



# *Advent 2024*

*"With Us on the Journey"*

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
11:00 AM

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Prelude</b>	“Variations on ELLACOMBE” Jon Spong	Michael Rosas
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Sandy Prokopp
<b>Opening Hymn #203**</b>	“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”	
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b>		The Yago Family
<b>Musical Response</b>	“On the Journey”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
<b>Baptism</b>		Maxwell Moses <i>Son of Elena and Mike Moses</i>
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Warm the Time of Winter” Lori True	Sanctus Choir
<b>Doxology #221**</b>	“In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)	
<b>Prayer for Illumination</b>		
<b>Scripture Reading*</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-20	
<b>Canticle #2030***</b>	“The First Song of Isaiah”	
<b>Scripture Reading*</b>	Luke 3:7-18	
<b>Message</b>	“Make it Go Away”	Michael Rosas
<b>Closing Hymn #196**</b>	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	“I Saw Three Ships” arr. John Carter	Neal Harris

*\*New Revised Standard Version*

*\*\*United Methodist Hymnal*

*\*\*\*The Faith We Sing*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE IS **TONIGHT!**

Join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live **every Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Advent (December 1, December 8, December 15, and December 22)** for a reading of a children's story that will get you in the spirit of the season.



## LAST CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERT IS THIS **WEDNESDAY**

Join us in-person or on our YouTube Channel or 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 4, Christmas Organ Music with Michael Rosas; December 11, Christmas Carol Sing with Maria Moro and Chris Mikell; December 18, Violin and Piano Christmas Music with Allison Harris and Neal Harris.** Concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and will lift your spirit with the music of the season.



## ADVENT MISSION PROJECT

**\*\*Deadline to drop gifts off is TODAY!!\*\***

For this year's Advent Mission Project, **we will be collecting children's Christmas gifts for area families who are struggling financially. You can pick one or two tags off our "giving tree" on the Connections Table in the Gathering Space. Shop for those items and return them unwrapped to the church collection bins by December 15.** But feel free to bring in any fun, unwrapped toy of your choice, as the giving tree simply gives ideas for those who need them. These gifts will help stock the Cass Community Social Services Christmas Store where nearly 300 families in Detroit will "shop" for their kids' Christmas gifts.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES AVAILABLE**

We have installed an FM broadcast-assisted listening system to help individuals with hearing loss hear the service more clearly. If you would like to use one of the listening units, please see an usher. Each unit comes with a wired headphone, which will be sanitized after each use. If you prefer to bring your own wired headphones, please ensure it has a 3.5 mm jack.

## **Longest Night Service**



## **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

**Thursday, December 19 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.

## **Children's Christmas Pageant**



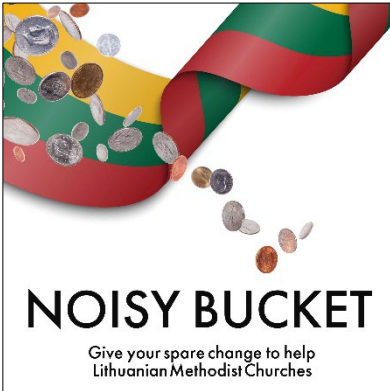
**Sunday, December 22, 11AM**

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday, December 22, 11:00 a.m.**

At our 11:00 a.m. service, 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. Please note there will not be a Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve this year!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NOISY BUCKET

Bring in your **spare change** in on **Sunday, December 22** at either the **9:00 a.m. or 11:00 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

**7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream**

"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. Our Youth Band and House Band will be leading us. The Nursery will be open.

**9:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream**

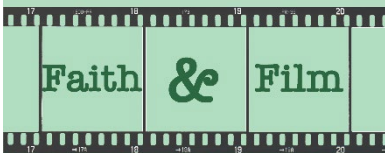
Traditional Christmas Eve worship service featuring Sanctus Choir, organ, piano, handbells and a woodwind quartet. A service of candlelight will conclude our worship.

**11:00 p.m. - Outside on the Front Lawn**

Join us outside on our front lawn for a simple, yet Holy worship experience in the dark of night as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A service of candlelight will be included.



January 13, 20 and 27  
7:00 p.m.

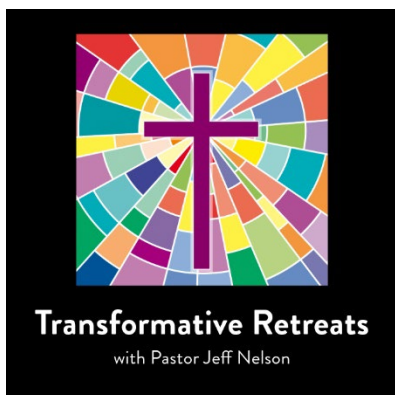


MJR Troy Movie Theater

## FAITH & FILM

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. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 248.541.4100 or [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org). Stay tuned to this space for details about what movies we will be seeing.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## TRANSFORMATIVE RETREATS WITH PASTOR JEFF

Are you feeling the weight of everyday demands? Do you crave a moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God? We invite you to step away from the busyness of life and immerse yourself in our **2025 Winter and Spring Retreats, held every third Saturday from 9:30 to 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! Here's a glimpse of what we have planned for you:



**\*\*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\*\***



## SAVE THE DATE!

### SPAGHETTI DINNER VARIETY SHOW

On **Sunday, February 2** 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, February 2!

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Pam Shewchuck • Michelle Wirsu • Ginny Panone • 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:**

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 •

## **Sympathies to:**

The Thatcher family on the death of Mark's uncle, Ken Emory on December 10,  
2024

The Boozan family on the death of Gordy's father, Brian Boozan on December  
6, 2024

*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 PREACHER

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and privilege to break open the scriptures with you today as preacher. Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent sometimes called by its Latin name: Gaudete Sunday, the Latin word for “rejoice,” as the lectionary’s scripture texts keep repeating the phrase “rejoice” over and over again. Congratulations! We’ve journeyed together more than halfway through Advent and are rapidly approaching Christmas. In the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, I hope you can find and keep joy amid the chaos.

While for many Christmas is a time for joy, for some in our community, it’s not a festive season. There are many among us dealing with losses: deaths of loved ones or pets, job losses, children or friends who’ve moved far away, loneliness, or even the divorce of a long marriage. It’s important in this time of joy to remember those among us who are grieving. This Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. we will have a Longest Night (Blue Christmas) Service to give an opportunity to make space and acknowledge our friends who are struggling through the holidays. Even if you’re not experiencing pains of loss, your presence is a beautiful gift of support to those in our community of faith who are.

As these last Advent days and the countdown to Christmas ticks on, may you be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Yours in Christ,  
Michael Rosas