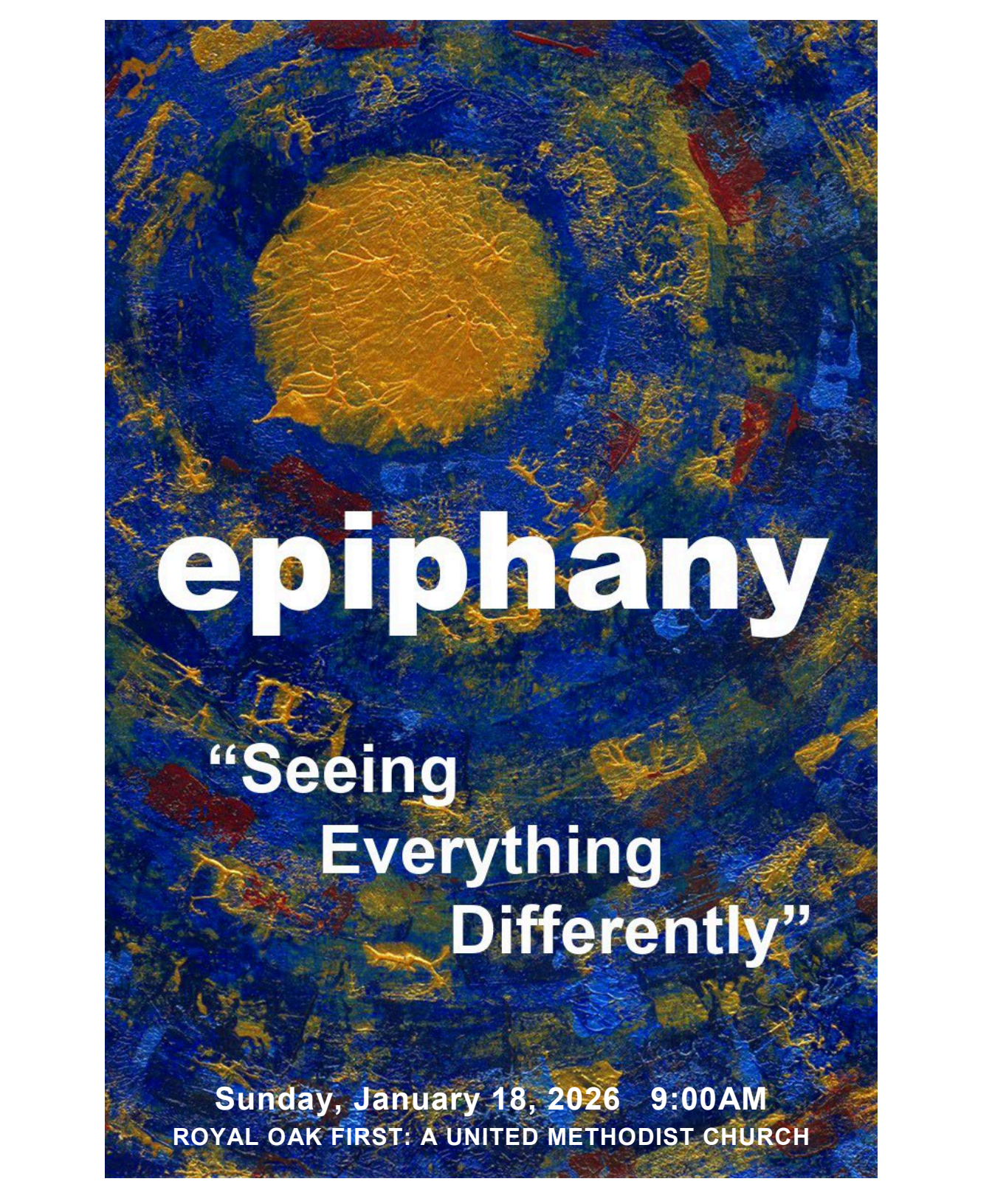


An abstract painting with a complex, textured surface. The dominant colors are deep blue and vibrant yellow, with scattered patches of red and white. The texture appears to be created with thick brushstrokes or possibly mixed media, giving it a tactile, almost three-dimensional quality. The overall composition is dense and layered, with various shades and textures of the colors blending and overlapping.

epiphany

**“Seeing
Everything
Differently”**

Sunday, January 18, 2026 9:00AM
ROYAL OAK FIRST: A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	"Green Onions"	House Band
Greeting		Analisa Thomas
Song	"That's My King"	
Song	"The Table"	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	"Beautiful Dawn" (arr. The Wailin' Jennys)	Kiersten Ciccone & Analisa Thomas
Doxology	"Give Thanks"	
Scripture Reading*	1 Corinthians 1:1-19	
Message	"Partners"	Jeff Nelson
Closing Song	"Yes And Amen"	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

**Common English Bible*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Church Office
will be closed on
Monday, January 19, 2026**

*in honor of
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day*



OFFICE CLOSED ON JANUARY 19TH

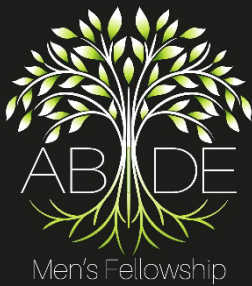
The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ABIDE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The ABIDE Men's Fellowship meets on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Our ABIDE Men's Fellowship has three goals: 1. Make space for friendship and fellowship. 2. Create opportunities to serve. 3. Offer opportunities to grow in faith. We will start back up with our Tuesday nights on January 20, 2026. We will meet each week at least through Lent. During Lent we will participate in the church-wide study. The Tuesdays of Lent are February 24-March 31. We hope you can join us and feel free to invite someone new to come along as well!



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.

Moms at Pubs
(MAP)



ANNOUNCEMENTS



PAINTING PROJECT AT THE YOUTH CLUB

In the spirit of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., join as we serve our community on Saturday, January 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. We will paint the walls on Saturday, January 24 from 9:30 a.m.-noon (1st shift) or 12:30-3:00 p.m. (2nd shift). Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up.



SPAGHETTI DINNER & VARIETY SHOW

Our 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Variety Show, sponsored by the Music Guild, is on Sunday, February 1. Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. with the show to follow at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids ages 6-15 and children under 5 are free. This event helps to support our summer camp and all proceeds go to send kids to camp.

“SHARE THE LOVE” BY SPREADING KINDNESS & CONNECTION

Let's come together to make sure every heart in our church family feels remembered and loved. In the week leading up to Valentine's Day, we hope to send a card to every member of our church community. We need people to: Make & mail cards; Bake sweet treats; Assemble treat bags; Deliver treat bags to church members. On Saturday, February 7 at 10:00 a.m., we will gather to assemble and deliver 40 bags filled with treats and heartfelt notes to make Christ's love real in our church family. Scan the QR code to sign up and join us in sharing the love!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FISH DINNERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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 to volunteer at one or all of the fish dinners on **Fridays, February 13 & 27 and March 13 & 27**. Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards their camp costs!



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.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clothing Closet Needs



CLOTHING CLOSET NEEDS BLUE JEANS

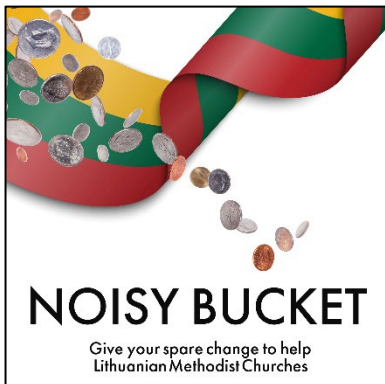
The Outreach on 7th's Clothing Closet really needs donations of MEN'S BLUE JEANS sizes 30-38 waist. Please drop off at the church office, Monday-Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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.



NOISY BUCKET IS ON JANUARY 25TH

Bring in your spare change on Sunday, January 25 at either service and we will collect it for our efforts to support the United Methodist churches in Lithuania. Don't miss out on making the bucket noisy!

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Joyce Negrich • Lee Hoffmann • Rick Buxton • Birdie Updyke • Dave Minch •
Sue Buxton • Barb Simmons • Stafford Krieger • 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:

Bill Gnegy • Debbie Motherwell • 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 • Reefer Renforth • Raedea Wagner • Joe Bridge •
Bernice Graham • Elma Holloway • Amanda Lewandowski • Karen Cunningham •

Sympathies to:

The Matsumoto family on the death of Jan's brother, Terry Reed on his death on January 13, 2026

Congratulations to:

David and Lauren Schrock on the birth of their son, Elio James Schrock on January 7, 2026

*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

Dear Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you.

We're in the season of Epiphany—a season that keeps inviting us to see everything differently. Not in a flashy, lightning-bolt way, but in the slow, subtle way that changes how you notice the world once the light comes on.

This weekend we also pause for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We often remember Dr. King as a historical figure, a leader, a voice that helped bend the arc of history. All of that is true. But before anything else, he was a follower of Jesus. His courage didn't come from nowhere—it was rooted in prayer, in Scripture, and in a deep conviction that love, when practiced publicly, has the power to change the world.

That feels especially fitting in Epiphany.

Because Epiphany keeps asking us to notice where God is showing up—often in places we've learned to overlook. It invites us to look again at our neighbors, our city, and ourselves. To ask: What if God is already here, waiting for us to see differently?

That's why our ongoing work alongside our unhoused neighbors matters so much. It isn't a side project. It's an extension of Epiphany. Each conversation, each partnership, each act of advocacy helps us see people not as problems to be solved, but as neighbors to be known—as beloved children of God.

And the truth is, when we begin to see others differently, something in us changes too.

My prayer this week is simple: That the light of Epiphany keeps working on us. That it keeps softening our vision and widening our hearts. And that together, we keep learning what it looks like to follow Jesus—right here, in this place, at this time.

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