The background of the poster is an abstract painting. It features a large, textured yellow circle in the upper center, surrounded by a network of thin, yellowish-red lines. The background is a deep, textured blue. There are also smaller, irregular shapes in red and yellow scattered across the surface.

# epiphany

“Seeing  
Everything  
Differently”

**Sunday, January 11, 2026 9:00AM**  
**ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>	“Blessed Assurance”	House Band
<b>Greeting</b>		Griffin Anspach
<b>Song</b>	“Holy Water”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
<b>Mission Moment</b>	Brett Tillander, Metro Detroit Youth Club	
<b>Baptism</b>		Corey LaPine
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		Nicole Wilson
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>		Joel Palmer
<b>Doxology</b>	“Give Thanks”	
<b>Scripture Reading*</b>	Matthew 3:12-17	
<b>Message</b>	“Gather at the Water”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Renewal of Baptismal Promises</b>		
<b>Music</b>	“Gather at the Water” “Down to the River to Pray”	Analisa Thomas Maria Moro Michael Rosas
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Closing Song</b>	“Raise A Hallelujah”	

\*Common English Bible

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SERVICE FOR OTHERS TODAY AFTER EITHER SERVICE

Join us after either service today, Sunday, January 11 in service for others. We will be prepping and assembling meals for our Family Shelter Meals mission project. See below for more details about our project:

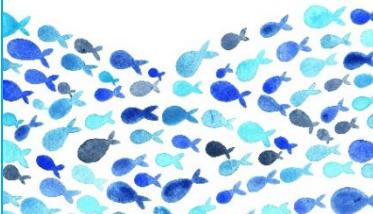
*The Royal Oak First Missions Team has partnered with "Kids Empowered: On the Move" to provide meals at a new family shelter this winter in Pontiac. Our church will be sponsoring meals one week each month throughout the winter. We need help prepping the food on Sundays, heating the food at Royal Oak First each evening, transporting the food to the shelter, and serving the meals at the shelter.*

If you are unable to help out this Sunday, please consider signing up for another volunteer spot by clicking the button below.

## WHY SHOULD YOU VOLUNTEER AT FISH DINNERS?

These dinners are a beloved tradition, drawing in many from the surrounding area and offering a welcoming space for connection. For those already part of the church, it's a chance to come together, build friendships, and contribute to a greater cause. The funds raised from the dinners help provide scholarships that ensure our youth can attend summer camp, fostering growth, learning, and faith in the next generation. Please scan the QR code to sign up for one or all of the fish dinners on **Fridays, February 13 & 27 and March 13 & 27, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards their camp costs!

**FISH DINNERS  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**



SCAN ME

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## PRIDE & ALLY GROUP: "VISION BOARD PARTY"

Join us on Monday, January 12 from 6:30-8:00PM for our next Pride & Ally Group gathering as we pause, reflect, and imagine what's ahead. We'll be creating vision boards—a creative way to name our hopes, dreams, and intentions for ourselves and our community. Whether your vision is bold, quiet, joyful, or still taking shape, there's space for it here. All are welcome. Supplies will be available, but you're welcome to bring anything meaningful you'd like to include.

**Family Shelter Meals**  
Beginning November 30



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 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.



## PAINTING PROJECT AT THE YOUTH CLUB

In the spirit of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., join us as we serve our community on January 17 & 24. We will be painting after-school activity rooms at the Salter Center/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. They fill an important role for our community and we are happy to help make their space a little more welcoming.

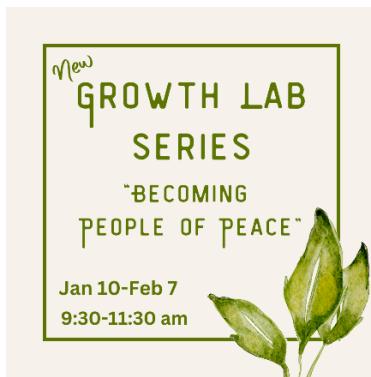
--Saturday, January 17 at 10:00 a.m., we will wash walls and prep the rooms.

--Saturday, January 24 at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m., we will paint the walls.

Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up.

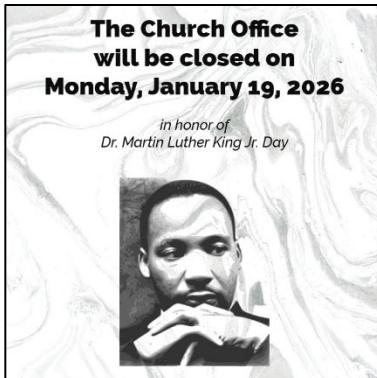


# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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.



## OFFICE CLOSED ON JANUARY 19TH

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



## 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, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Bigaloria, 711 Main Street, 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).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WE ARE HIRING!

Royal Oak First is in need of a new Nursery Coordinator. The Nursery Coordinator works with our nursery volunteers to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our youngest children on Sunday mornings and for special events. This position is 20-24 hours a month and is part of our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team. Please email Pastor Bridget Nelson for a full job description at [bnelson@rofum.org](mailto:bnelson@rofum.org).



## SIGN YOUR ACT UP TODAY!

### SPAGHETTI DINNER & VARIETY SHOW

Our Third Annual Spaghetti Dinner/Variety Show sponsored by the Music Guild is coming up on February 1st. Dinner begins at 5pm, with the show to follow. This event helps to support our summer choir camp, and all proceeds go to sending kids to camp. Anyone is welcome to sign up and perform in the show! We will be limiting the number of acts in the interest of time, so make sure you sign up early! Click the button below to sign your act up today!



## MEN'S WINTER GEAR COLLECTION



## 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.



# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

## Prayers for Our Church Family:

Dave Minch • Barb Simmons • Rick Buxton • Stafford Krieger • Birdie Updyke •  
Charlene Orletski • Paul Thompson • Bill Bond • Bill Courtney • Craig Sleeman •  
Karen Porter • Arthur Jemison • Laci Basel • Tom Soboleski • Carrie Morse •  
Phil Button • Bernice Sayers • Joyce Negrich • Keith Messing • Mark Thatcher •  
Janice Marsh • Dennis Allen • Ann Anderson • Phyllis Hassberger •  
Kathy MacFarlane •

## Prayers for Our Extended Family:

The Kukkola Family • Huntley Thatcher Reed • Martha Hendrickson •  
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 Gloria Knappenberger on her death on January 4, 2026

*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,

Grace and peace to you.

This week we continue our journey through the season of Epiphany—a season that invites us to see everything differently. Not because the world suddenly changes, but because we do.

On Sunday, we'll be listening to the story of Jesus' baptism. On the surface, it can feel like one of those strange religious rituals Christians just...do. Water. Words. Movement. A moment that's easy to rush past or reduce to tradition.

But baptism is far more interesting than that.

At its heart, baptism is not about washing something away as much as it is about claiming what is already true. It is a visible, embodied way of saying: this life is rooted in belovedness, not performance. Before Jesus teaches, heals, or calls anyone else—he is named, out loud, as beloved.

That naming matters.

Baptism points to an inner reality we are invited to live from: that our lives begin not with achievement or certainty, but with grace. It asks us to imagine what might change if we truly believed that we are already held, already seen, already loved—and then learned to live from that place.

This Sunday, we'll linger in the waters together. Not to explain everything, but to notice what becomes possible when belovedness is taken seriously.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff" above a stylized "J". Below the "J" are two small circular marks, one with a smiley face and the other with a frowny face.

Pastor Jeff Nelson