

**Sunday, December 3, 2023
9:00 AM Worship**



Advent 2023

“Away in a Manger”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	“Hope for Everyone”	House Band
Song	“With Us”	
Song	“Go Light Your World”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Kyle Webber & Jeff Nelson
Advent Candle Lighting		Nick and Jake Beaven-Parshall
Response	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Refrain)	
Time of Prayer		Erica Plesco
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	“Love Is Christmas” by Sara Bareilles	Susanna Webber
Doxology	“Give Thanks”	
Scripture	Luke 2:1-7	
Monologue	“The Innkeeper’s Wife”	Jenni Clark
Hymn #217*	“Away in a Manger” (Stanza 1)	
Message	“Make Room for a Miracle”	Jeff Nelson
Sacrament of Holy Communion		
Song	“Trust In God”	
Benediction		
Departing Music	“Hope For Everyone”	House Band

ANNOUNCEMENTS



JOIN US TODAY AFTER SERVICE FOR A SHAWL MINISTRY CRAFT AND CARD SALE TO BENEFIT OUTREACH ON 7TH

Shawl Ministry is having a craft and card sale today, 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.



CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE STARTS TONIGHT!

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.



CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERTS— LIVESTREAMED AND 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!

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 have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Danielle at dmoody@rofum.org.



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. Join us after the concert for cookies and punch in the gathering space.



CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY

Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater - "ugly" or not! Come and spread the joy of the season with your best Christmas get-up!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



“MOONBEAMS FOR SWEET DREAMS”

Mark your calendar for a special evening! **On Sunday, December 17, our church family will join others in our community at the Beaumont “Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams” event.** Bundle up and bring your flashlights, along with any other fun light-up accessories. At 8:00 p.m. we will turn on our lights and shine some cheer up to the pediatric unit at Royal Oak Beaumont. It is recommended to arrive 20 minutes early to allow time for parking; carpooling is encouraged.

Longest Night Service



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Whether mourning the loss of a loved one, dealing with an illness, navigating financial struggles or simply not feeling the spirit of Christmas; this service is a quiet, prayerful moment acknowledging the difficulties of the season.

January 15, 22 and 29
7:00 p.m.

Faith & Film

MJR Troy Movie Theater

FAITH & FILM IS COMING IN JANUARY!

Royal Oak First is going to the movies in January! **For three Monday nights in January, (15, 22 and 29), we will head over to the MJR Troy Movie Theater at Maple and Livernois Roads at 7:00 p.m. to see a current movie together.** If you have any questions, contact the church office at 248.541.4100 or office@rofum.org. Stay tuned to this space for details about what movies we will be seeing.

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

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Betty Latimer • Linda Wilson • Diane Sexton • Al Knappenberger •
Yvonne Bashur • Judy Bryan • Scott Shuttleworth • Jeanette Maylen •
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 • 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:

Lynn Simon • The O'Mara Family • Rob Tencza • Pam Payne •
John and 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 •

Sympathies to:

The Prud'homme Family on the death of Bob's sister, Harriett Prud'homme on
November 27, 2023

CHURCH CONFERENCE UPDATE

Last Sunday afternoon, we held our annual church business meeting, called the Church Conference. Similar meetings take place at all United Methodist Churches around the globe, and are an important component of our denomination's governance structure as they allow each person to vote on key decisions, direction, and nominations for leadership in their church.

In 2020 and 2021, due to COVID, these meetings were moved to Zoom and limited in attendance and agenda. Last year was still online-only and not very widely attended. This year, we moved the event back in-person to the Parlor with Zoom still available. We were very pleased at the turnout. About 70 members attended to hear about the way Royal Oak First has grown and changed in the last year, see plans for the future, and vote on leadership. The event was presided over by our Greater Detroit District Superintendent, Reverend Dr. Darryl Totty.

Below are a few highlights from the meeting:

- Membership and Attendance
 - We added 62 members last year and performed 24 baptisms.
 - Our membership total is 819 persons, with about 710 attending worship weekly (either in-person or online).
 - Children's Sunday School averages 35 kids and Youth Fellowship averages 25.
 - We lost 22 members, of which 16 were due to deaths. Each person was named and remembered.
- Servant Leadership and Church Governance
 - The body approved an update the Compass Team Charter to add two additional members from the congregation (total of 9 voting church members). Our Pastors will continue to attend, report, and influence, but do not vote.
 - We affirmed the nominations of over 65 volunteers to participate in various teams including: Finance, Personnel, Building & Grounds, Parsonage, Endowment, as delegates to the statewide Annual Conference, and more.
- Connecting Past to Future
 - Pastor Jeff shared stories of how servants before us helped to build and provide the church we enjoy today. Over the past 100+ years through pandemics, wars, and economic crises, up through the last year when we have fed and housed those in need.
 - He further shared a vision for the future, and specifically how our newly nominated volunteer servants will connect on their teams, know their roles and responsibilities, and get important work done in 2024.

While the Church is ordained by God, and Royal Oak First is organized under United Methodism with appointed pastors and hired staff, it's important to recognize that *this church belongs to YOU*. Each of you, whether attending in worship, participating in activities, or having joined as a member can and should help hold the vision, serve with your gifts, and influence the direction this church takes this year and beyond. If you want to participate more in any of the governance bodies or attend meetings, please let one of the pastors or a Compass Team member know. You don't need to wait until next year's nominations process!

Also in case you missed it, the conference was recorded via Zoom. We encourage you to watch the video here: <https://www.rofum.org/2023-church-conference-update/> or scan the QR code.

In Christ,
Tim Ryckman, Vice Chair, Compass Team
compassteam@rofum.org

