

Sunday, December 10, 2023
11:00 AM Worship



Advent 2023

“Away in a Manger”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” arr. John Carter	Kyle Webber
Call to Worship		Jennifer Tripoli
Opening Hymn #196*	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Erica Plesco & Jeff Nelson
Advent Candle Lighting		Derkowski Family
Response	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Refrain)	
Mission Moment		Karla Goetz
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	“Angels' Carol” John Rutter	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95*	“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12	
Drama	“The Magi”	Doug Clark, Jeff Jones & Erica Plesco
Hymn #217*	“Away in a Manger” (Stanza 1)	
Message	“A Heart Changed”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #254*	“We Three Kings”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella” arr. David Cherwien	

* *United Methodist Hymnal*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A FEAST OF CAROLS IS TODAY!

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

Join us this afternoon 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.



CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE IS 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

CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY



CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY

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

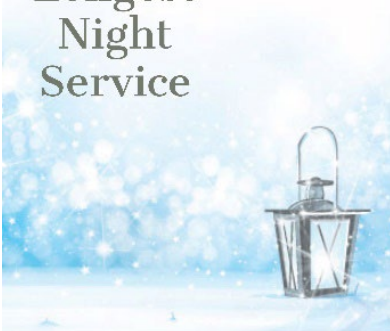
Wear your favorite Christmas sweater - “ugly” or not! Come and spread the joy of the season with your best Christmas get-up!



“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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us in-person or watch livestreamed on YouTube or Facebook any or all of our Christmas Eve services!

10:00 a.m. Join us for the fourth Sunday in Advent as we bring the story of the Magi to life! We will also light the 4th candle on the Advent wreath-the candle of love. The Nursery will be open.

4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant - a service for children and families. The children of Royal Oak First will present the story of the first Christmas. Music will be provided by the Children's Choirs of Royal Oak First.

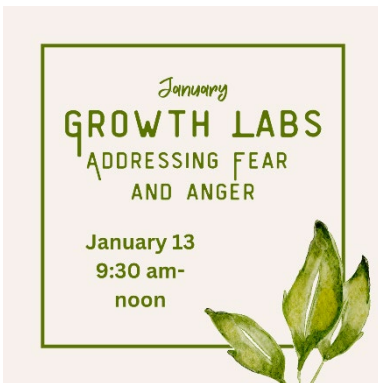
7:00 p.m. "Blue Jean Christmas" - a modern worship experience. Come as you are and worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will also have a service of candlelight as part of our worship and our Youth Band and Youth Choir will perform.

9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve worship service featuring Sanctus Choir, organ, piano and a brass quintet. A service of candlelight will conclude our worship.



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.** Stay tuned to this space for details about what movies we will be seeing.



GROWTH LAB: ADDRESSING FEAR AND ANGER

Saturday, January 13, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Christmas season is a reminder of the promise that God dwells among us, but when it's not Christmas, sometimes we need practical tools to help us think about the things, like fear and anger, that can keep us from living with the peace of God.

Join us as we dig into ways we can root out fear and anger as we seek to live with an awareness of God's presence. For questions, please email Nicole Wilson at NicoleLWilson.sd@gmail.com. Scan the QR code to sign up.



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:

Steve Conyers • Al and Gloria Knappenberger • Betty Latimer •
Yvonne Bashur • Linda Wilson • Diane Sexton • Judy Bryan •
Scott Shuttleworth • Jeanette Maylen • Inge Wichers • Ann Anderson •
Lee Hoffmann • Mary Lou Graeber • Randy Riggs • 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:

Alli and James Smith • Ellen and Jim Carmichael • Linda Harding •
Lynn Simon • The O'Mara Family • Rob Tencza • Pam Payne •
John and Joyce Barber • Neal Gaberdiel • Scott Spaulding • Nancy Graves •
Dave Beerer, Sr. • Laura Cable • Jennifer Gaudette-Wood •
Connie Armstrong • Robert Baker • Glen Baker • Faye Rogers • Julia Rogers •
Chrystl Roman • Kyron Bradstrom • James Lovitt • Liz Fitch • Jim Slimek •
Diana Laginess • Jonathon Larson • Bob Blonde • Sharon Pillow •
Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse • Larry Campbell • Dan Hicks • Brent Miller •
Carl Jones • Dorothy Follette • Deana Sawicki • Atlas • Steve Wurdock •
Harold Baker •

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

"Some Christmas tree ornaments do a lot more than glitter and glow, they represent a gift of love given a long time ago." -Tom Baker

Dear Friends,

This weekend we will hopefully put up our tree. We love to bring out the box of ornaments and as each is placed on the tree, we often tell the story behind each decoration. We remember who gave it to us or what year the boys made it in school. There are some that have pictures from when the boys were younger.

Some of the favorites are from family and friends no longer with us. Somehow the simple act of placing an ornament on a tree brings them closer in this season.

This little tradition helps our family connect to one another and to the deeper love this season is pointing us toward.

Which family traditions help you connect to God and to each other during the Christmas season?

This Sunday afternoon, Royal Oak First is proud to offer one of its longest and most honored traditions, "A Feast of Carols" Christmas Concert. For nearly 70 years this annual tradition has provided a wonderful concert of seasonal music for our church and community. Generations have learned to share the story of Christ through the songs they have sung at this gathering.

More importantly, the offering taken at "A Feast of Carols" will provide scholarships for kids to attend our annual Choir Camp, another decades-long tradition that passes the faith from one generation to the next.

I would like to thank the Music Guild, our Worship and Arts Department, and our Children, Family and Youth Program, for the months of planning that go into making this tradition come to life once again this year!

Please plan to join us in this joyous celebration of the season this Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff Nelson