

BE
THE
Light

ADVENT 2025

Sunday, December 14, 2025 11:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night" (arr. Brenda E. Austin)	Carillon Ringers
Call to Worship		Patrick Calhoun
Opening Hymn #211**	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1,2,5,6)	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	"Christ, Be Our Light"	Julia & Eliana Westenberg
Mission Moment		Karla Goetz
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word		
Old Testament Reading*	Isaiah 35:1-10	
Canticle Response	Luke 1: Canticle of Mary	
Epistle Reading*	James 5:7-10	
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	"Canticle of the Turning" (Rory Cooney, arr. John Ferguson)	Sanctus Choir
Doxology	"Advent & Christmas Doxology (What Child is This?)"	
Gospel Procession		
Gospel Reading*	Matthew 11:2-11	
Message	"Joy in the Waiting"	Jennifer Tripoli
Closing Hymn #246**	"Joy to the World"	
Benediction		
Postlude	"Chorale Prelude on 'Savior of the Nations, Come'" (Johann Pachelbel)	

**Common English Bible*
***United Methodist Hymnal*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF

Every Sunday in Advent (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21) at 7:30 p.m., join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live for a cozy bedtime story. Each week he'll share a seasonal tale to help children—and all of us—enter more deeply into the spirit of Advent. Tune in and enjoy a few fun moments together as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

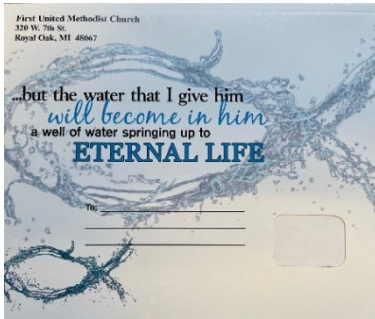
On Sunday, December 21 at our 11:00 a.m. service, the children of Royal Oak First will present the story of the first Christmas, in a pageant written by Pastor Jeff Nelson entitled "Keeping It Real-A Christmas Pageant." Music will be provided by the Children's Choirs of Royal Oak First.



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, dealing with an illness, navigating financial struggles or simply not feeling the spirit of Christmas; this service on Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. is a quiet, prayerful moment acknowledging the difficulties of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

2026 Royal Oak First offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up at the Welcome Desk! If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, we'll begin mailing them out after January 12. Contact Karen Calhoun at kcalhoun@rofum.org or 248.541.4100 if you have any questions.



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 is sponsoring meals one week each month throughout the winter.** We need help prepping the food on Sundays, heating the food at church each evening, transporting it to the shelter, and serving the meal OR if you are someone who likes to cook for a crowd (50 people) and want to plan a whole meal, please sign up for either by scanning the QR code.



LAST 2025 TRANSFORMATIVE RETREAT WITH PASTOR JEFF IS ON DECEMBER 20!

Join us for the final 2025 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 retreat on December 20 is “Come to the Manger.” To sign up, please scan the QR code.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025, **and** Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. If you need assistance during this time, please feel free to leave a voicemail or send an email, and our team will respond when the office reopens. We wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas season and a joyful start to the New Year!

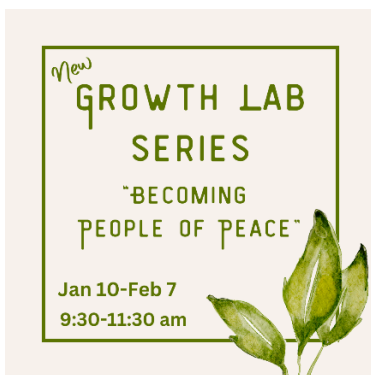


ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10AM ON DECEMBER 28 AND JANUARY 4

We will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. on both Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4. There will also be no Sunday School on either of those days. The nursery will be open. We will return to two services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) on Sunday, January 11.

GROWTH LAB SERIES

What if choosing peace was a practical skill you could develop? Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, but in a divided world, how do we actually live that out? Join us for five sessions (Saturday mornings, January 10-February 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m., led by Nicole Wilson) exploring concrete tools to respond with curiosity instead of judgment. We'll practice asking better questions in difficult conversations, understand how our positions developed, and strengthen connections even when we disagree. Whether navigating family tensions, workplace conflicts, or simply wanting to grow in Christ-like love, this workshop offers a space to practice new patterns together. Scan the QR code to sign up.





WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 4PM, 7PM, 9PM, 11PM

Join us in-person for any of the four services
or watch the 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. services
live streamed on YouTube or Facebook

4:00 p.m.---Family Service

Our children and youth will lead us in a service with lots of music and a shorter message for all ages. All are welcome to join this family and kid friendly worship, complete with glow sticks! The Nursery will be open. We will be in the Sanctuary and livestreaming the service on YouTube and Facebook.

7:00 p.m.---Blue Jean Christmas Service

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 House Band will be leading us. The Nursery will be open. We will be in the Sanctuary and livestreaming the service on YouTube and Facebook.

9:00 p.m.---Traditional Service

Traditional Christmas Eve worship service featuring Sanctus Choir, organ, and a woodwind quartet. A service of candlelight will conclude our worship. We will be in the Sanctuary and livestreaming the service on YouTube and Facebook.

11:00 p.m.---Outside Service

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.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Bill Bond • Craig Sleeman • Al Pollard • Mark Thatcher • Zackary Landry •
Phil Button • DJ Hinman • Tom Soboleski • Arthur Jemison • Carrie Morse •
Bernice Sayers • Patti Peterson • Keith Messing • Joyce Negrich • Janice Marsh •
LeeAnn Witherspoon • Karen Porter • Megan Mckenzie-Grimm •
Mary Lou Graeber • Phyllis Hassberger • Kathy MacFarlane • Ann Anderson •
Dennis Allen • Bill Courtney •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Mark Hall • Sarah Hughes • Carol • Joan • Carolyn Aucchio • Gina Novak •
Holly Hempstead • Susie Wilkinson • Reece Renforth • Raedea Wagner •
Joe Bridge • Bernice Graham • Elma Holloway • Amanda Lewandowski •
Bruce Snyder • Ron & Denise Bell Haines • Karen Cunningham •

Sympathies to:

Bill and Kathy Carlson on the death of Bill's brother, John Carlson on August 1,
2025

*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 PASTOR

Friends,

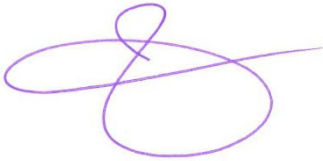
This coming Sunday is Joy Sunday, and we can't wait to celebrate together! As part of our tradition, we're inviting everyone to wear their ugliest, most joyful, or favorite Christmas sweater or outfit to worship. Whether it's covered in lights, jingles when you walk, or looks like it came straight from Santa's closet, we want to see it!

Joy Sunday is all about letting the light and laughter of the season shine through us. What better way to do that than by filling the sanctuary with color, cheer, and a whole lot of Christmas spirit?

We're looking forward to seeing each of you...your joy, your creativity, and your wonderfully festive outfits this Sunday.

Let's continue to celebrate the joy of Advent together!

Blessings,



Pastor Jennifer Tripoli

