



Palm Sunday



**ROYAL OAK
FIRST**
A United Methodist Church

**Sunday, March 29, 2026
11:00 AM Worship**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude		Gary Pace
Call to Worship		Carrie Beerer
A Palm Sunday Retelling	“Jesus Came Our Way”	Piper Weeks Emily Weeks Brooke Harris
Opening Hymn #278* & Palm Parade	“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Hymn #280*	“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”	
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Ride On, King Jesus” (Nancy Grundahl)	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95*	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture Reading**	Matthew 16:24-28	
Message	“The Community: Called to Courage”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #159*	“Lift High the Cross”	
Benediction		
Postlude		

ANNOUNCEMENTS



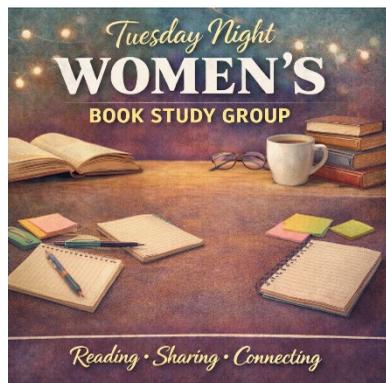
EASTER EGG FILLERS COLLECTION

The kids and youth of Royal Oak First are collecting donations of individually wrapped pieces of candy and toys/trinkets for their annual 'Egg My House' fundraiser through Sunday, March 29. A collection bin is at the Connections Table. If you prefer to shop from home and have it delivered, simply scan the QR code to order from our Amazon Wish List by Sunday, March 29.



GET READY FOR "EGG MY HOUSE"!

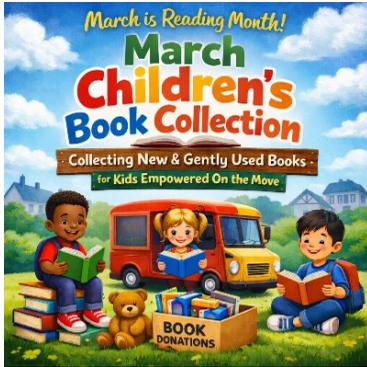
Make Easter morning "egg-stra" special for your kids with a yard full of candy and toy-filled eggs delivered by Royal Oak First! Purchase twenty-four (24) eggs for \$25 or double the fun with forty-eight (48) eggs for \$50. All proceeds support the Youth Mission Trip. Order by scanning the QR code by Sunday, March 29.



TUESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

This welcoming group of women has been meeting at Royal Oak First for about 10 years to explore a variety of books, from Bible studies to spiritually rich novels and personal growth titles. We meet Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at church during fall and spring and on Zoom in the winter months. Our next book is "*The Let Them Theory*" by Mel Robbins, beginning March 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. If you have questions, please contact Pam Belecki at pbelecki@wowway.com.

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MARCH CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION

In honor of "March is Reading Month", the Missions Team will be collecting new and gently used children's books to be shared with "Kids Empowered: On the Move." They run a program that delivers books to low income families around Oakland County. Please scan the QR code to shop from our Amazon Wish List, or shop local at The Caboose: Sidetrack Bookshop for Kids on Washington Ave.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 2, 2026, 7:00 p.m. service
(in-person and online)**

Join us for a worship experience at 7:00 p.m. where we will remember the Last Supper and reflect on how Jesus built community around the table, inviting us to do the same.

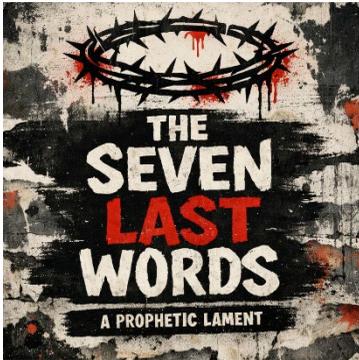


GOOD FRIDAY

**Friday, April 3, 2026, noon service
(in-person and online)**

Join us for a traditional and impactful Good Friday worship service remembering Jesus' final day. This is a service of deep reflection. Come to the foot of the cross and experience the Passion of Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

Friday, April 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

(in-person and online)

You don't want to miss this live event where poets and musicians muse on Christ's last words from the cross. Unique, poignant, and compelling, "The Seven Last Words" offers insights into Christ's humanity and divinity in his final moments.

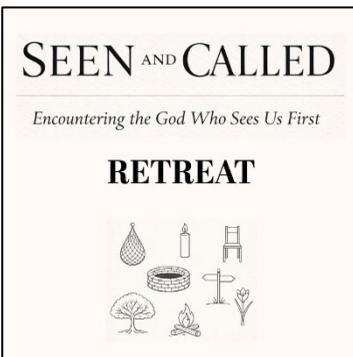


EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5, 2026, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services

(in-person and online)

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Join us for a morning of worship and celebration featuring our House Band at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, and the Sanctus Choir accompanied by a brass quartet at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



"SEEN AND CALLED" RETREAT

****CHANGE IN DAY AND TIME****

Saturday, April 11 | 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Join us for a special retreat for anyone who has been reading "Seen and Called" with us. Whether you've read every chapter or are just catching up, all are welcome. We'll begin our time together by reflecting on one of the most foundational truths of our faith, that God truly sees us. We'll continue our retreat by turning our eyes forward. Together, we'll explore the new things God may be inviting each of us into, the callings, opportunities, and next steps being placed before us. Come ready to slow down, open your heart, and be reminded of how deeply and personally you are known by God.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Elsa Reynolds • Riley Combs • Joyce Negrich • Heather Diamond •
Andrew Sluss • Scott Cummings • Rick Buxton • Rachel Salazar • Pam Payne •
Joyce Russell • John Marsh • Elizabeth Kincannon • LeeAnn Witherspoon •
Kay Nowaczok • Larry Oberdier • Ann Anderson • Mark Thatcher • Jerry Elliott •
Arthur Jemison • Bob Prud'homme • Michele Prud'homme • Bernie Stubitsch •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Christina Buchanan • Craig Brooks • Sandra Brooks • Burnie Davis • Jim • Mike •
Leslie Inch • Beverly Bazzell • Effie Lambros • Carol Marshall • Felix Thurman •
Mark Hall • Robert Williams • Huntley Thatcher Reed • Jean Murphy •
Ron & Betsy Fisch • Kelli Hackbardt • Russ Dore' • Elma Holloway •
Richard Long • Jean Foster • John Bartley • Susie Wilkinson • James •
Barbara Anderson • Dr. Eisenshtadt • Bill Gnegy • Debbie Motherwell •
Margie Reese •

*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,

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, and with it we begin telling the story that sits at the very center of our faith. It is the story we return to again and again because it tells us who God is, who we are, and what love looks like when it refuses to turn away.

It begins with a parade.

Palms waving. Voices rising. A crowd full of hope. People who had been seen by Jesus, healed by Jesus, called by Jesus, loved by Jesus — they show up. They welcome him with joy.

And still, even here, Jesus is already teaching us what kind of Savior he is.

He does not ride in on a war horse. He comes on a donkey. Humble. Peaceful. Gentle. He overturns all our usual assumptions about power, strength, and victory. He is not the Savior the world expects. He is the Savior the world needs.

That is where Holy Week begins.

And then we walk with him.

On Thursday evening, we will gather in the upper room and remember that, in the middle of fear and confusion and coming chaos, Jesus draws his friends close. He gives them bread. He shares the cup. He reminds them that love is something we practice together. Community, even in the hardest moments, is one of God's great answers to the world. We do not make it alone. We belong to one another.

On Good Friday, we will gather in two ways. At noon, we will walk the Stations of the Cross and move visually and prayerfully with Jesus through the story of his suffering. Then in the evening, we will gather again as poets and musicians help bring the hard, beautiful, prophetic word of Jesus to life in the way only artists can.

And then, on Sunday, we come back for resurrection.

We come back to sing and celebrate and remember once more that death does not get the final word. Fear does not get the final word. Empire does not get the final word. Despair does not get the final word.

Love does.

So welcome to Holy Week.

Come for the joy of Palm Sunday.
Come for the tenderness of Thursday.
Come for the gravity of Friday.
Come for the wonder of Easter morning.
Come for the whole story.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff" with a simple smiley face drawn below the name.

Pastor Jeff Nelson

