Sunday, December 18, 2022 11:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	"He Is Born" arr. Mary McDonald	Kyle Webber
Call to Worship		Mike McNutt
Opening Hymn #245	"The First Noel"	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
Advent Candle Lighting		Porter Family
Response #204**	"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"	
Song	"The People that Walked in Darkness"	Jason Storms
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Tithes and Gifts		
Musical Offering	"And the Glory of the Lord" G.F. Handel	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95**	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"	
Scripture*	Matthew 1:18-25	
Message	**"**Christmas Wish List: Love"	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #240**	"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"	
Benediction		
Postlude	"O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Mary McDonald	

**New International Version*
***United Methodist Hymnal*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YEAR SANDWICH/LUNCH ASSEMBLY FROM HOME

SCAN ME

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 for more information and to sign up!

JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON FOR "A FEAST OF CAROLS" CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us today, Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m. 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.

LAST CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF IS TONIGHT!

Join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live tonight, Sunday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. for a reading of a story that will get you in the spirit of the season.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERT

Join us on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page for live mini-concerts featuring musicians from Royal Oak First. Our final concert will be presented at Noon on Wednesday, 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.

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. Our normal office hours are Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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.

SCAN ME

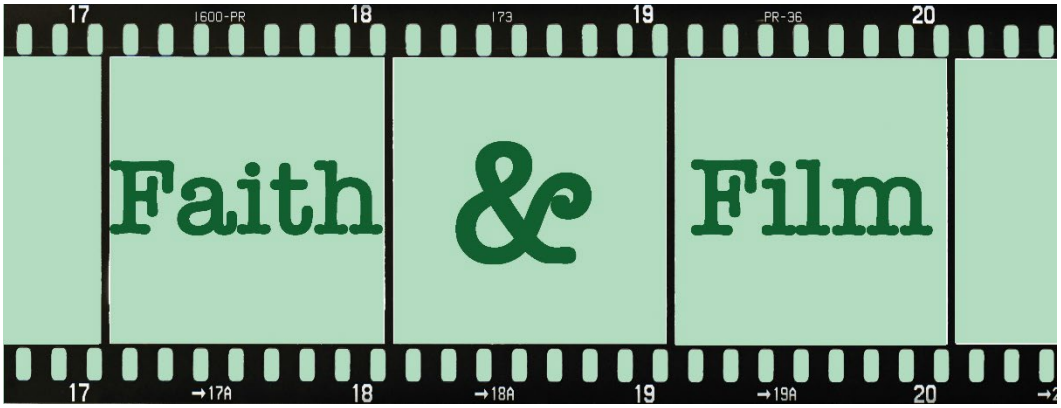
CHURCH SWAG IS HERE!

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 to order.

SCAN ME

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!

We are in need of: soups, canned pastas, fruit cups, cans or pouches of tuna or chicken breast, macaroni and cheese, dry pastas and sauce. Any items with easy open or pop top cans make it much easier for those using our Little Pantry. Drop off on Sundays after services or Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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. 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 in 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:

Sheryl Hunter • Al Knappenberger • David Murray • Karla Ringeisen • Pat Callahan • Polly Tan • Tom Soboleski • Karen Porter • Barb Simmons • Corey Haines • Jim Shumaker • 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:

Betty Goodrich • Margaret O'Donnell • Effie Lambros • Mary Lou Howard • Peter Edward • Rick Hocking • Linda A. • Scott Morrell • Sharon Pillow • Rachel Timm • Linda Swanson • Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Tara Bouck • Joe • Mike Pilon • Larry Campbell • Phillip Makinen • Carl Gunnels • Joan Firestone • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller • James • Edwin Gillette • Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette • Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Kelly • Steve Wurdock • Harold Baker • Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden

Prayers for All That Have Been Impacted by COVID-19

Sympathies to:

The family and friends of Kathy Kantarian on her death, December 10, 2022

Betty Latimer on the death of her brother in law, Clarence Ruppel on December 8, 2022

Betty Latimer on the death of her nephew, Doug Ruppel on October 20, 2022

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

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Here it is - the last week of Advent!

When we set out on the journey four weeks ago, it seemed like Christmas was still so far away. But here we are, just one week away, and I for one am ready!

Advent comes as the days around us get darker. In fact, this Wednesday will be the Winter Solstice, literally the longest night of the year. And that is the power of Christmas, that just when it seems like the darkness will overtake us, little by little in the days that follow, there will be just a little more light. That is how this whole faith thing works - it is trusting that if we wait eventually, over time, the light of Christ will outshine even on our darkest days.

Christmas is almost here!

So let me close this note with an invitation to join us for the remainder of our Advent and Christmas season.

This Sunday, at 3:00 p.m., is our annual “A Feast of Carols”, our big Christmas concert sponsored by the Music Guild where all proceeds will go to support our summer Choir Camp.

This Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. is our Longest Night Service, a service of hope and healing in the midst of the darkest day.

On Christmas Eve, we will have services at 4:00 p.m. featuring our Children's Pageant, at 7:00 p.m. featuring our Praise Band, at 9:00 p.m. featuring our Sanctus Choir and 11:00 p.m. on our front lawn as we will shine the light of Christ for all to see.

This year both Christmas Day and New Year’s Day fall on Sundays, so we will be offering only one worship service at 10:00 a.m. on both of those days.

I hope you plan to join us as we begin our walk back into the light and love of Christ - of God with us!

Grace and Peace,