

**Sunday, December 17, 2023  
11:00 AM Worship**



**Advent 2023**

“Away in a Manger”

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Prelude</b>	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” arr. Kurt Meyer	Carillon Ringers
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Erica Plesco
<b>Opening Hymn #220*</b>	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b>		The Stephen Family
<b>Response</b>	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Refrain)	
<b>Receiving of New Members</b>		
<b>Song</b>	“O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Ron Mallory	
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Offering Our Gifts and Tithes</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Rise Up, Shepherd, Go Tell It” arr. Lloyd Larson	Sanctus Choir
<b>Doxology #95*</b>	“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”	
<b>Scripture</b>	Luke 2:8-20	
<b>Drama</b>	“The Shepherds”	Tim Ryckman & Chris Mikell
<b>Hymn #217*</b>	“Away in a Manger” (Stanza 1)	
<b>Message</b>	“Bring the Good News”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Closing Hymn #240*</b>	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” arr. Neil Harmon	

\* *United Methodist Hymnal*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## THE LAST CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Join us on Sunday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. for a special Facebook Live event that promises enchanting tales that will transport you to wondrous worlds, filled with joy, kindness, and the true spirit of the season. Pastor Jeff has carefully selected a heartwarming story to create an unforgettable moment for children and families alike. Pastor Jeff can't wait to share the joy of storytelling with all the little ones, young at heart, and everyone in between.



## LAST CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERT—LIVESTREAMED AND IN-PERSON

Join us in-person in the Sanctuary or on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page for our final live mini-concert featuring musicians from Royal Oak First. Our last concert will be presented at Noon on Wednesday, December 20 with Kyle Webber and Rachel Morin performing.



## “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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

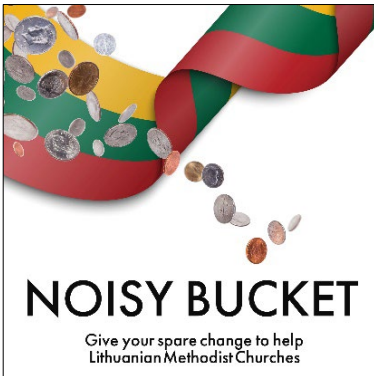
## Longest Night Service



## 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.



## SAVE YOUR LOOSE/SPARE CHANGE FOR NOISY BUCKET

Bring in your spare change in on Sunday, December 24 at the 10:00 a.m. service and we will collect it for our efforts to support the United Methodist churches in Lithuania. Don't miss out on making the bucket noisy!

## 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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Church Office Holiday Hours

### OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on: Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1.

Also, please note that church office hours on Wednesday, December 27 and Thursday, December 28 will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our normal office hours are Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### ADVENT 2023 MISSION PROJECT

We are holding a special collection this winter to fund the transportation program at Metro Detroit Youth Club (MDYC) in Royal Oak. 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. Please help support the work the MDYC does to help local families in need—this really is a fantastic option for giving. Scan this QR code to donate.



SCAN ME



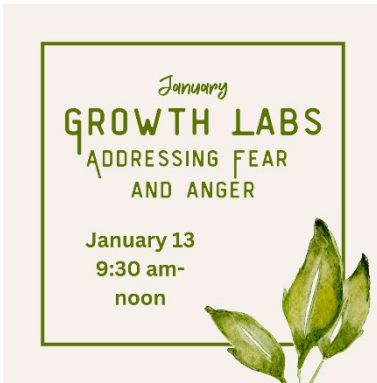
### NEW YEAR SANDWICH ASSEMBLY – FROM HOME

Would you like to start the new year in service? We've designed an opportunity for many households to sponsor another NOAH Lunch Project together. You can sign up to make 30 sandwiches at your home to be delivered to church on Sunday, January 7. Additionally, we are collecting individual size bags of chips to donate with the sandwiches. Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up!



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **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](mailto:NicoleLWilson.sd@gmail.com). Scan the QR code to sign up.

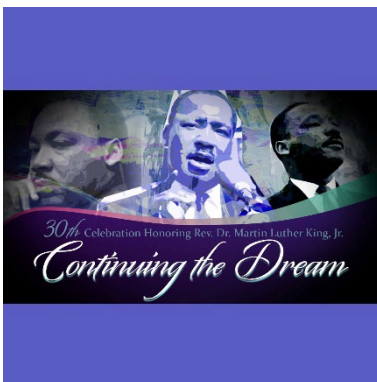


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## **FAITH & FILM IS COMING IN JANUARY!**

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. Our first movie on January 15 will be "The Color Purple". Tickets are \$8.50 per person. Stay tuned to this space for details about the other two movies we will be seeing. **Also, if you are looking to have a bite to eat before the movie** and also want to help support the church, stop by the Big Boy at 200 W. Maple in Troy (right down the street from the theater). They have offered to give back 10% of any of meals purchased by someone from Royal Oak First from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on any of the Faith & Film movie days. Just bring your Sunday Bulletin mentioning Faith & Film for the Music Guild.



## **CONTINUING THE DREAM**

You are invited to the 30th Celebration Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 14 for a 2:30 p.m. reception and a 3:30 p.m. worship right here at Royal Oak First! Join us in-person or watch online.

# 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:**

Paul Lucas • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Ellen 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 •

## **Sympathies to:**

The Prud'homme family on the death of James Smith on December 10, 2023

## **Congratulations to:**

James Brooker and Santos Ortiz Ramirez on their marriage on November 29, 2023

Jamie Schmidt and Mike Miron on their marriage on December 9, 2023

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to take a moment to say a BIG thank you for your incredible generosity and support throughout Advent. You guys truly rock!

With your help, we have sponsored 26 families, which adds up to a total of 76 kids. In addition, you collected an additional 300 gifts to support our friends at the Metro Detroit Youth Club. Seriously, you are gift-giving superheroes!

We also teamed up with The Hand in Hand Foundation to donate over 40 winter coats to the Metro Detroit Youth Club. And on top of all that, we've managed to gather over \$5,000 to support their transportation fund because no kid should miss out on the fun at the club just because they couldn't get there, right?

I can't even begin to express how much joy all of this has brought to my heart. It's incredible to see the impact we can make when we come together as a community. Your kindness and generosity have truly made a difference in the lives of so many people, especially the kids.

So, as we gather with our loved ones this Christmas, let's take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of this season – spreading love, joy, and compassion in the Spirit of Christ. Together, we have embodied these values and made a real, tangible impact on those who needed it the most. And for that, I am immensely grateful.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being such a wonderful congregation. Your generosity of spirit has made this holiday season truly special for me and so many others. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with love, laughter, and lots of eggnog! (And maybe even a Lion's playoff berth!)

With love and gratitude!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.

Pastor Jeff Nelson