



BACK TO BASICS

Sunday, February 5, 2023 9:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	“Praise to the Lord the Almighty” arr. Jeff Bennett	Kyle Webber
Song	“Today is the Day”	
Song	“Live Like That”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
Compass Team Commissioning		
Time of Prayer		Bob Prud’homme
Offering Our Tithes and Gifts		
Musical Offering	“Every Mile Mattered” Nicole Nordeman	Jenni Clark
Doxology	“Give Thanks”	
Scripture*	Matthew 5:1-12	
Message	“Good Grief”	Jeff Nelson
Testimony on Grief		Tami Hollingsworth-Dowd
Sacrament of Holy Communion		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
Song	“The Blessing”	
Benediction		
Sending Music	“The Blessing” (Reprise)	House Band

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FISH DINNERS ARE COMING SOON AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Fridays, Feb. 24, March 10 & March 24, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Our famous fish dinners are back, so bring your family and friends and join us for three wonderful nights of food and fellowship. Our fish dinners benefit our children and youth. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS, so please scan the QR code to sign up. Kids that volunteer get credit towards camp!** If you have questions, please contact Danielle Moody at dmoody@rofum.org.



JOIN OUR CHOIR CAMP STAFF!

We are going back to Camp Ohiyesa in Holly! It is time to start thinking about campfires, Olympics, swimming, and all the fun we have! Camp will be the week of July 16-22 and we need volunteers! **Camp staff applications are available in the church office and at the Connections Table. Please turn in by February 28.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at 248.703.8805 or email her at jtripoli@rofum.org.



SHARE THE LOVE— VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Help us share the love in February to celebrate Valentine's Day! We need people to:

- Pick up labels to mail Valentine's Day cards
- Bake cookies
- Assemble goodie bags
- Deliver goodie bags to church members

On Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m., we hope to make and deliver 100 bags of treats and cards. Scan the QR code or visit the Connections Table after service to sign up.

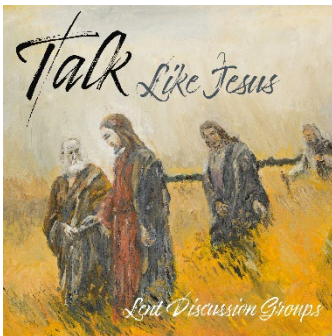


ANNOUNCEMENTS



FEBRUARY FILL-A-BAG ESSENTIALS PANTRY COLLECTION

Outreach on 7th is gearing up to open an Essentials Pantry. This will be a place for families to have access to household cleaning and personal hygiene items that are not covered under other assistance programs. Our February collection will stock this Essentials Pantry so it will be ready to open around Easter. Please fill a bag with any of these items and bring them to church in February: **all-purpose spray cleaner, dish soap, wipes, sponges, paper towel, hand soap, shampoo/body wash, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant.** Thank you for helping us to expand our support programs!



SIGN UP FOR "TALK LIKE JESUS" LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS!

We are comfortable talking *about* Jesus. What's interesting though is that all our *Jesus talk* seldom sounds like Jesus. **What if we talked less *about* Jesus and more *like* Jesus?** During Lent we will take a closer look at 5 different gospel stories – 1 per week – focusing on how Jesus engaged with the key characters. In our discussion groups we'll examine the theme of that week's gospel story and apply to our own lives Jesus' approach of going under the surface to get at the "heart of the matter". We are offering one virtual Zoom option for those who are unable to meet in-person. **Scan the QR code to register for a discussion group!**

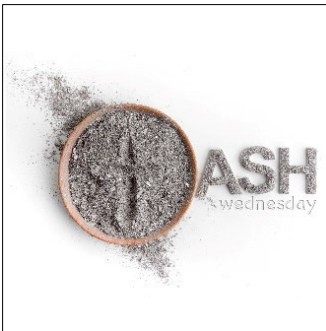


ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO BUY PRODUCE

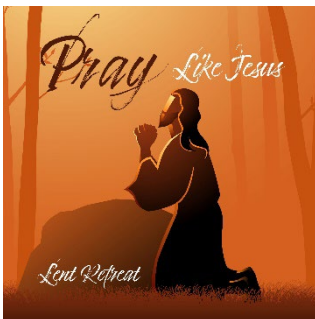
Royal Oak First provides and delivers fresh produce to Redford Brightmoor Initiative's (RBI) Free Store Shoppers every month. **We still need more volunteer shoppers for February and March.** Shoppers buy enough produce to make 15 plastic bags of assorted produce. Scan QR code or visit www.rofum.org to sign up.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Drive Thru Ashes on Lafayette! Come by the church on the Lafayette Street side of the church to receive the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion right in your car! Our pastors will be available for a special blessing from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. Held both in-person in the Sanctuary and online, Ash Wednesday worship will feature music from the Taize Community, Imposition of Ashes, and Holy Communion.



LENT RETREAT – “PRAY LIKE JESUS”

On Friday, March 3 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 4 from 9:30 a.m.-noon, join Pastor Jeff as we learn to pray like Jesus using the prayer that he taught us; The Lord's Prayer. There will be time for silence, reflection and discussion on the prayer that is beloved by so many Christians. This is an experience that you won't want to miss and you'll be thankful you came. Scan QR code or visit www.rofum.org to sign up.



EUCHRE NIGHT

BENEFITTING OUTREACH ON 7TH

Join us on Friday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Oak Tap House for a fun night of euchre, fellowship with friends, and fundraising for a good cause!

Admission is \$25 at the door and will include light appetizers and soft drinks. You are welcome to purchase additional food and drink, to your liking. You are encouraged to invite your card loving friends.

All proceeds will support the Outreach on 7th Lunch Program and Essentials Pantry.

For planning purposes, we appreciate your RSVP by scanning the QR code or by visiting www.rofum.org.



SCAN ME



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Ann Cline • David Salvette • Kathy Sestok • Kim Abela-Godfrey • Lisa Rye • Tom Soboleski • Art Miller • Kathi Burger • Woody Siddall • Al Knappenberger • Betty Goodrich • Pat Callahan • Polly Tan • Lee Hoffmann • Karen Porter • Jim Shumaker • Jen Irish-Minewiser • Sheryl Hunter • Mary Nahhat • Diane Sexton • Donna Allen • Ann Anderson • Mary Lou Graeber • Audrey Leenhouts • Charlene Faunt • Marian Kremer •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Patty Glass • Jim Castellani • Suzanne Ortiz • Mary McKinnon • Dolores Mason • Victor Burguess • Laurie Sessions • Margaret O'Donnell • Mary Lou Howard • Rick Hocking • Scott Morrell • Sharon Pillow • Rachel Timm • Linda Swanson • Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Mike Pilon • Larry Campbell • Phillip Makinen • Carl Gunnels • Joan Firestone • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller • James • 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 Gibson family on the death of Diane's mother, Sharon Muoio on January 11, 2023

*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,

One of the failings of religion in our time and culture is that it has not given us much language for the hard emotions; feelings like sadness, anger, grief, disappointment, and even rage. We have faith almost exclusively on faith as a way to express gratitude, happiness, hope and peace. And while the exuberant and praise aspects of our faith are integral, they need not be to the exclusion of the full range of emotions, including the hard ones.

In fact, our sacred texts are full of what scholars call “the language of lament.” Many of the Psalms are full of the language of sorrow and grief. Many express anger and some even dare to complain directly to God for not doing a great job of being God. We have an entire book of sorrows called Lamentation (of which I have never preached or heard preached from). Even though our sacred texts give us full license to handle these hard feelings, the community of faith has often struggled to express these full emotions in our worship and life together.

However, we miss something significant when we leave the language of lament out of our worship and community life. In his book *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller addresses this in a way that I found profoundly helpful. He says:

“We think laments are disrespectful. God says the opposite. Lamenting shows you are engaged with God in a vibrant, living faith. We live in a deeply broken world. If the pieces of our world aren’t breaking your heart and you aren’t in God’s face about them, then...you’ve thrown in the towel.”

The release of the police video of the murder of Tyre Nichols has shaken me. I am angry. I am sad. I am confused. I feel so powerless. I ask myself, where is God in a world that seems so bent towards violence.

Is there a way to give voice to the grief and lament we feel both personally and as a community? Jesus comes along and says, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” This Sunday, we will see what kind of wisdom Jesus is pointing us towards.

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 a wide, open mouth and two dots for eyes.

Pastor Jeff Nelson