



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sunday, December 31, 2023
10:00 a.m. Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Joy to the World” arr. Sanborn	Rachel Morin
Call to Worship		Erica Plesco
Opening Hymn #246*	“Joy to the World”	
Affirmation of Faith		
Gloria Patri #70*	“Glory Be to the Father”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		
Hymn #224*	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	
Time of Prayer		
Invitation to Offering		Jennifer Tripoli
Musical Offering	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” arr. Sanborn	
Doxology #95*	“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture**	Philippians 3:13-15	
Message	“Looking Forward with Hope: Embracing the New Year”	Jennifer Tripoli
Closing Hymn #251*	“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Go, Tell It On the Mountain” arr. Sanborn	

**United Methodist Hymnal*
***Common English Bible*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Church Office Holiday Hours

OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on: Monday, January 1.
Our normal office hours (Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) will resume on January 2.



New Year Sandwich Assembly for NOAH (from home)

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!



SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT 2023 MISSION PROJECT



ADVENT 2023 MISSION PROJECT

We will continue our special collection through December 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. Scan the QR code to donate.



SCAN ME

January GROWTH LABS ADDRESSING FEAR AND ANGER

January 13
9:30 am-
noon



GROWTH LAB: ADDRESSING FEAR AND ANGER

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

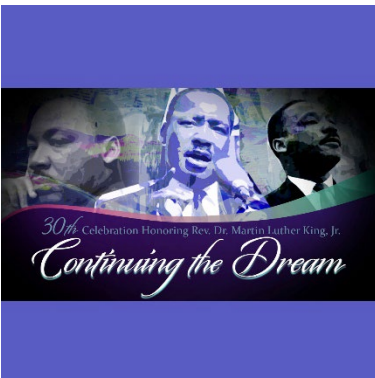
The Christmas season is a reminder of the promise that God dwells among us, but when it's not Christmas, sometimes we need practical tools to help us think about the things like fear and anger that can keep us from living with the peace of God. Join us as we dig into ways we can root out fear and anger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



SCAN ME

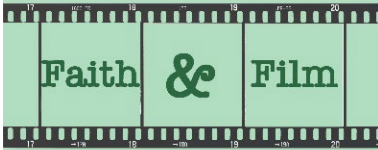
CONTINUING THE DREAM- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



MJR Troy Movie Theater

FAITH & FILM IS COMING 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 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 want 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.

NURSERY COORDINATOR TRANSITION

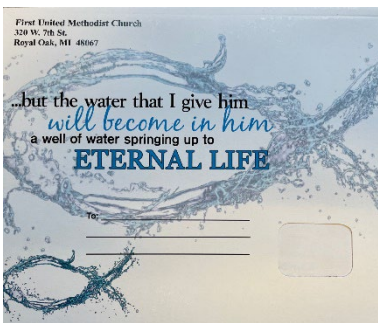
We want to extend our gratitude to Ashley Erard for her years as our Nursery Coordinator. Ashley came onto our staff at a time when we were growing with young families, but had no space for a nursery due to construction. (You might remember the gated off corner of Fellowship Hall!). Ashley worked hard to connect with our youngest families and made our new nursery into a safe and caring place for little ones during church. Ashley has stepped aside from this position and a familiar face will be our new Nursery Coordinator. Natalia Tovarez has been a part of this church for many years and has worked in the Nursery since 2017. She is familiar with our young families and our volunteers so we have no doubt our kids will continue to be well cared!



Ashley and Natalia

OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

2024 Royal Oak First offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up after service at the Welcome Desk! If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, we'll begin mailing them out after January 31. Contact Karen Calhoun at kcalhoun@rofum.org or 248.541.4100 if you have any questions.





HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Diane Sexton • Robin DeSantis • Dauroran Shirina Lee-Thurman •
Al and Gloria Knappenberger • Amy Rhoades • Sinead Valentine •
Sarah Altman • Steve Conyers • Betty Latimer • Yvonne Bashur •
Linda Wilson • Judy Bryan • Scott Shuttleworth • Jeanette Maylen •
Inge Wichers • Ann Anderson • Lee Hoffmann • Mary Lou Graeber •
Randy Riggs • Kim Stroud • Karen and Yale Porter • Alexa Brinning •
Mike Long • Karen Porter • 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:

Effie Lambros • Mary Healander • Ellen Delangy • Claire Jones • John Hice •
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 •

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.*

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

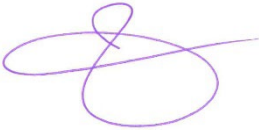
Friends,

As we gather here on this gloomy (as I am writing this, I am assuming it is gloomy) morning of New Year's Eve, let us take a moment to reflect on the year that is about to end and the year that is about to begin.

Today, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new year in our lives, ready to embark on a journey filled with new opportunities, challenges, and blessings. The Word of God reminds us to look forward with hope, and today, we will look to scripture to gain wisdom and inspiration for the year ahead.

May this year be filled with blessings, growth, and opportunities to be a light in a world that desperately needs it. As we strive to forget what is behind and reach toward what is ahead, we can be confident that God will guide us every step of the way.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that crosses itself, followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Pastor Jennifer Tripoli