

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church



COME TO THE  
*Table*



Sunday, February 18, 2024  
11:00AM

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Gathering Music

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”  
arr. Charity Book Putnam

Rachel Morin

## Call to Worship

Bob Prud'homme

*L: If not for the God who reaches out to us...*

*C: We may have perished through our own devices.*

*L: If not for the God who heals wounds...*

*C: We may have succumbed to the pain and sorrow that comes through human living.*

*L: Today we gather to give thanks for God's abundant grace, healing and restoring our lives.*

*C: We raise our thanks for the many ways in which our lives are nourished through God's mercy.*

*All: Amen*

*As our projection system is currently down and being serviced, we invite you to open your hymnals to hymn #185 "When Morning Gilds the Skies" and join us in song this morning.*

## Opening Hymn #185\*

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

## Affirmation of Faith

*Creating God, we believe you made us in the image of your good love. You know what is in us.*

*Loving Christ, we believe you reach out to us with tender mercy and healing. You set us free.*

*Life-giving Spirit, we believe you fill us with your mercy and power. You bear us on a journey of grace.*

*Amen*

## Gloria Patri #70\*

“Glory Be to the Father”

## Welcome & Invitation to Mission

Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson

## Unison Prayer

*Generous God,*

*We thank you for all of the gifts you present to us. We offer you thanks and praise for the beauty of this earth, our work, our family, our loved ones, and all the opportunities we have been given.*

*We thank you for your presence. In our darkest hours and brightest days, you are with us. May*

*we show gratitude to your grace by sharing what we have been given. Help us remember that by serving our brothers and sisters, we serve you.*

*May we remain ever grateful for your constant generosity and the company of your spirit in our lives.*

*Amen.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Lord's Prayer

*Our Father  
Who Art in Heaven  
Hallowed Be Thy Name  
Thy Kingdom Come  
Thy Will Be Done  
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.*

*As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But, deliver us from evil*

*For Thine is the Kingdom  
The Power  
and The Glory, forever.*

*Give us this day  
Our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses*

*Amen*

## Invitation to Offering

Erica Plesco

## Musical Offering

"The Welcome Table"  
arr. Joel Raney

Sanctus Choir

## Doxology #95\*

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

## Scripture

Luke 14:16-24

*Jesus replied, "A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, 'Come! The dinner is now ready.' One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, 'I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I bought five teams of oxen, and I'm going to check on them. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' When he returned, the servant reported these excuses to his master. The master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go quickly to the city's streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.' The servant said, 'Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.' The master said to the servant, 'Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"*

## Message

"The Welcome Table"

Jeff Nelson

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Congregational Response: In prayer, we stand with you.*

## Song

"Come Alive"

Joanna Whaley

## Closing Hymn #620\*

"One Bread, One Body"

## Benediction

## Postlude

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"  
arr. Ted Cornell

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Active Shooter Training

Sunday, February 18  
12:30 p.m.

## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING IS TODAY!

Please join us for an important training about how to handle being in an active shooter situation. Sergeant Buckley from the Royal Oak Police Department will give a presentation, followed by a Q & A period on **Sunday, February 18 at 12:30 p.m.** We expect the training to last no more than one hour.

## Moms at Pubs (MAP)



## MOMS AT PUBS (MAP)

MAP is a group that meets for fun and fellowship at a local pub, giving moms a chance to relax, laugh, and enjoy the fellowship of other moms. This month we will meet on **Thursday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.** at North End Taproom, 111 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. If you want to be added to our email list for upcoming events, please contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at [jtropoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtropoli@rofum.org) or phone/text 248.703.8805.



World Medical Relief  
SERVICE DAY

## WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF-SERVICE DAY

Last spring, several dozen members of Royal Oak First went to World Medical Relief in Southfield to help sort medical supplies in order to fill a shipping container to be sent to Turkey as earthquake relief. We had a great time and were immediately discussing a return trip. Our return date has been set as **Saturday, February 24, 8:45-11:30 a.m.** Plan to wear comfortable shoes, as most volunteers will be standing, but some sitting tasks are available too.



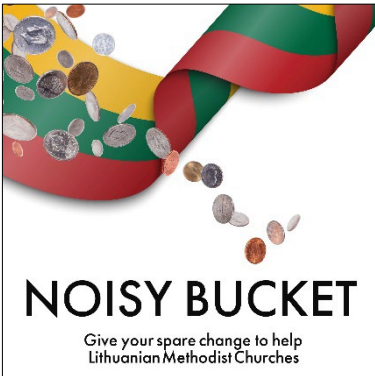
SCAN ME

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



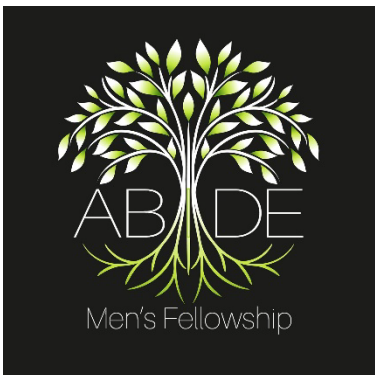
## **PASTOR CHAT-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

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, February 25 at 10:15 a.m. in the Parlor** and last no more than 30 minutes. We look forward to seeing you!



## **SAVE YOUR LOOSE/SPARE CHANGE FOR NOISY BUCKET**

Bring in your spare change in on **Sunday, February 25 at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services** 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!



## **ABIDE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The ABIDE Men's Fellowship will meet on the **last Tuesday of each month at the Royal Oak Tap House (714 S. Washington, Royal Oak) at 7:00 p.m. starting on Tuesday, February 27**. All other meetings during the month will be held at the church every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. ALL men are welcome and invited to join us at any of the meetings. This will be a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship. Our ABIDE Men's Fellowship has three goals: 1. Make space for friendship and fellowship. 2. Create opportunities to serve. 3. Offer opportunities to grow in faith. We hope you can join us!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Lent Food Collection



### “COME TO THE TABLE” LENT FOOD COLLECTION

Throughout Lent, we will be focusing our Missions Projects on feeding the hungry throughout our community. We are asking that you bring in the following items for the Outreach on 7<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry: canned soup or pasta, cans/pouches of tuna or chicken, pasta/sauce, etc. Additionally, the Lunch Program would appreciate donations of individually bagged chips, breakfast bars, fruit/applesauce cups, and 8 oz. bottled water. Please drop off in the white bins just up the stairs in the Tower entrance and just outside the Welcome Desk by the Lafayette entrance.

## LENT 2024 MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES



### LENT 2024 MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

The Missions Team has arranged many volunteer opportunities for you to help us feed the hungry during Lent. These include “Service (for others) on Sundays”, RBI Meal Assemblies, RBI Produce Shopping, and a Sandwich Assembly (from home) supporting the NOAH Project. We would love your participation in any or all of these missions! Scan the QR code to sign up.



**Support Our  
Youth by Baking!**

### SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BAKE SALE AT FISH DINNERS BY BAKING!

Our youth group are selling baked goods at our next two Fish Dinners and you can help! If you would be willing to bake something for their sale, scan the QR code to sign up. All proceeds will go towards the youth group summer service trips.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WE NEED FISH DINNERS VOLUNTEERS!

**Fridays, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for our first two fish dinners! We have two more fish dinners and could still use volunteers, so please scan the QR code to sign up OR visit the Connections Table after service and we will help you sign up. Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards camp!



## OUR 3<sup>RD</sup> FISH DINNER IS ON MARCH 1ST!

**Fridays, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30-7:00 p.m.**

Our famous fish dinners are here, so bring your family and friends and join us for delicious food and great fellowship. Our fish dinners benefit our children and youth where proceeds are used to send them to choir camp.

## MARCH GROWTH LAB—

### “CONTEMPLATING PRAYER”

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, were they asking for a formula? Instead, what if we consider prayer as a means for connecting with the Divine above all else? At our **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** Growth Lab, we will explore metaphors for connecting to God and contemplative practices that can grow our awareness of God within and around us. Join us from **9:30 a.m.-noon** for a time of learning, sharing, and practicing. Scan the QR code to sign up.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ROYAL OAK FIRST'S VISIONING DAY IS COMING SOON! HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

We need everyone to attend Royal Oak First's Visioning Day on **Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** to help us plan the future for our amazing church! We will be covering such questions as: Who are we? What is God calling us to do? Who are our neighbors? and more. We hope everyone will come and be present with us on this very important day. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided and child care will be available. You can RSVP by using the QR code or look for your invitation in the mail.



SCAN ME



## JOIN OUR CHOIR CAMP STAFF!

We are going back to Camp Ohiyesa in Holly! It is time to start thinking about campfires, Olympics, swimming, and all the fun we have! Camp will be the week of July 21-27 for kids grades 4-12 and we need volunteers! **Camp staff applications are available in the church office and at the Connections Table. Please turn in by March 1.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at 248.703.8805 or email her at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

We are bringing back the Women's Retreat!! **April 12-14**, join women from Royal Oak First for a weekend of fun, fellowship and faith! We will be at Lake Huron Retreat Center, just north of Port Huron from Friday evening until Sunday morning. Take some time to get away, enjoy a beautiful place and meet some new friends from church. Sign up will start soon! Contact Bridget Nelson at [bnelson@rofum.org](mailto:bnelson@rofum.org) or call 248.541.4100 with questions.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## REDFORD BRIGHTMOOR INITIATIVE PRODUCE PROGRAM

Thank you for your continued support in providing fresh produce monthly to the families served through Redford Brightmoor Initiative's Free Store! We are always in need of shopping volunteers and a delivery driver each month. If you are able, please consider also signing up to shop and/or deliver for multiple months this year. Scan the QR code to sign up.



## FEEDING OUR YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday night, our Youth Group gathers for fellowship and activities to grow in our relationship with God and with each other. A big part of this is having dinner together. Would you be willing to provide dinner for our youth? **You can cook at home, or cook here at church or sponsor us ordering something.** If you would be able to help in this way, scan the QR code to sign up.



## SAVE THE DATE SPAGHETTI DINNER VARIETY SHOW

On **Sunday, April 7 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**, the Music Guild will be putting on a Spaghetti Dinner Variety Show! Proceeds will help our youth go to camp this summer. The opportunity to showcase your talents will be open to all, so stay tuned for details. Plan to come join the fun on Sunday, April 7!



## **Palm Sunday Services**

**Sunday, March 24, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services**

Worship in-person or online as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will be led by our House Band at the 9:00 a.m. service and our Sanctus Choir at the 11:00 a.m. service. Any children that are here will participate in a Palm Parade. It is a day of excitement with palms to wave and joy to spread.

## **Maundy Thursday Service - A New Commandment**

**Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in-person or online for a worship experience where we will remember the Last Supper. There will be a Homily by Pastor Jeff, communion, and music led by the Carillon Ringers.

## **Good Friday Service**

**Friday, March 29, noon**

Join us in-person or online for a traditional and impactful Good Friday worship service remembering Jesus' final day. This is a service of deep reflection. Come to the foot of the cross and experience the passion of Jesus.

## **7 Last Words Poetry/Music Slam**

**Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.**

You don't want to miss this live event where poets and musicians muse on Christ's last words. Unique, poignant, and compelling, the 7 Last Words Poetry/Music Slam offers insights into Christ's humanity and divinity in his final moments. Join us in-person or online.

## **Easter Sunday Services**

**Sunday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Join us for a morning of worship and celebration featuring our House Band at 9:00 a.m. and Brass Quintet, Sanctus Choir and Handbells at 11:00 a.m. Worship in-person or online. This is a morning celebration not to be missed!

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

## **Prayers for Our Church Family:**

Margie Dallavo • Yvonne Bashur • Lisa Forzley • Lee Hoffmann •  
Sinead Valentine • Sarah and Jordan Altman • Al and Gloria Knappenberger •  
Betty Latimer • Linda Wilson • Diane Sexton • Judy Bryan • Inge Wichers •  
Ann Anderson • Mary Lou Graeber • Kim Stroud • Charlene Faunt •  
Dauroran Shirina Lee-Thurman • Mike Long • Diana Shornak • Carrie Morse •  
Nancy Reid • Dona Wells • Kathy Seidler • Allison and Bill Hempstead •  
Marian Kremer • Sheryl Hunter • Art Miller • Mary Nahhat • Donna Allen •

## **Prayers for Our Extended Family:**

Suzanne Buxton • Ann Vee • Weston Phinney • Earl Hendrickson •  
Darren Bowie • Kerry Franks • Effie Lambros • Ellen Delangy • Claire Jones •  
Paul Lucas • Harold Baker • Jeff and Marcy Carmichael • Ellen Carmichael •  
Rob Tencza • John and Joyce Barber • Neal Gaberdiel • Scott Spaulding •  
Nancy Graves • Laura Cable • Jennifer Gaudette-Wood • Connie Armstrong •  
Robert Baker • Glen Baker • Faye Rogers • Julia Rogers • Kyron Bradstrom •  
James Lovitt • Liz Fitch • Jim Slimek • 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 •

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,  
please contact Danielle Moody at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).*

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I came home from our Ash Wednesday Service to the news that there was a mass shooting during the Super Bowl Parade in Kansas City. The news reported that this was the 45th shooting this year and that to date, 75 people have lost their lives and more than 150 have been injured.

My heart continues to break for those impacted by these shootings. I know there will be lots of policy debates that will happen and lots of noise in the media about what we should or should not do to stop these acts of violence.

As I prayed over these moments and all the trauma that it has inflicted on our communities, I kept asking the Lord, "What can I do? What is my role as a Spiritual Leader?"

I waited in silence and then began to journal. And the words that I believe the Holy Spirit placed on the page were simply this: "Keep my table open, Jeff."

That I can do!

The open Communion Table offers a powerful symbol to the world.

In the midst of division it offers unity. In the midst of scarcity it offers abundance. In the midst of indifference it offers hospitality. In the midst of despair it offers hope.

And in the face of death, an open Communion Table offers the promise of resurrection!

Please know that I am not saying that simply coming to the communion table more often will end gun violence. That would be naive and dangerous.

However, I am saying that one thing the church can offer the world is a radically different image of how we can live together. And an open, inclusive, invitational and expanding table helps us to imagine that kind of world.

The Communion Table is one of few places where we experience the truth of Mother Teresa's words: "We have no peace, because we have forgotten we belong to each other."

We have work to do.

We will do the work while continuing to invite as many who will come to the table of God's radical and redeeming love.

Grace and Peace,

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