



STILL HERE

LOVE • MERCY • TOGETHER



**ROYAL OAK
FIRST**
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 9:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	“I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For/Stand By Me”	House Band
Welcome		Jeff Nelson
Song	“This Is Our God”	
Invitation to Offering		Jennifer Tripoli
Musical Offering	“Days Like This” (Late Night Thoughts)	Cassandra Wilson
Doxology	“Give Thanks”	
Interview		Kip Tull
Scripture Reading*	John 15:1-11	
Message	“Abide”	Jeff Nelson
Sacrament of Holy Communion/Lord’s Prayer		
Song	“The Church”	
Closing Song	“Build Your Kingdom Here”	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BUILDING SAFETY UPDATE

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our congregation, our Health & Safety Team recently partnered with the Royal Oak Police Department to conduct a walkthrough of our building.

Based on their recommendations, beginning May 1, the Lafayette door (across from parking lot – Door #3) will remain locked at all times. On Sunday mornings, the only entrances that will be unlocked will be the front Tower Entrance (Door #1) and the door with the Brown Stairs (Door #4).

Thank you for your understanding and support as we take these important steps to care for our church community. Please contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli with any questions at jtripoli@rofum.org or call 248.541.4100.



“SHOP on SUNDAY” CHURCH STORE!

Our new in-person church store, “Shop on Sunday,” is open the first Sunday of the month! We have a team that has been working to create a new opportunity for you to represent Royal Oak First out in the world. There will be clothing, but also other household items for you to purchase onsite or order online. Be sure to check it out this Sunday or scan the QR code to order online right now!



RBI PRODUCE COLLECTION

Friday, May 8, 2026

Thank you for your continued support in providing fresh produce monthly to the families served through Redford Brightmoor Initiative's Free Store! **We need 3 shoppers for May.** Scan the QR code to sign up.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEXT PRIDE & ALLY MEETING

Monday, May 11, 2026 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

There's energy growing in our Pride & Ally Group, and we'd love your voice in it. We're beginning to shape our mission, expand outreach, and plan for Pride Month. Whether you've been to a meeting before or are just curious, you are welcome at our next meeting on Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. To be added to the email/text list, call 248.541.4100 or email prideandally@rofum.org.



SILENT AUCTION & EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 15 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.

5th Avenue Grill in Downtown Royal Oak

Join us for a traditional Midwest Euchre tournament designed for fun, friends and fellowship. There will be an silent auction with many amazing gifts.

(Even if you are not a Euchre player, we absolutely want you to be part of the evening! There will be ample opportunity to mix, mingle and bid on some wonderful items.)

Cost will be \$50 donation a person and will include food and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available. All proceeds will go to support Outreach on 7th. Click on the QR codes to sign up to attend Euchre Night or to donate to our Silent Auction.



**SILENT / EUCHRE
AUCTION / NIGHT**



NEW HERE? COME TO PASTOR CHAT!

Are you new to Royal Oak First or just curious to learn more about our church? Want to find out how to get involved? Join us for Pastor Chat—a relaxed, informal time to meet the pastors, ask questions, and discover your next steps at Royal Oak First. The next Pastor Chat will be on Sunday, May 17 at 10:15 a.m. in the Parlor and last no more than 45 minutes. We'd love to meet you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONE SERVICE BEGINS

Beginning on **Sunday, May 24**, we will have only **ONE service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** This will run through our Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 6. We will return to our 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, September 13.



WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 7!

Our Pentecost Sunday Block Party will be on Sunday, June 7 right after service. We want to encourage everyone to wear red and we made it super easy for you to do so. Check out our new online church store “Shop on Sunday” and order yourself one (or more!) of our red t-shirts!



STEP INTO SUPPORT:

Men's Sneakers & Shorts Needed

The Outreach on 7th Clothing Closet is currently in need of men's sneakers in sizes 10, 10.5, and 11, along with basketball shorts in sizes 34, 36, 38, and 40. These everyday essentials make a real difference for our neighbors navigating challenging circumstances—offering comfort, dignity, and the ability to move through the day with confidence. If you're able to donate new or gently used items, your generosity helps us continue making Christ's love real in practical, tangible ways. Please drop off at the church Monday-Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT PRIDE EVENTS

Our Pride & Ally Group is looking for volunteers for our Royal Oak First booth at two June Pride events. We will be at Family Pride Night at the Royal Oak Farmers Market on Wednesday, June 10 and Berkley Pride on Sunday, June 28. Scan the QR code to sign up! If you have any questions, please email prideandally@rofum.org.



CHOIR REUNION WEEKEND

October 16-18, 2026

The picture at the bottom of this page is of the Sanctus Choir in 1987 (photo taken by Clarence W. Phillips). There are several members of the choir that are still members of Royal Oak First United Methodist Church today, in 2026. See if you can recognize them: Joan Johnson, Phyllis Hassberger, Susanne Buxton, Grace Perkins, Eileen Schroeder, Audrey Fick, Rick Buxton, Melanie Fick Brown, Bill Bond, Kay LaCombe and former Choir Director, Christopher Hall.

Come join those of them who can be there, and many other choir members from the past and present, at our Choir Reunion Weekend October 16-18, 2026. Clarence W. Phillips, who took this photograph, is no longer on earth, but his son Don Phillips will be at the reunion. Please join us.



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Sam Nelson • Elsa Reynolds • Jerry Haymond • George Bard • Bill Young •
LeeAnn Witherspoon • Riley Combs • Scott Cummings • Pam Payne •
Joyce Russell • Kay Nowaczok • Ann Anderson • Mark Thatcher •
Bob Prud'homme • Michele Prud'homme • Bernie Stubitsch •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Faye Rogers • Julie Rogers • Ken Rogers • Latha Ravi • Marietta Cunningham •
Sharon Conners • Jen Moore • Megan Colett • Adarsa •
Jeanie & Michael John Hoops • Christina Buchanan • Mike • Craig Brooks •
Sandra Brooks • Burnie Davis • Jim • 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 •
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,

There are days when I feel steady and clear as your pastor. There are other days when I feel the weight of the moment a little more. That is not a crisis. It is simply part of loving a church through a season of change, uncertainty, and possibility. Also, I assume every pastor before me had at least a few days when they stared into the middle distance and thought, "Well, Lord, this is a lot."

When that feeling comes, I sometimes wander downstairs to Fellowship Hall and look at the pictures of the pastors who have gone before me. I am the 66th senior pastor of Royal Oak First United Methodist Church. That means 65 women and men have helped lead this congregation through nearly 200 years of life together. I try to listen for their wisdom.

I imagine they knew uncertain seasons too. I imagine there were moments when they wondered if they were up for it, or whether the church would make it through whatever was in front of them. And yet, here we are.

I imagine their stories. Weddings and funerals. Baptisms and confirmations. Hospital visits and committee meetings. Ordinary Sundays that mattered more than anyone realized at the time. And, of course, potlucks. So many potlucks. Enough green bean casserole to qualify as a minor Methodist sacrament.

Real people. Real connections. A whole lot of grace. And when I listen closely, I think I hear them whisper something simple: just set the table, and let the people come.

Royal Oak First has been part of this community since 1837. We are still here. This is our moment to hold what has been entrusted to us, to care for it well, and to help make sure this church remains a place where Christ's love is made real.

We do that in simple ways. We show up. We serve. We care for one another. We stay connected to God and to each other, even when life feels busy or uncertain.

Each week in this spring journey, the *Still Here* sign has helped us tell that story. This week, we simply underline the word HERE. It is a quiet reminder that God's grace is not somewhere else or someday later. It is here, in this place, in this moment, among these people.

Grace is here. And so are we.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff Nelson

