



**ROYAL OAK**  
**FIRST**  
A United Methodist Church

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**  
**9:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>	“Always And Forever” Rod Temperton (arr. Pat Metheny)	House Band
<b>Greeting</b>		Griffin Anspach
<b>Song</b>	“That’s My King”	
<b>Song</b>	“The Table”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b> Tripoli		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer
<b>Mission Moment</b>		Missions Team
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		Nicole Wilson
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Surrendering” Ben & Tyra Byrne	Analisa Thomas & Griffin Anspach
<b>Doxology</b>	“Give Thanks”	
<b>Scripture Reading*</b>	Luke 15:1-10	
<b>Message</b>	“Be Found”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Song</b>	“Reckless Love”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Departing Music</b>	Reckless Love Instrumental	

*\*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Moms at Pubs

(MAP)



## MOMS AT PUBS (MAP)

Calling all moms—of all stages of life! Whether your babies are 10 days old, 15 months old, or fully grown, you're invited to join us for Moms at Pubs. **We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month to share conversation, enjoy a meal, and relax over a drink together. Our next meet up will be Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. at 5th Avenue (215 W. Fifth St, Royal Oak).** Come connect, laugh, and unwind with other moms who understand the joys (and challenges!) of motherhood. If you would like to be added to the monthly email blast, please contact Pastor Jennifer at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).

## “MAKIN’ IT REAL: EMBRACING CONNECTIONS IN CHRIST” SMALL GROUPS

All are welcome to join a small group as we read "Makin' it Real: Embracing Connections in Christ" written by our own Pastor Jeff Nelson. Small groups are a great way to meet new people you go to church with and grow in your faith at the same time! This book will match up with the Sunday sermons this fall. **Groups will start the week of September 21.** Scan the QR code for more details, link to purchase the book and to sign up!



SCAN ME

## OUTREACH ON 7<sup>TH</sup> WISH LIST

Outreach on 7th could use the following items.

- Men's shoes sizes 9-10
- Sleeping bags
- Plastic grocery bags
- Sweatshirt hoodies

Drop off items at church Mon-Thu from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

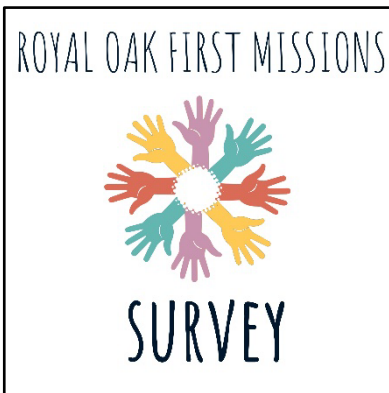


# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2025 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Please mark Sunday, October 5 at 3:00 p.m. on your calendar for our Annual Church Conference on Zoom. We will be joined by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Darryl E. Totty, to conduct our business meeting, elect our leadership for the next year and be informed of what is happening in the wider connection of the United Methodist Church. This is an important meeting and will give you a chance to help shape the direction of our congregation. **This meeting will be held on Zoom only and a link will be sent out to everyone on our church email list closer to the date.**



## ROYAL OAK FIRST MISSIONS SURVEY

Please take a couple minutes to scan the QR code and fill out our Missions survey.

This information will help guide our Missions Team as we make decisions that impact future missions programming and partnerships at Royal Oak First. **Please complete by**

**September 30th.** Paper copies are available at the Connections Table. Reach out to Karla Goetz with any questions at [missions@rofum.org](mailto:missions@rofum.org). Thank you!



## SOCK IT TO ME SEPTEMBER (UNDERWEAR TOO!)

Our friends at NOAH at Central give out over 10,000 pairs of socks annually as part of their work supporting the homeless of Detroit. It is our goal to contribute 1000 pairs of socks or underwear to NOAH this year, in addition giving 1000 pairs to Outreach on 7th. **Please bring a package of NEW MEN'S CREW SOCKS or NEW MENS UNDERWEAR to church during the month of September.** Please drop off socks and underwear in the white bin near the Welcome Desk by the Lafayette entrance. Sock-It-To-Me!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## PRIDE & ALLY ADULT SOCIAL GROUP

Royal Oak First is restarting our **Pride & Ally Social Group**, open to anyone looking for community, connection, and fun. We'll meet on the **first Monday of each month, beginning October 6th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at church.**

This is a safe and affirming space for all—whether you identify as LGBTQIA+ or as a supportive ally. Come as you are, bring a friend, and join us in building a vibrant and inclusive community.

Then join us for our **first social outing on Sunday, October 12 right after the 11am service at Pronto!** (right next door to the church) for brunch and conversation. Everyone will pay for their own meal and beverages, but we'll all sit together and enjoy great food and fellowship. Families are welcome! **Please RSVP by October 6 so we can give the restaurant an accurate head count at [prideandally@rofum.org](mailto:prideandally@rofum.org).**



## TRANSFORMATIVE RETREATS WITH PASTOR JEFF: “ENCOUNTERING CHRIST”

Are you longing for a deeper connection with Jesus? Join us for a series of **monthly Saturday morning retreats**, led by Pastor Jeff, designed to help you pause, reflect, and open your heart to encountering Christ in new ways.

Each retreat offers a sacred space for prayer, conversation, and spiritual renewal. From **9:30-11:30 a.m. once a month on Saturdays beginning September 27.** Come as you are. Bring a friend. Let's make space for Christ together. Get the full schedule and sign up by scanning the QR code.



# STAFF DIRECTORY

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
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Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

## Prayers for Our Church Family:

Joyce Russell • Janie Castle • Joel Palmer • Ann Cline • Bill Courtney •  
Phyllis Hassberger • Don & Ann Anderson • Rita Nicholas • Karen Porter •  
Brian Harris • Jan Albert • Michele Prud'homme • Mary Lou Graeber •  
Marian Kremer • Laurie O'Donnell • Megan McKenzie-Grimm • Don Matson •  
John Marsh • Kathy MacFarlane • Kristen Turkington • Sue Buxton •

## Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Bob Payne • Peggy Carolin • Ann Marie Rogers • Dorothy Follette •  
Karen Cunningham • Carol • Joan • Missy Winter • Brett Thatcher •  
Joyce Barber • Deb Ingraham • Sharon Connors • Lori Mason •  
Rich Zielinski • The Everst Family • Cara & Kevin Smith • Halen Alexander •  
Jessica Boyer •

## Sympathies to:

Rebecca Turcotte on the death of her mother, Nancy on September 10, 2025

## Congratulations to:

Paige and Brian Boll on the birth of their son Lochlann Joseph Boll on  
September 6, 2025

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



## TIME OF PRAYER

All are welcome to the Time of Prayer on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. at church. We review the church prayer list, spend time in silence and pray together in the Sanctuary. This is wonderful opportunity to uplift your personal prayer requests.

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Beloved Community,

As I write this letter, my heart feels heavy with the sorrow of yet another tragic shooting. I know many of you share in this pain, and the emotions we are experiencing—sadness, anger, and helplessness—can feel like an avalanche, making it hard to find our footing in a world that seems so divided right now.

In these moments, I often find hope in Paul's words to the Philippians: "Be of the same mind as Jesus." This simple reminder encourages me to look to Jesus, who chose service over self, as my guiding light. I'll admit, there are times when I feel the urge to jump into arguments online, to shout "Stop it!" at the top of my lungs. But then I hear Paul whispering to me: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3).

Jesus' example nudges me to change my perspective. Instead of getting caught up in disagreements with my neighbors (both next door and online), I pause and ask myself, how can I serve them? There are so many small, meaningful ways to connect—whether it's sharing a meal, mentoring a child, or simply visiting an elder. These acts of love, alongside our calls for justice, can help bridge those seemingly vast divides. It may feel a bit naive, but this is the hope that stirs within me today.

I've spoken with many of you about the limitations of "thoughts and prayers," and I completely understand. It can feel insufficient when confronted with such profound tragedy. But for me, prayer is like the air I breathe. It's where I find my strength and vision for a world that embraces peace. I don't pray for God to fix everything for us; I pray for God to cultivate a spirit of Jesus within me and among all of us. My hope is that we can embody the same heart and mind He had, so that together, we can show the world a different way—one grounded in love and compassion. We truly need this.

Remember, Jesus never picked up a weapon against his enemies; instead, he picked up a basin and towel and chose to wash their feet. As we navigate these challenging times, let's commit ourselves to being instruments of peace and love, embodying the heart of Christ in all we do.

I'm walking this journey with you, and together, we can create ripples of hope in our community.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink 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

P.S. Don't forget we return to our two-worship service schedule at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. this week.