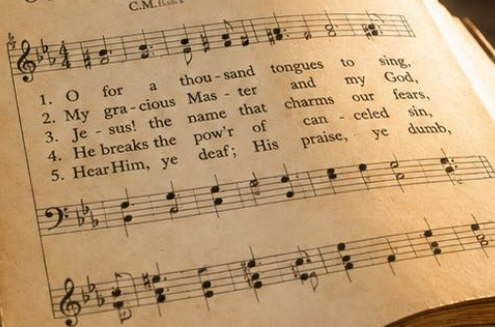


Sunday
August 16, 2026
10:00 AM Worship

57 O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING
C.M. 1880s



THE SONGS
THAT
SHAPE US



THE GRACE WE SING



ROYAL OAK
FIRST
A United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	"Fire of Heaven" (Carl Gladstone)	House Band
Welcome/Call to Worship		Kathy Peterson
Opening Hymn #363**	"And Can It Be that I Should Gain"	
Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Song	"Superhero" (Music by Laurie Berkner) (Lyrics adapted by Tori Kozan)	Vacation Bible School Kids
Children's Moment		
Time of Prayer		
Making Christ's Love Real		
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	"And Can it Be" (Indelible Grace)	Jenni Clark Kaylee Derkowski Griffin Anspach
Doxology	"Give Thanks"	
Scripture Reading*	Genesis 28:10-22	
Message	"Grace Frees You"	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #145**	"Morning Has Broken"	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

***United Methodist Hymnal*



THE SONGS THAT SHAPE US

THE GRACE WE SING

CHARLES WESLEY

AUGUST 2026

The Songs That Shape Us: The Grace We Sing

About This Sermon Series

Did you know that while John Wesley was working to start the Methodist movement, his brother Charles was writing poetry and hymns that helped people remember what they were learning?

For generations, these hymns have carried the heart of the Wesleyan vision of grace—not as museum pieces from another century, but as living songs that continue to shape ordinary disciples today. Long before most of us could define words like *prevenient grace*, *assurance*, or *holiness*, we were already singing them.

Through four familiar hymns, we will trace the movement of God's grace: the grace that comes before us, frees us, forms us together, and sends us into the world in love.

Our guiding conviction is simple: **We are a grace-first people.**

Every week invites us to hear these beloved songs with fresh ears, discovering that they have been quietly forming our faith all along.

Before we could explain grace, we were already singing it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SERVICE FOR OTHERS

Sunday, August 23 | in the Parlor after worship

Join us Sunday, August 23 after worship in service for others in the Parlor. We will be making sandwiches for Outreach on 7th's Lunch Program.



PRIDE & ALLY GROUP BRUNCH AT PRONTO!

Sunday, August 23 | 12:00 p.m.

It's time for another Family Brunch at Pronto! The Pride & Ally Group is gathering after the 10:00 a.m. service (so around 12:00 p.m.) on Sunday, August 23 at Pronto! in Royal Oak. All are welcome! Everyone pays for their own meal, but the fun and fellowship are free!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DURING ARTS, BEATS & EATS

Friday, September 4-Monday, September 7

From Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7, nearly 400,000 people will visit our community during Arts, Beats & Eats (ABE), so we are looking for volunteers. You will greet Arts, Beats & Eats volunteers, sponsors & artists at the Tower entrance; keep the church outdoor area picked up; offer assistance to ABE Volunteer Command Center Staff. **Bonus: Each person that volunteers for a shift will receive free admission to the festival!** Scan the QR code to sign up.



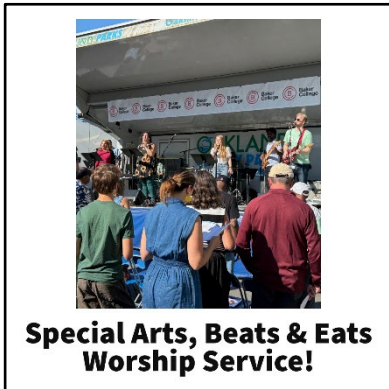
ANNOUNCEMENTS



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 30 | during worship

We invite all children and students to bring their school backpacks to church on Sunday, August 30 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. As a new school year begins, we want to take a moment to support our children, families, and educators with prayer and encouragement. Each child will receive a blessing for their backpack—a symbol of the year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and new experiences.



SPECIAL ARTS, BEATS & EATS SERVICE

Sunday, September 6 | 10:00 a.m.

We will have only one worship service during Arts, Beats & Eats on Sunday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m. on the outdoor stage located at 6th and Lafayette. If you don't plan on staying for the festival, park in the parking structure across and down the street from the church until 11:00 a.m. If you are planning to attend the festival after worship, all worshippers that day get a ticket for free admission to the festival, free parking at Royal Oak High School (1500 Lexington Blvd.), along with a free shuttle from the high school to drop you off and pick you up right next to the stage.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

Late summer brings the return of the Royal Oak First School Supplies Collection! We are continuing our partnership with Ferndale Lower Elementary and will be collecting the following items: glue sticks, Expo markers, Crayola 24ct crayons, Ticonderoga pencils, 1-subject wide rule notebooks, and kids scissors. Other items are welcome, but those listed are of greatest need. School starts before Labor Day this year, so bringing items in sooner is greatly appreciated. Please drop off items in the bin by the Welcome Desk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ENJOY AN INCREDIBLE SUMMER NIGHT— WHILE SUPPORTING OUTREACH ON 7TH!

Friday, August 28 | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

We're thrilled to share that Outreach on 7th has been selected as a beneficiary of this year's Arts, Beats & Eats Charity Preview Party! It is a celebration previewing the music, art and food coming to Arts, Beats & Eats that takes place Friday, August 28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on the 5th Street Plaza. When purchasing your tickets, be sure to select **Outreach on 7th** in the "I'm supporting" drop down box. Out of your ticket purchase, 75% will be donated directly to Outreach on 7th, helping support our mission to serve neighbors in need right here in our community. Scan the QR code to buy tickets.



ESSENTIALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The first Saturday of the month, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. the Essentials Pantry is open. We need volunteers to gather from our supply inventory and hand out these supplies to those in need. If you are able to volunteer, please scan the QR code to sign up.



FIND YOUR PLACE TO GROW, SERVE & CONNECT AT OUR MINISTRY FAIR!

Sunday, September 13 | right after worship

Join us after our final 10:00 a.m. service of the summer for our Ministry Fair! Enjoy community, connection, and hot dogs while discovering the many ways you can get involved in and around the church. Whether you're looking for a new way to serve, hoping to meet more people or simply curious about what's happening at Royal Oak First, there's a place for you. Come find your place to grow, serve and connect!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2027 SERVICE TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

June 20-26, 2027

The Missions Team is planning a service trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky for the week of June 20-26, 2027. The youth group will be traveling there at the same time as a church-wide (mostly adult) group, but we will be sleeping in different quarters. If you would consider joining this trip, please scan the QR code to fill out the linked interest form to help guide our planning of the trip. Thanks!



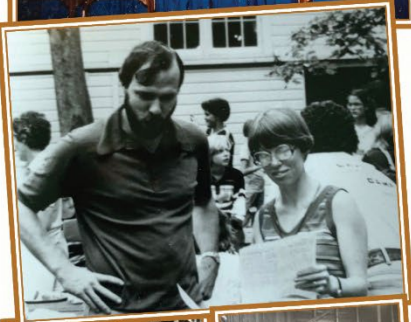
MUSIC DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that we have hired Stephanie Yu to be our new Music Director! Stephanie brings experience with organ, choral direction, hand bell direction and contemporary music. She impressed our search team with her talent, experience and character. She will be in the office starting August 31, **the first choir rehearsal will be September 10, and the first bell rehearsal will be September 16.** We look forward to introducing her in worship on September 13. Thank you to the search team and everyone that participated in the audition interview in July. We look forward to welcoming Stephanie.



OUTREACH ON 7TH THANK YOU!

I have asked for a lot in the last two weeks, i.e. t-shirts, period products, Ebikes, and you all stepped up every time. Every time I ask, "Am I asking too much?", and every time you all make the miracle happen. Thank you for caring about the people who need it most. You all are the best! Sincerely, Robert Bryson, Outreach on 7th Coordinator.



*Different times.
Same song.
Forever friends.*



Royal Oak First Choir Reunion Weekend

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 16 – 18, 2026

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church is hosting a reunion of choir members the weekend of October 16 – 18, 2026.

This reunion is for the current members of the Sanctus Choir, and all former choir members, Music Directors, Choir Camp Deans and Counselors and their guests.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Welcome Reception – featuring fellowship, memories shared and pictures of past choir performances and choir camps.

Pizza and Salad will be served.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

1:00 – 3:30 P.M. Gathering at the church.

Tours of the renovated church building will be available, and fellowship, memories and pictures shared.

3:30 – 5:30 P.M. Choir Practice.

We will rehearse the three songs that will be sung during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, including:

- "In Remembrance of Me/You Shall Know the Truth" (from *Celebrate Life*).
- "What a Fellowship (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)".
- "Amen".

6:00 – 8:00 P.M. Dinner



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:30 A.M. Arrive at the church

11:00 A.M. Worship Service

12:00 P.M. Coffee Hour Reception

Registration

Register for any or all of these events by scanning the QR code.



SCAN ME



FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL choirreunion2026@gmail.com

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Myra Pollard • Carrie Morse • Lee Hoffmann • Pam Payne • Megan Grimm •
Kathy Border • Elizabeth Kincannon • Barb Simmons • Rita Nicholas •
Phyllis Hassberger • Ann Anderson • Michele Prud'homme • Joyce Negrich •
Margie Carrington • Jerry Elliott • Kay Nowaczok • Mark Thatcher • Bob Prud'homme •
Kathy MacFarlane •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Allyson Jones • Kathy Latham • Tom & Ann Thompson • Bud & Debbie Tucker •
Russ Dore' • John Barber, Jr. • Doug Zorn • William McMahon • Effie Lambros •
Ron Gilmour • Pamela & Richard Rush • Tracy Zawaski • Donna Bartley •
Judy Gombert • Kerry Doty • Huntley Thatcher Reed • Faye Rogers • Julie Rogers •
Ken Rogers • Latha Ravi • Marietta Cunningham • Sharon Conners • Jen Moore •
Megan Colett • Christina Buchanan • Craig Brooks • Jim • Beverly Bazzell •
Carol Marshall • Jean Murphy • Ron & Betsy Fisch •

Sympathies to:

The friends and family of member Donna Allen on her death on August 10, 2026

Ed Berger on the death of his daughter, Samantha Berger on July 1, 2026

Bob & Michele Prud'homme on the death of their brother in law, Charles Smith on
August 8, 2026

Megan Grimm on the death of her father, Richard Grimm on August 6, 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.



Royal Oak First is always grateful when people give of their TIME, TALENT and/or TREASURE.

Did you know that there are several different ways to give financially?

Text to Give: Text the amount you wish to give to 855.566.0093.

In Person: You can place a check or cash in an offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate when it goes by or in one of the offering collection boxes just outside the Sanctuary.

Giving App: Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app to set up one-time or recurring donations.

Online: Visit rofum.org/giving to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

You can always check out our website, www.rofum.org for **Volunteer Opportunities** or subscribe to our weekly email, by going to this link: <http://eepurl.com/c9m7L9> or by stopping by the Connections Table in the Gathering Space.

For more information, contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at 248.541.4100 ext. 1225 or email jtripoli@rofum.org.

Thank you!

STAFF DIRECTORY

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Jeff Nelson	Lead Pastor	jnelson@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1216
Jennifer Tripoli	Executive Associate Pastor	jtripoli@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1225
Bridget Nelson	Associate Pastor of Programs	bnelson@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1102
Nicole Wilson	Worship & Formation Pastor	nwilson@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1218
Lee Trumbull	Communications Director	ltrumbull@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1224
Karen Calhoun	Operations Manager	kcalhoun@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1220
Danielle Moody	Assistant Program Director	dmoody@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1315
Karla Goetz	Missions Coordinator	missions@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Robert Bryson	Outreach on 7 th Coordinator	rbryson@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x1108
Shirley Harris	Kitchen/Meal Coordinator	sharris@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1120
Meagan Grammatico	Children's Music Coordinator	mgrammatico@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Sarah Vandervest	Sunday School Coordinator	svandervest@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Kiersten Ciccone	Nursery Coordinator	kciccone@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Griffin Anspach	House Band Coordinator	ganspach@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Fredrick Fife, II	Audio Engineer	ffife@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Kevin Walsh	Online/Video Coordinator	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Lori Newton	Evening Receptionist	lnewton@rofum.org	248.541.4100
George Bard	Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Beloved Community,

We made it back from Wisconsin this week after a beautiful family weekend in Madison. Bridget's sister, Cailin, and her husband, Froiz, celebrated their marriage with family and friends. Froiz is Indian, so the celebration included a wonderful blending of cultures, plenty of food and laughter, and, yes, Bollywood dancing. And before you ask: I do have video of Bridget dancing. I am not saying it will ever become publicly available. I am simply saying that I have it. It was also the first time Bridget's side of the family had really all been together since 2019. Watching Sam and Casey reconnect with their cousin Amelia and get to know their new cousin-by-marriage, Kabir, was one of those reminders of how quickly family bonds can come back to life.

Now we are preparing for another transition. Sam heads to Albion College on the 19th, and Casey will soon return to Grand Valley. Bridget and I are discovering that launching your children into their own lives is apparently a mixture of pride, gratitude, grief, trips to Target, and wondering where all those years went. Meanwhile, there has been so much life here at Royal Oak First.

This week we celebrated **Hero Academy**, our Vacation Bible School. A huge thank you to Tori Kozan and the many volunteers who poured so much love, creativity, and energy into these days. At times there were upwards of 100 children and adults filling this building with music, laughter, stories, and a little beautiful chaos. It was a wonderful picture of what Christian community can be: people helping form one another in courage, wisdom, compassion, and hope.

This Sunday, we continue our journey through the hymns of Charles Wesley with an oldie but a goodie: **"And Can It Be."** Even the title asks a remarkable question. *And can it be?*

Can it really be that the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ has something to do with me? That God knows me, sees me, loves me, and has been present in my life even when I did not recognize it? Can it be that I am really beloved? Wesley's answer is yes. And ours is, too.

My hope is that Royal Oak First continues to be the kind of community where people awaken to that truth, where children learn it early, adults rediscover it when they forget, and all of us hear the good news again: You are beloved in Christ. And yes. It really can be.

Grace and Peace,

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

Pastor Jeff Nelson