



ROYAL OAK
FIRST
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 26, 2023
11:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Praise to the Lord the Almighty” arr. Jeff Bennett	Kyle Webber
Call to Worship		Kathi Burger
Opening Hymn #2236**	“Gather Us In”	
Affirmation of Faith		
Gloria Patri #70*	“Glory Be to the Father”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
Mission Moment	Noisy Bucket	
Spiritual Direction Moment		Nicole Wilson
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	“Sherzo No. 2 in Bb Minor, Op. 31” Frederick Chopin	Selina Chang
Doxology #95*	“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture	Luke 19:1-10	
Message	“Don’t Get Stuck in a Tree”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #400*	“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Come, Thou Fount” arr. Jason D. Payne	

* *United Methodist Hymnal*
** *The Faith We Sing*

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT 2023

MISSION PROJECT



Join 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 **unwrapped by December 12**. They can be placed in the bin at the Tower entrance or in the bin by the Welcome Desk at the Lafayette entrance. 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 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 from 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.



SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2023 Church Conference

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

2023 CHURCH CONFERENCE IS TODAY!

Please join us today, Sunday, November 26 at 3:00 p.m. 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 was emailed out on Monday, November 20 and Wednesday, November 22 so please check your email.**



WORLD AIDS DAY 35 REMEMBER & COMMIT

Oakland County Health Division in partnership with Royal Oak First: A United Methodist Church

Friday, December 1 • 6:30 - 9:30 PM
320 W. 7th St • Royal Oak, 48067

WORLD AIDS DAY 35

“REMEMBER & COMMIT”

Oakland County Health Division in partnership with Royal Oak First invite you to World Aids Day 35 “Remember & Commit” on Friday, December 1 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. There will be speakers, Dr. Paul Benson and Kathy Gerus-Darbison, along with light refreshments, the AIDS Memorial Quilt Panel, a candlelight vigil and a performance by Sing Out Detroit. World Aids Day is a day to unite in efforts to end the global HIV pandemic, show support for those living with HIV, and remember those who have lost their lives to the disease.



Craft & Card Sale

SHAWL MINISTRY CRAFT AND CARD SALE TO BENEFIT OUTREACH ON 7TH

Shawl Ministry is having a craft and card sale on Sunday, December 3 after each service. Crocheted kitchen items, toys, fidgets, scarves and more. Come and purchase one-of-a-kind gifts. All proceeds will benefit Outreach on 7th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Every Sunday in Advent starting December 3 at 7:30 p.m. Join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live every Sunday evening in Advent (December 3, 10, and 17) at 7:30 p.m. for a reading of a story that will get you in the spirit of the season.



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!



CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERTS— LIVESTREAMED & IN-PERSON

Join us in-person in the Sanctuary or on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page for live mini-concerts featuring musicians from Royal Oak First. **Concerts will be presented at Noon during the three Wednesdays in Advent: December 6 (Erica Plesco, vocalist and Jason Sherman, guitar), December 13 (Neal Harris and Allison Harris), and December 20 (Kyle Webber and Rachel Morin).** Concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and will lift your spirit with the music of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spread the Cheer!

Volunteer Opportunity



SPREAD THE CHEER!

Saturday, December 9 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

We need everyone's hands to help us spread holiday cheer! We need kids to make cards, people to send cards, to bake, to assemble bags of cookies and to deliver cookies. Starting on this Sunday, you can pick up a list of church members to mail Christmas cards to. On Saturday, December 9, bring four dozen of your favorite type of cookie or holiday treat to share and you will get to go home with a variety of cookies. This is a lovely, and delicious, way to spread holiday joy within our church family. If you any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Danielle at dmoody@rofum.org.



SCAN ME



A FEAST OF CAROLS

Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Join us for this year's "A Feast of Carols" Christmas Concert featuring ensembles of Royal Oak First including our Sanctus Choir, Carillon Ringers, Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, and Bands. Be sure to take in the sounds of our ensembles at Royal Oak First for an afternoon of glorious music.



Volunteer Opportunity

COULD YOU HELP PREPARE/SERVE THE CHRISTMAS MEAL FOR OUTREACH ON 7TH?

Thank you all for volunteering to help with our Thanksgiving meal! We have all of our Thanksgiving meal positions filled, but if you are still wanting to help out/volunteer during the holidays, we could use your help with our Christmas meal on Christmas Day from 9:00 a.m. to noon to both prepare and serve food. We are expecting approximately 80 people from our regular Lunch Program as well as our newer guests from our Essentials Pantry. Scan the QR code to sign up.



SCAN ME

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Linda Wilson • Jeanette Maylen • Diane Sexton • Abby Tripoli • Judy Bryan •
Scott Shuttleworth • Inge Wichers • Ann Anderson • Lee Hoffmann •
Mary Lou Graeber • Randy Riggs • Mark Thatcher • Pam Belecki •
Kim Stroud • 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 • Donna Allen • Charlene Faunt •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

The O'Mara Family • Rob Tencza • Pam Payne • John & Joyce Barber •
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 • 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 •

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on the Monday of Thanksgiving week. On Wednesday, all four of us will travel up to St. Ignace where we will be joined by my dad and my brother, who will be traveling from Northern Wisconsin so that we can spend some time together. It will be the first time I have seen my brother in-person since Covid.

We have rented an Airbnb overlooking Lake Michigan which will be a beautiful, and cold, way to enjoy the season. We will not be having much of a traditional Thanksgiving meal and will enjoy a couple of Tombstone Pizzas, a nice salad, and some charcuterie (which I had to explain to my dad was just a fancy word for a cheese and sausage plate.) We have agreed that playing Cribbage and Dirty Clubs (a Wisconsin variation on Euchre) are our main objectives. And of course, we will have the Lions/Packers game on - who knows, maybe there will be a holiday miracle for my Cheeseheads!

Most importantly though, we will spend time together. We will laugh. We will tell stories. We will remember my mom who we still miss so dearly. We will be thankful for all that God has done to bring our little family through the joy and struggles of this one precious life!

I am thankful that Mike Monte, Shirley Harris and a whole team of dedicated servants will be here at Royal Oak First providing a meal and hospitality for anyone who doesn't want to eat alone on Thanksgiving. This is what we call making Christ's Love Real! I am thankful for this church and its mission.

I pray that whoever you celebrate this Thanksgiving with, that you are able to connect with Christ - the source of all goodness and know, even if just for a moment, how blessed you are.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff Nelson

P.S. - Just a reminder that our Annual Church Conference will be this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. You can gather in person in the Parlor or join via Zoom. This is our time to elect our leaders for the next season and learn about how Royal Oak First can support the larger work of the United Methodist Church.