



Sunday, March 26, 2023 11:00AM  
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Prelude</b>	“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” arr. Dale Wood	Kyle Webber
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Susanna Webber
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	“Come and Fill Our Hearts”	
<b>Affirmation of Faith</b>		
<b>Response #70*</b>	“Glory Be to the Father”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
<b>Earthquake Relief Announcement</b>		Karla Goetz
<b>Mission Moment</b>	Noisy Bucket	
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Offering Our Tithes and Gifts</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Et In Terra Pax” Mary Lynn Lightfoot	Sanctus Choir
<b>Doxology #95*</b>	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
<b>Scripture**</b>	John 11:1-45	
<b>Poem</b>	“Hymn to God, My God, in My Sickness” by John Donne	Jason Storms
<b>Message</b>	“If You Had Been There”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	“Bless the Lord My Soul”	
<b>Prayer</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	“Jesus, Lover of My Soul” arr. Joseph Parry	

*\*United Methodist Hymnal*

*\*\*The Message*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ESSENTIALS PANTRY GRAND OPENING

**Saturday, April 1 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.**

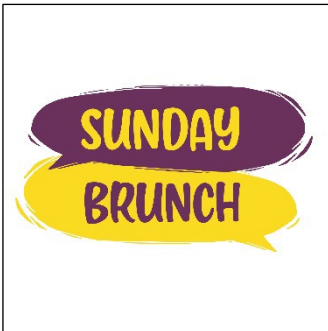
Our Essentials Pantry will provide individuals and families access to some basic household items that cannot be purchased using government assistance programs such as: dish and laundry soap, all-purpose spray cleaners, toilet paper, paper towels, along with personal hygiene products. We will need **VOLUNTEERS** for the pantry at the grand opening and then the first Saturday of each month. Please contact Mike Monte at 248.541.4100 or [mmonte@rofum.org](mailto:mmonte@rofum.org).



## PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

**Sunday, April 2, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Join us in-person or online as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will be led by our House Band and our children will participate in a Palm Parade.



## PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

**Sunday, April 2, after 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services**

The Abide Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a Sunday Brunch after both services on Palm Sunday. There is no cost for the brunch and reservations are not necessary.



## EGG MY HOUSE

Let your kids wake up to a yard full of candy and toy filled eggs on Easter morning! Twenty four (24) eggs are \$25 or forty eight (48) eggs are \$50. All proceeds go to the Youth Mission Trip. To place an order by Sunday, April 2, scan the QR code.

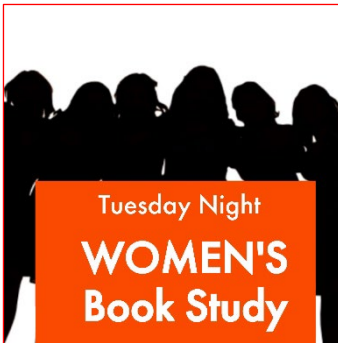


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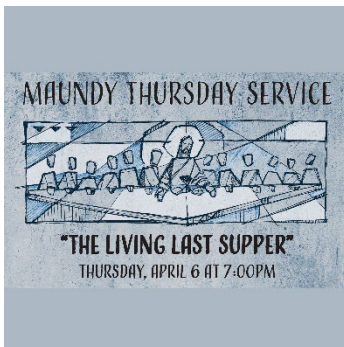
## EASTER EGG FILLERS COLLECTION

The youth are collecting donations of individually wrapped pieces of candy, toys/trinkets, and plastic eggs for their annual 'Egg My House' fundraiser. Donations are being accepted through Sunday, April 2. A collection bin will be set up at the Connections Table on Sunday mornings.



## TUESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Royal Oak First Tuesday Night Women's Book Study gathers informally each week to discuss a few chapters of the current book selection. We explore meaningful questions of life and faith and connect with each other in lively conversation. We are not serious scholars, but we are serious about fostering a deeper relationship with God and with each other. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 in the Youth Room, to begin "The Gifts of Imperfection" by Brene Brown. This book "...shows you how to embrace your inner flaws to accept who you are instead of constantly chasing the image of who you're trying to be because other people expect you to act in certain ways." Any questions, email Pam Belecki at [pbelecki@wowway.com](mailto:pbelecki@wowway.com).



## MAUNDY THURSDAY— "THE LIVING LAST SUPPER"

**Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m. -- IN PERSON & ONLINE**

Leonardo da Vinci's Renaissance masterpiece "The Last Supper" is brought to life in this remarkable work created by Ruth Elaine Schramm through character monologues, expressive melodies, and dramatic enhancements for an unforgettable communion celebration. Musicians featured will be our Sanctus Choir and Orchestra.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 7, 12:00 p.m.

Join us in-person or online for an impactful Good Friday worship service remembering Jesus' final day. This is a service of deep reflection.



## 7 LAST WORDS POETRY/MUSIC SLAM

Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m. -- IN PERSON & ONLINE

Don't miss this live event where poets and musicians muse on Christ's last words. Unique, poignant, and compelling, the 7 Last Words Poetry/Music Slam offers insights into Christ's humanity and divinity in his final moments.



## EARTHQUAKE SUPPORT DAY OF SERVICE

Please join us on Saturday, April 15, 8:45-11:30 a.m., to help fill a shipping container with medical supplies to be sent to Turkey. As part of Royal Oak First's response to the tragic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, we have been asked to lend our hands to help these World Medical Relief aid shipments leave their Southfield warehouse in a speedy fashion. We are hoping for 20 volunteers; teens are welcome too. Scan QR code to sign up.



## FREEDOM DREAMERS

Royal Oak First is cordially invited to a Freedom Dreamers ministry for Returning Citizens luncheon and worship event on Saturday, April 8 from Noon-2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Pastor David Mayer will be hosting. Come hear a story of redemption by Thomas White (pictured) and learn more about Freedom Dreamers. Music during worship will include liturgical dance by Juliet Peck. Please RSVP to davidmayer1512@gmail.com for the food count. Fiesta Chicken is on the menu! An information flyer is available at the Connections Table that you can share with friends who may be interested.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

**Sunday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Join us in-person or online for a morning of worship and celebration featuring a brass quintet and Sanctus Choir. This is a morning celebration not to be missed!



## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE KICK-OFF

Ever felt powerless and hopeless following a national or community tragedy? The Social Action Committee at Royal Oak First (The Justice League) is a place for you to begin political engagement/advocacy and will serve as a resource for the church's social justice community outreach efforts. Please join us for our kick-off event on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Oak Taphouse. Please contact Christie Mikell with any questions ([christie.mikell@gmail.com](mailto:christie.mikell@gmail.com) or 734.347.4006).



## SECOND HALF SAGES

Join us on Sunday, April 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor to gauge interest in forming a group of men and women aged 50+ from the church getting together throughout the year for fun social gatherings such as: dining out, movies, plays, book discussions, and sporting, cultural or music events. A light lunch will be served as we get your input and ideas for this group. Questions, please contact either Joyce Hollingsworth (312.330.7632 or [jhollingsworth@rofum.org](mailto:jhollingsworth@rofum.org)) or Lee Trumbull (248.541.4100 or [ltrumbull@rofum.org](mailto:ltrumbull@rofum.org)).



## DIAPERS AND TOILET PAPER COLLECTION

Through the remainder of Lent we will be collecting both Diapers and Toilet Paper. Diapers will be donated to RBI and MCHS Family of Services. There is greatest need for diapers size 4 and larger. Toilet paper will be donated to Outreach on 7th and RBI.



# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Gloria Knappenberger • Oscar Updyke • Jordan Altman • Kathy Sestok • Heather Diamond • Sue Genschoreck • Ann Cline • Michelle Prud'homme • Marian Kremer • Kim Abela-Godfrey • Jane Sledd • Sheryl Hunter • Lisa Rye • Mike Long • Al Knappenberger • David Salvette • Kathi Burger • Tom Soboleski • Art Miller • Woody Siddall • Betty Goodrich • Polly Tan • Lee Hoffmann • Karen Porter • Jim Shumaker • Mary Nahhat • Jen Irish-Minewiser • Diane Sexton • Donna Allen • Ann Anderson • Mary Lou Graeber • Audrey Leenhouts • Charlene Faunt •

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

Mary Lou Howard • Tom Thatcher • Allison and Bill Hempstead • Larry Mead • Tom Hill • Judy Gorney • Bob Blonde • Patty Glass • Jim Castellani • Suzanne Ortiz • Mary McKinnon • Dolores Mason • Victor Burgess • Margaret O'Donnell • Rick Hocking • Scott Morrell • Sharon Pillow • Rachel Timm • Linda Swanson • Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Mike Pilon • Larry Campbell • Phillip Makinen • Joan Firestone • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • James • Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette • Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Kelly • Steve Wurdock • Harold Baker • Darryl Warren • Sue Sugden •

*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,

My neighbor and fellow church member Sue Schuldeis sent me this picture the other day. It was the first crocus of the season. Sue and I share a love of crocuses. They are one of the first signs of Spring.

The crocus is a brave little flower. Unlike the rose who waits until June when winter is safely in the rearview mirror, the crocus pushes its way through the hard and frostbitten ground to remind us that change is coming. The crocus reminds us that winter doesn't last forever.

I want to be more crocus minded. Wrongs don't work themselves out; injustices, inequities and hurts don't just dissolve. This tough little flower reminds me that somebody has to stick their neck out. Somebody has to care enough to think through and work through the hard ground. Somebody has to believe that a change of season is coming.

Easter is a lot of things. One of the things it is for sure is God's reminder that a season of discouragement and disappointment do not last forever. In the resurrection of Jesus we are reminded that God will initiate a new season of hope and renewal.

So be on the lookout for the crocus. Easter is coming!

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff Nelson

