



ROYAL OAK
FIRST
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 16, 2025
9:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	“Read Ephesians” (ApologetiX)	House Band
Greeting		Griffin Anspach
Song	“Stand in Your Love”	
Song	“Fear Is Not My Future”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Nicole Wilson
Consecration Sunday Update		Matt Williams
Doxology	“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Time of Prayer		
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Rainbow Connection” (Paul Williams & Kenneth L. Ascher)	Kiersten Ciccone
Doxology	“Give Thanks”	
Scripture Reading*	Luke 21:5-19	
Message	“Stand Firm”	Nicole Wilson
Closing Song	“The Church”	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

**Common English Bible*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent by Candlelight

a special evening for women

Monday, December 1, 7-9PM



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Monday, December 1 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to join us Monday, December 1st, for an evening of speakers and music to get us ready for the season ahead. We will have a program in the sanctuary followed by dessert at tables in the Parlor and Gathering Space. You are invited to host a table of friends and family, or host a table we can fill for you, or simply attend. **Let us know you will be joining us by scanning the QR code by November 17.**



SCAN ME

ADVENT MISSION PROJECT

For this year's Advent Mission Project, we will be **collecting children's Christmas gifts for area families who are struggling financially.** We have two different ways to do this:

If you are feeling especially generous, reach out to Karla at missions@rofum.org and you can **adopt a whole family of children** through the Metro Detroit Youth Club, based in Royal Oak. You will be asked to purchase two gifts and a stocking stuffer for each child in the family. Families range in size, so you can request the size of family you are able to support, ranging from 1-6 children.

Alternatively, 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 to the church collection bin (located by the Welcome Desk) by December 14. 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



ALL SAINTS DAY

On **Sunday, November 23**, at both the **9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services**, we will remember the many beloved church members, family members, and friends who we have lost since November 1, 2024. The names of these loved ones will be included in the All Saints pages in the Bulletin.



SPREAD THE CHEER THIS CHRISTMAS!

This Christmas season, let's make sure every heart feels remembered and loved. Everyone will get a **Christmas Card**, because it may be the only one they receive. We're also continuing our **Christmas Cookie Delivery** tradition to make Christ's love real in our church family. On **Saturday, December 6**, bring two dozen of your favorite type of cookie or holiday treat. We will make cookie plates for some of our church family that could use a little extra love this season, and they will be delivered throughout that weekend. It is a lovely, and delicious, way to spread holiday joy within our church family this season! No need to be a baker to spread holiday cheer. **We will need everyone's (kids & adults) hands to: make/send cards, buy/bake treats, assemble cookie plates/bags and to visit & deliver the treats.** Scan the QR code to sign up.



PRAYER WALL

As a way to honor those we have lost this past year and to lift up any prayer concerns on your heart, you are invited to visit the Prayer Wall, located just to the left of the Parlor entrance. Please take a moment to add a ribbon with your written prayers on it. **Add your prayers to the Prayer Wall by November 23.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Shelter Meals

Beginning November 29



Prep Food / Heat Up Food / Transport Food / Serve the Meal

FAMILY SHELTER MEALS (DINNER HELP)

The Royal Oak First Missions Team is partnering with “Kids Empowered: On The Move” to provide meals at a new family shelter this winter in Pontiac. **Our church will be sponsoring meals one week each month throughout the winter.**

We need help prepping the food on Sundays, heating the food at ROFUM each evening, transporting it to the shelter, and serving the meal. If you are someone who likes to cook for a crowd (50 people) and want to plan a whole meal, please make note of that also. Scan QR code to sign up.



SCAN ME

LAST TRANSFORMATIVE RETREAT WITH PASTOR JEFF IS ON DECEMBER 20!

Join us for the final transformative retreat with Pastor Jeff. The retreat is designed to help you pause, reflect, and open your heart to encountering Christ in new ways, while offering a sacred space for prayer, conversation, and spiritual renewal. The final retreat is on **December 20 “Come to the Manger.”** To sign up, please scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

Transformative Retreats

With Pastor Jeff Nelson

MEN'S WINTER GEAR COLLECTION



MEN'S WINTER GEAR COLLECTION

To support the Outreach on 7th Lunch Guests as the weather turns chilly, we will be collecting much needed winter items throughout the fall.

Much appreciated items include: Men's gloves, hats, long/thermal underwear in larger sizes (L, XL, 2XL), hand/foot warmers, boots, and sleeping bags, along with used men's winter clothing. You may drop off items in either round white bin located by the Welcome Desk, or you can **shop from our Amazon Wish List and have items delivered** to church by scanning the QR code.



SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are excited to offer the choice of purchasing a poinsettia or contributing to UMCOR in honor or memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 21 and at our Christmas Eve services. The names of the donors and those to be honored or memorialized will be printed in the Sunday, December 21 Bulletin. If you wish to participate, fill out the form below and drop off at the Connections Table or scan the QR code before ***Sunday, December 7.***



More forms are available at the Connections Table.

Payment must accompany this order form (checks payable to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church)

___ Enclosed is \$18.00 for a 1 stem red poinsettia

___ Enclosed is \$33.00 for a 2 stem red poinsettia

___ I will pick up my plant(s) following the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

___ Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ for UMCOR in place of a poinsettia.

This will be a memorial to _____
(Please Print)

OR in honor of _____
(Please Print)

Given by _____
(Please Print)

Phone # _____

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Bernice Sayers • Al Pollard • Patti Peterson • Keith Messing • Joyce Negrich •
Mark Thatcher • Janice Marsh • Rita Nicholas • LeeAnn Witherspoon •
Karen Porter • Megan McKenzie-Grimm • Leonard Benyas • Mary Lou Graeber •
Joel Palmer • Phyllis Hassberger • Kathy MacFarlane • Ann Anderson •
Don Matson • Dennis Allen • Bill Courtney •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Anthonee Tracy • Holly Hempstead • Susie Wilkinson • Reece Renforth •
Raedea Wagner • Joe Bridge • Bernice Graham • Elma Holloway •
Amanda Lewandowski • Bruce Snyder • Ron & Denise Bell Haines •
Penny Carolin • Karen Cunningham •

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at 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 PREACHER

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for our community here at Royal Oak First! Thank you to everyone who came to the celebration brunch last Sunday! It was great to have the opportunity to get to know one another better over a shared meal. And a double thanks to everyone who helped to coordinate, decorate, and help make Consecration Sunday a day of celebration. If you are wondering about the pledge card piece, in the service today, we'll get to hear a financial update from Matt Williams.

I also want to thank everyone who has been generously dropping off food for people who need it. In addition to the massive amounts of food that has been collected for Kids Empowered on the Move, I am grateful for the ways our own Outreach on 7th provides hot lunches during the week, sack lunches any time someone asks, and food in our outdoor pantry when someone comes looking and there isn't anyone in the building. These things would not be possible without you! If you haven't seen the outdoor pantry, it's like a need a penny, take a penny, have a penny give a penny box. If you have some extra, drop it off when you drive by. If you need something, please help yourself.

This week, as I see so much anger and hurt in the world, I am reminded that we love because God first loved us. We see others because God first saw us. Thank you for being a community that loves and sees. Let's keep practicing receiving love and giving love so that we can stand firm knowing we are not alone. We have the love of God, and we have the love of one another.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Wilson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Nicole Wilson