



Sunday, December 28, 2025 10:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	"Silent Night" (arr. Dan Coates)	Nora Harris-Ko
Call to Worship		Jeff Jones
Opening Hymn #234**	"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1,2,3,6)	
Affirmation of Faith		
Song of Praise #220**	"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (verse 3)	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jennifer Tripoli
Mission Moment	Noisy Bucket	Michael Rosas
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	"Glad Noel" (Mark Wilson)	Sanctus Choir
Doxology	"Advent & Christmas Doxology (What Child Is This?)"	
Gospel Reading*	Galatians 4:4-7	
Message	"Beginning Again"	Jennifer Tripoli
Closing Hymn #245**	"The First Noel"	
Benediction		
Postlude	"Noël Suisse" (Louis-Claude Daquin)	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



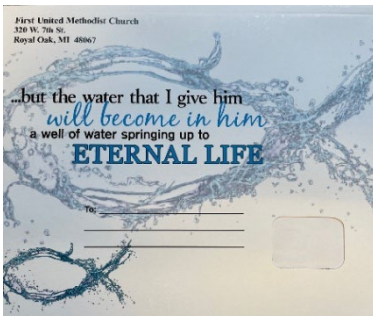
ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10AM ON JANUARY 4

We will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 4. There will also be no Sunday School that day. The nursery will be open. We will return to two services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) on Sunday, January 11.



CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of the New Year holiday. The office will also have reduced hours on Wednesday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 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.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PAINTING PROJECT AT THE YOUTH CLUB

Join us in the spirit of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we serve our community on January 17 & 24. We will be painting rooms at the Salter Center that are used as after-school activity rooms for the youth who attend the Metro Detroit Youth Club (MDYC).



MDYC provides a safe and supportive space, without financial constraints, for any youth in our area who can use a supervised place to be after school lets out. They fill a very important role for our community and we are happy to help make their space a little more welcoming. On Saturday, January 17 at 10:00 a.m. we will meet to wash walls and prep the rooms; then on Saturday, January 24 join us at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. as we paint the walls. Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up.

WARM WINTER GEAR COLLECTION RESUMES

CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISH LIST!

The need for warm winter gear for the Outreach on 7th lunch guests continues throughout the winter months. Please keep an eye out for good deals as you are shopping. Our Amazon Wish List has been updated to reflect the urgent current need for men's gloves and backpacks. Thank you for supporting this important mission! You may drop off items in the round white bin located by the Welcome Desk, or you can shop from our Amazon Wish List by scanning the QR code.

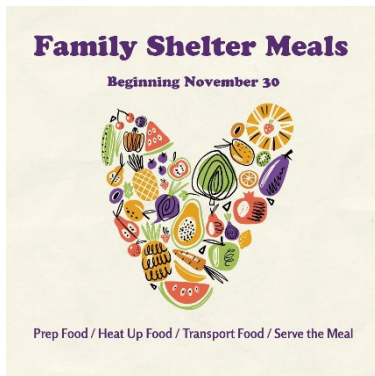
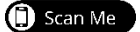


ANNOUNCEMENTS



5-WEEK 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 5-week workshop offers a space to practice new patterns together. Scan the QR code to sign up.



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. Please sign up by scanning the QR code.



SAVE THE DATE!

SPAGHETTI DINNER VARIETY SHOW

On Sunday, February 1 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 1!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Paul Thompson • Bill Bond • Bill Courtney • Craig Sleeman • Karen Porter •
Cattran Family • Laci Basel • Tom Soboleski • Carrie Morse • DJ Hinman •
Phil Button • Bernice Sayers • Joyce Negrich • Patti Peterson • Keith Messing •
Mark Thatcher • Janice Marsh • Dennis Allen • Ann Anderson •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Margie Reese • Susie Inch • Mark Hall • Sarah Hughes • Carol • Joan •
Carolyn Aucchio • Gina Novak • Holly Hempstead • Susie Wilkinson •
Reefe Renforth • Raedea Wagner • Joe Bridge • Bernice Graham •
Elma Holloway • Amanda Lewandowski • Karen Cunningham •

Sympathies to:

The family and friends of member Allen Pollard on his death on December 22, 2025
Deb Schultz on the death of her nephew, Lawrey Edwards on December 19, 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,

As we move through this quiet, in-between space between Christmas and the New Year, we are reminded that God meets us not in perfection, but in the middle of real life. When the decorations come down, the music fades, and routines slowly return, God's presence remains steady and close. We do not have to have everything figured out or neatly resolved to be held by God's grace. We belong to God on our best days, and on our hardest ones, and nothing in the year ahead can change that.

This in-between space invites us to pause, breathe, and remember what truly grounds us before the pace of life picks up again. As we reflect on the year that is ending and prepare for the one ahead, may we do so with gentleness toward ourselves and trust in God's faithful presence.

Please note: We will gather for **one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 28, and Sunday, January 4.**

I look forward to worshipping together as we end 2025 and begin a new year in 2026 rooted in hope, grounded in grace, and reminded once again that we belong.

Blessings,



Pastor Jennifer Tripoli

