



**Sunday, April 23, 2023**  
**11:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Prelude</b>	“Now Thank We All Our God” arr. Charity Book Putnam	Rachel Morin
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Kathi Burger
<b>Opening Hymn #318*</b>	“Christ Is Alive”	
<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>Mission Moment</b>	Noisy Bucket	Leonard Benyas
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Offering Our Tithes and Gifts</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Now the Green Blade Riseth” arr. John Carter	Sanctus Choir
<b>Doxology #95*</b>	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
<b>Scripture***</b>	Luke 24:13-35	
<b>Message</b>	“You Never Walk Alone”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Closing Hymn #2158**</b>	“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	“Scherzo No. 4 in E Major Op. 54” Frederic Chopin	

*\*United Methodist Hymnal*

*\*\*The Faith We Sing*

*\*\*\*Common English Bible*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## HANDS WITH DETROIT

Hands with Detroit is returning to the Cass Community Social Service Neighborhood on Saturday, April 29. This event, sponsored by the Greater Detroit District United Methodist Church, provides the opportunity to join hands with our United Methodist neighbors and make a difference in our community.

**Join us between services TODAY to help assemble meal packs** to be donated to Cass Community Social Services. **Additionally, all (ages 10+) are welcome to sign up to volunteer on-site on Saturday, April 29, from either 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Opportunities include kitchen prep, yard clean-up, document shredding, and light maintenance projects. Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up.



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## BIG BOY NIGHT

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 25, from 4:00-8:00 p.m.** for Big Boy Night. This is a fundraiser sponsored by Royal Oak First's Music Guild. The restaurant is giving us 15% of all sales which will support our summer choir camp. Also, when one adult meal is purchased, one kid (12 and under) eats free! And, every 30 minutes we will be raffling off lots of wonderful items donated by our members. Come on out and meet your church friends for a tasty dinner, maybe win a prize or two and support our youth ministry. The Big Boy is at 30460 John R, between 12 and 13 Mile, in Madison Heights.



## YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING

Young adults from Royal Oak First will be meeting up on **Friday, April 28 for dinner at 8:00 p.m.** If you would like more information, let Pastor Bridget know at 248.541.4100 or [bnelson@rofum.org](mailto:bnelson@rofum.org).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CONFIRMATION WORSHIP ON APRIL 30

We are excited to have ten of our youth being Confirmed this year. This group has spent time together in monthly gatherings learning about God, their faith, their church and themselves. **On April 30, the 11:00 a.m. service will be a service of Confirmation.** All are welcome! We just wanted to give notice that it will not feel entirely like a usual 11:00 a.m. service. Come join us and celebrate this milestone moment in the lives of these young people.

## Cinco de Mayo Carry-Out Tacos



## CINCO DE MAYO CARRY-OUT TACOS—FRIDAY, MAY 5, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

This is a fundraiser sponsored by Royal Oak First's Music Guild and all funds from this event will benefit our summer choir camp. **You can pre-order some carry-out Street Tacos in celebration of Cinco de Mayo!** Each meal is \$15 and includes 3 tacos in flour shells, chips, salsa, guacamole, and sour cream. Options include: Seasoned Ground Beef topped with lettuce and a Mexican blend cheese; Pulled Pork topped with Asian slaw and cilantro; or Shredded Chicken Salsa Verde topped with pickled red onion and Queso fresco. Scan the QR code to place your order and reserve your pick-up time.



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## Cinco de Mayo Carry-Out Tacos



## CINCO DE MAYO CARRY-OUT TACOS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**We need kitchen prep help, runners and dishwashers on Friday, May 5 from 2:00-7:00 p.m.** This is a fundraiser sponsored by Royal Oak First's Music Guild and all funds from this event will benefit our summer choir camp. Scan the QR code to pick a spot to volunteer!



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WORSHIP ROUNDTABLE—MAY 6

On **Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m.**, we will be hosting a **“Worship Roundtable”**, which will give our church members an opportunity to hear what's going on in the life of worship, while also providing the opportunity for attendees to give feedback on what they've liked, what they'd like to see, and any feedback they may have. Please reach out to Erica Plesco, our Assistant Worship and Arts Director at [eplesco@rofum.org](mailto:eplesco@rofum.org) with any questions. Scan the QR code to RSVP.



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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 19-22, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Vacation Bible School “Food Truck Party” is a fun week-long program where children (for kids finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and younger) will learn important lessons about God’s ability to provide, and because God loves and cares for us, we, in turn, can love and care for the rest of the world. Kids will participate in hands-on activities to help these lessons come to life. Any questions, please contact our Sunday School Coordinator, Christine Ryckman, at [cryckman@rofum.org](mailto:cryckman@rofum.org). Scan the QR code to register your child today!

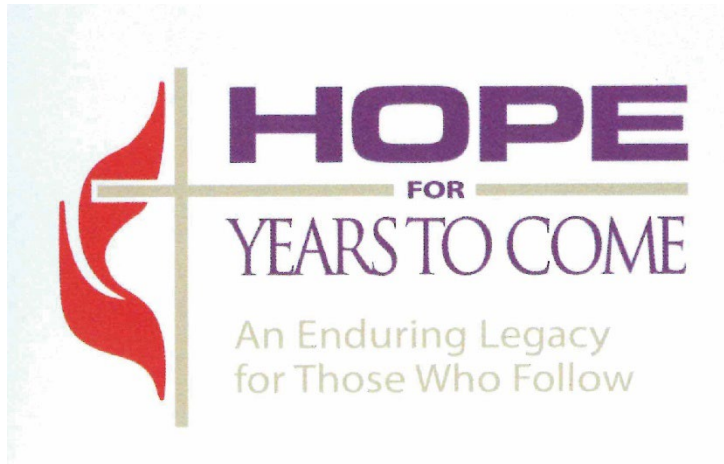


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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ESSENTIALS PANTRY

The **first Saturday of the month, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.** the **Essentials Pantry is open.** We need **volunteers** to gather from our supply inventory and hand out these supplies to those in need. If you are able to volunteer, please reach out to Mike Monte at 248.541.4100 or [mmonte@rofum.org](mailto:mmonte@rofum.org).



## **DID YOU KNOW THAT ROYAL OAK FIRST HAS AN ENDOWMENT FUND?**

One of the unique resources that Royal Oak First has created through generous gifts of its church family is an Endowment Fund. This fund is outside the normal church operating budget and provides security against significant financial challenges. The fund may also be used for important projects with long term impact. For example, it made possible the Royal Oak First Rebirth building renovation we are enjoying today.

There is a small but dedicated team led by Sue Buxton committed to ensuring the fund's viability for years to come – and to reminding you of the fund's existence! If after prayerful consideration you would like to donate to the fund, consider it in your estate planning, or have any other questions, please contact Sue Buxton at [sbbuxton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbbuxton@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.rofum.org/endorowment](http://www.rofum.org/endorowment).

If you would like to donate today, please scan the QR code.



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# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Ron Peludat • Neil Franks • Dave Minch • Tom Roth • Neal Harris •  
Lee Ross • Kathy Siedler • Lance Perry II • Sue Genschoreck • Phil Button •  
Bill and Faye Bond • Kathi Burger • Gloria and Al Knappenberger •  
Jordan Altman • Kathy Sestok • Michelle Prud'homme • Mike Long •  
Marian Kremer • Sheryl Hunter • Ann Cline • Lisa Rye • Tom Soboleski •  
Art Miller • Betty Goodrich • Polly Tan • Karen Porter • Jim Shumaker •  
Mary Nahhat • Diane Sexton • Donna Allen • Ann Anderson •  
Audrey Leenhouts • Charlene Faunt •

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

Desire Anne • Penny Showers • Matthew Armour • Connie and Ken Warner •  
Jonthan Larson • John Monte • Mary Lou Howard • Tom Thatcher •  
Allison and Bill Hempstead • Larry Mead • Tom Hill • Judy Gorney •  
Bob Blonde • Patty Glass • Mary McKinnon • Dolores Mason •  
Victor Burguess • Margaret O'Donnell • Rick Hocking • Scott Morrell •  
Sharon Pillow • Rachel Timm • Linda Swanson • Harold Baker •  
Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Mike Pilon • Larry Campbell • Phillip Makinen •  
Joan Firestone • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller • James •  
Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette • Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Kelly • Steve Wurdock •

## **Sympathies to:**

The Young family on the death of Joyce Callahan

Mary Lou Graeber on the death of her sister, Sue Sugden on April 16, 2023

Julia Westenberg on the death of her grandma, Helen Westenberg on March 15,  
2023

*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,

What is life after Easter all about? How do we live into the new life the resurrection promises?

The scriptures tell the stories of life after Easter and in my reading and meditations upon these stories it has made two things clear:

1. God is at work bringing new life in people and dead places.
2. And God's work is slow (and that is exactly how it is supposed to be).

My realization lead me to Google the phrase “the slow work of God,” thinking perhaps I had an original thought, only to find this wonderful poem written by a Jesuit priest over a century earlier.

I guess I was just slow in discovering (see what I did there!).

So as we love into this Easter life together, I simply offer this poem to you:

## **Trust in the Slow Work of God**

Above all, trust in the slow work of God  
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.  
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.  
And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability-  
and that it may take a very long time.  
And so I think it is with you;  
your ideas mature gradually – let them grow,  
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.  
Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.  
Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.  
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ (1881-1955)

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Jeff" with a simple smiley face drawn below the name.

Pastor Jeff Nelson