



ROYAL OAK
FIRST
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 5, 2025
10:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

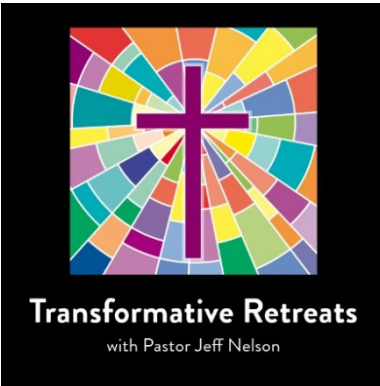
Prelude	“Christmas Time is Here” Vince Guaraldi, arr. Mando	Audrie Miller & Olivia Miller
Call to Worship		Allison Plaxton
Opening Carol #254**	“We Three Kings”	
Affirmation of Faith		
Response #238**	“Angels We Have Heard on High” (verse 3)	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Star Carol” Alfred Burt	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #221**	“In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)	
Prayer for Illumination		
Scripture Reading*	Isaiah 60:1-6	
Special Music	“We Wish You a Merry Christmas” arr. Joanne Martin	Hannah Haines, Audrie Miller, Olivia Miller & Alaina Ryckman
Scripture Reading*	Ephesians 3:1-12	
Special Music	“Silent Night” arr. Joanne Martin	Hannah Haines, Audrie Miller, Olivia Miller & Alaina Ryckman
Scripture Reading*	Matthew 2:1-12	
Message	“Regifting”	Jeff Nelson
Sacrament of Holy Communion		
Communion Song #219**	“What Child Is This”	
Closing Carol #245**	“The First Noel”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“The First Noel” arr. Noel Rawsthorne	Michael Rosas

ANNOUNCEMENTS



RBI PRODUCE COLLECTION

Thank you for your continued support in providing fresh produce monthly to the families served through Redford Brightmoor Initiative's Free Store! **We are in need of shopping volunteers for the upcoming months.** Scan the QR code to sign up.



TRANSFORMATIVE RETREATS WITH PASTOR JEFF

Feeling the weight of everyday demands? Craving a moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God? We invite you to join us **every third Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** Our retreats are intentional spaces designed to cultivate a deeper relationship with the divine, offering you the opportunity to recharge your spirit and discover the profound peace that comes from being in God's presence. Scan the QR code to sign up for any or all of the retreats.



****January 18th: Silence, Stillness, and Solitude****

****February 15th: Faith and Fatherhood****

****March 15th: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross****

****April 19th: Listening for God's Resurrecting Voice****

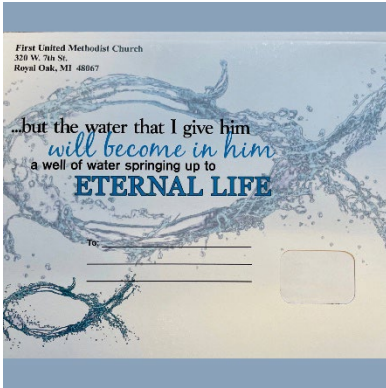
****May 17th: A Morning with the Mystics****



FAITH & FILM IS COMING IN JANUARY

Royal Oak First is going to the movies in January! For **three Monday nights in January, (13, 20 and 27), 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

2025 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 9. Contact Karen Calhoun at kcalhoun@rofum.org or 248.541.4100 if you have any questions.



SPAGHETTI DINNER VARIETY SHOW

On **Sunday, February 2 at 5:00 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. Scan the QR code to sign your act up today!



WE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF MEN'S WINTER BOOTS!

Outreach on 7th really **needs men's winter boots, specifically sizes 10, 11 and 12.** You may drop off items in the round white bin located at the top of the stairs by the Tower entrance or the bin by the Welcome Desk. Thank you!

STAFF DIRECTORY

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Jeff Nelson	Lead Pastor	jnelson@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1216
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Fredrick Fife, II	Audio Engineer	ffife@rofum.org	248.541.4100
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Natalia Tovarez	Nursery Coordinator & Evening Receptionist	ntovarez@rofum.org	248.541.4100
George Bard	Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100



Royal Oak First is always grateful when people give of their TIME, TALENT and/or TREASURE.

Did you know that there are several different ways to give financially?

Text to Give: Text the amount you wish to give to 855.566.0093.

In Person: You can place a check or cash in an offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate when it goes by or in one of the offering collection boxes just outside the Sanctuary.

Giving App: Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app to set up one-time or recurring donations.

Online: Visit rofum.org/giving to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

You can always check out our website, www.rofum.org for **Volunteer Opportunities** or subscribe to our weekly email, by going to this link: <http://eepurl.com/c9m7L9> or by stopping by the Connections Table in the Gathering Space.

For more information, contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at 248.541.4100 ext. 1225 or email jtropoli@rofum.org.

Thank you!

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Jan Matsumoto • Lee Hoffmann • Landon & Sawyer Cattran • Robin Burkett • Lily Faunt • Lisa Rye • Ginny Panone • Michelle Wirsu • Diana Shornak • Melissa Couture • David Salvette • Charlene Orletski • Diane Sexton • Theresa Skelton • Joe Nowaczok • Carrie Morse • Marlene Yago • Noel Peterson • Sue and Dave Minch •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Steven Kramer • Betty Goodrich • Val Globish • Missy Winter • Renee Rahim • Jim Castellani • Barbara Witherspoon • Meghin Russell • Camryn Cogburn • John Morris • Bernie Stubitsch • Mike Elliott • Deana Sawicki • Effie Lambros • Marykay McCaskey • Dan Cowles • Charlie Maher • Robin Mayers • Mary B. • Dorothy Follette • James • Joyce Micheaux • Jessica Boyer • Michael Retaskie • Bret Thatcher • Fred Jackson, Jr. • Susie Inch • Margie Reese • Diane Miller • Ellen Delangy •

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

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas!

This week, I find myself deeply immersed in the profound words of the great mystic, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. His insights have greatly influenced my journey as a Christian, illuminating paths of faith that resonate beyond our cultural boundaries.

I was particularly struck by his powerful quote:

“Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement...get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.”

As I reflect on the Christmas story, I am filled with amazement and wonder. From the miraculous birth to the guiding star, the humble stable, and the gifts from the shepherds, every element reveals the very essence of God’s love. While I may not always grasp the reasoning behind these narratives, I wholeheartedly share in their wonder.

This week, I witnessed your incredible spirit of generosity as you blessed dozens of families through our Christmas mission. On Christmas Day, over 75 individuals, many of whom were unhoused, gathered in our Fellowship Hall to enjoy food and companionship. It was a beautiful reminder of how the love of Christ becomes tangible through our actions.

I stand in awe of the love that flows within this community. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey with me.

Please remember, we will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday, January 5. I look forward to seeing you there.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff" above a simple line drawing of a smiling face with a cross on its forehead.

Pastor Jeff Nelson

