all about joy.

This Sunday is a welcome pause in the midst of all the preparations with an invitation to simply enjoy the moment, to relax, to breathe, and to have some fun.

That is why I love to wear a fun Christmas sweater this week and that is why I invite you to find one and wear it this week as well. It's just fun and while the coming of Christ is pretty serious stuff, it also comes with a lot of joy.

"Joy to the World!" is the song we sing and Pink Candle Sunday reminds us why!

I am grateful for Josh Wright who will be bringing us the message this week.

Grace and Peace (and Joy!),

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.