



**ROYAL OAK**  
**FIRST**  
A United Methodist Church

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**  
**9:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>	“Faith” by Jim Brickman	Kyle Webber
<b>Song</b>	“Goodness of God”	House Band
<b>Song</b>	“Come As You Are”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Kyle Webber & Jeff Nelson
<b>Mission Moment</b>	Metro Detroit Youth Club	Jay Dunstan & Brett Tillander
<b>Moment of Spiritual Direction</b>		Nicole Wilson
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Offering Our Gifts and Tithes</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Oh Lord You’re Beautiful”	Chris Mikell
<b>Doxology</b>	“Give Thanks”	
<b>Scripture</b>	Luke 17:11-19	
<b>Message</b>	“Grateful Heart”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Song</b>	“This is Our God”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Departing Music</b>	“This is Our God”	

# ADVENT 2023

## MISSION PROJECT



***Support our Advent 2023 Mission Project which supports the Metro Detroit Youth Club in Royal Oak. There are two ways to give:***

### **DONATE ITEMS...**

Pick out one or two tags from our "giving tree" on the Connections Table in the gathering space. Shop for those items and return them to the church by December 12. These gifts will support the Metro Detroit Youth Club Adopt-a-Family program and will make holiday gifts possible for local families who are struggling financially this year. If you are feeling especially generous, reach out to Karla at [missions@rofum.org](mailto:missions@rofum.org) and you can adopt a whole family of children by purchasing two gifts and stocking stuffers for each child in the family. Families range in size, so you can request the size of family you are able to support, 1-6 children.

### **DONATE MONEY...**

We are holding a special collection this winter to fund the transportation program at Metro Detroit Youth Club (MDYC). The transportation program busses students from area public schools to the club for their after-school program where students are supervised while playing games, receiving tutoring and homework help, and building friendships. Without this transportation, most families would not be able to participate in what the club has to offer. For those who don't have the time to shop but still want to support the work the MDYC does to help local families in need, this is a fantastic option for giving. Scan this QR code to donate.



**ADVENT IS COMING!**  
More details to follow



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS!

Even though Veteran's Day was on Saturday, we still wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for their service to our country. Your bravery, sacrifice, and strength do not go unnoticed, and we will always be indebted to you and your family for all that you have given to our country.



## SERVICE FOR OTHERS ON SUNDAY

Please plan to participate on Sunday, November 19, at 10:15 a.m. between services in the Parlor, while we join in Service for Others. We will be crafting turkey napkin rings as decorations for Outreach on 7th's Thanksgiving Dinner that will be served to our Lunch Program guests on Thanksgiving Day.

A form titled "2024 PLEDGE CARD" with the subtitle "CHOOSE TODAY! DOING GOD'S MINISTRY TOGETHER". Below the subtitle is the text "2024 Operating Pledge (choose one)". There are three lines for entering donation amounts: "Weekly Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_", "Monthly Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_", and "Yearly Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_". Below these are two checkboxes: " I We pledge an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week/month to our Caring & Reprising Fund for unforeseen circumstances." and " I We would like help setting up recurring online giving." Below the checkboxes is a note: "Online donations using credit, debit or bank accounts may be made through our website at [www.refum.org/giving](http://www.refum.org/giving)". At the bottom, there are fields for "Full Name", "Address", "City", "State", "Zip", "Email", and "Phone".

## 2024 PLEDGE CARD

If you have turned in your pledge card, we thank you, and if not, there is still time to do so. **You can get a card at the Connections Table or in the office. Your estimate of giving is a vital part of our budget planning as it helps us determine the resources available for our programs, projects and ministries for the upcoming year.** Please prayerfully consider how you can help support the ministries here in our church.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2023 Church Conference

Sunday, November 26 at 3pm  
via Zoom and In-Person

## 2023 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Please mark **Sunday, November 26 at 3:00 p.m. on your calendar for our Annual Church Conference.** We will be joined by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Darryl E. Totty, to conduct our business meeting, elect our leadership for the next year and be informed of what is happening in the wider connection of the United Methodist Church. This is an important meeting and will give you a chance to help shape the direction of our congregation. **This meeting will be held via Zoom and in-person. The Zoom link will be emailed out on Monday, November 20.**



## PASTOR CHAT-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

If you're new to Royal Oak First and you'd like to know more about our church or if you'd like to learn the next steps about how to become part of everything going on here, then come to the Pastor Chat. The next **Pastor Chat will be on Sunday, December 3 at 10:15 a.m. in the Parlor** and last no more than 30 minutes. We look forward to seeing you!



Advent by Candlelight  
A special evening for women

## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

**Monday, December 4 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

This special Advent event for women includes a program of speakers and music followed by dessert. **You are invited to host a table for friends and family or sign up to simply attend and we will assign you to a table.** We invite you to spend this evening with us, getting our hearts and minds focused on what matters most this season.

**Whether you want to host a table or just attend, please scan the QR code to sign up by November 19.**



SCAN ME

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Ann Anderson • Inge Wichers • Jeanette Maylen • Abby Tripoli •  
Scott Shuttleworth • Lee Hoffmann • Mary Lou Graeber • Randy Riggs •  
Mark Thatcher • Pam Belecki • Kim Stroud • Heather Diamond •  
The Perry Family • Dauroran Shirina Lee-Thurman • Karen and Yale Porter •  
Alexa Brinning • Mike Long • Diana Shornak • Betty Latimer • Carrie Morse •  
Nancy Reid • Dona Wells • Kathy Seidler • Jordan Altman •  
Allison and Bill Hempstead • Marian Kremer • Sheryl Hunter • Art Miller •  
Mary Nahhat • Diane Sexton • Donna Allen • Charlene Faunt •

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

The O'Mara Family • Rob Tencza • Pam Payne • John & Joyce Barber •  
Adam Hempstead • Neal Gaberdiel • Scott Spaulding • Nancy Graves •  
Dave Beerer, Sr. • Margaret and Robert Maas • Rich Zielinski • Laura Cable •  
Jennifer Gaudette-Wood • Connie Armstrong • Robert Baker • Glen Baker •  
Faye Rogers • Julia Rogers • Effie Lambros • Chrystl Roman •  
Kyron Bradstrom • James Lovitt • JJ • Liz Fitch • Jim Slimek • Diana Laginess •  
Jonathon Larson • Tom Hill • Bob Blonde • Patty Glass • Sharon Pillow •  
Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Larry Campbell • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael •  
Dan Hicks • Brent Miller • James • Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette •  
Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Kelly • Steve Wurdock • Harold Baker •

## **Sympathies to:**

Steve Bratberg and Trisha Ferguson on the death of Steve's mother, Ellen Bratberg, November 3, 2023

## **Congratulations to:**

Travis Hebden and Colleen Joseph on their marriage on November 3, 2023

# STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
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Natalia Tovarez	Evening Receptionist	<a href="mailto:ntovarez@rofum.org">ntovarez@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
George Bard	Custodian	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, we often set aside time this month to capture our gratuudes. Staying rooted in gratitude connects us to God, the source of all goodness, in ways few other disciplines can.

I have always found these words from Paul to the Philippians meaningful - "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Paul reminds us to be thankful **IN** all circumstances, not be thankful **FOR** all circumstances. That is a helpful distinction. It reminds me that in even in the worst of circumstances, I can still be rooted in gratitude. No matter what is going on in my life, I have things to be thankful for.

Gratitude doesn't have to be an overwhelming spiritual practice. There are no measures on what is too small to be grateful for. What are you grateful for at this moment? The fact that you woke up this morning? Your morning cup of coffee? The walk you're going to take outside this afternoon? Your pet? Your community?

By recognizing and giving thanks for even the smallest and seemingly insignificant of things, we are able to work our way up to the bigger things. I have been using my gratitude calendar this month to keep this important discipline at the center of life. If you need one you can pick one up at the Connections Table.

Grateful to be walking this spiritual journey together with you.

Grace and Peace



Pastor Jeff Nelson

## **Pledge Campaign Update**

I want to thank you for the pledges we have received. These pledges are a critical tool that we use for planning our budgets and being good stewards of the resources you invest in Christ's work.

To date, we have received: 122 pledges totaling \$392,366; 43 new pledges totaling \$78,198; increased pledges totaling \$21,160.

Our operating budget for 2024 is proposed at \$975,000. The pledge target is 83% of that number which is \$809,255. We are at 48% of the target. If you are willing and able to make a pledge for 2024, please mail it in or drop it off at the office.