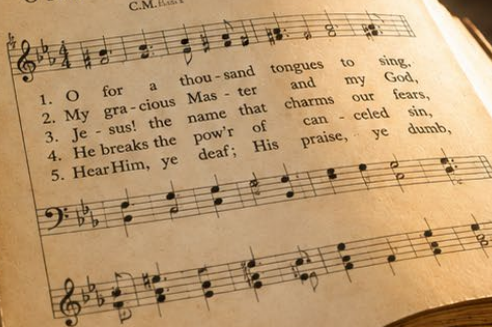


Sunday
August 23, 2026
10:00 AM Worship

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	"Your Heart Your Fire" (Carl Thomas Gladstone)	House Band
Welcome/Call to Worship		Michael Bradford
Opening Song	"In Common, Held" (Carl Thomas Gladstone)	
Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Noisy Bucket Offering		
Children's Moment		Maria Moro
Time of Prayer		
Making Christ's Love Real		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	"March On, My Soul, March On" (Carl Thomas Gladstone)	
Doxology	"Give Thanks"	
Scripture Reading*	John 13:1-17, 34-35	
Message	"Grace Forms Us Together"	Jeff Nelson
Baptism		Jack Brown <i>Son of Cat and William Brown</i>
Closing Hymn #557**	"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"	
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 TODAY

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!



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

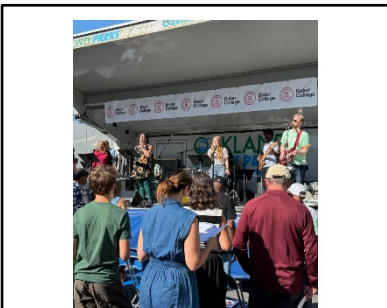
Sunday, August 30 | during worship

We invite all children and students to bring their school backpacks to church on Sunday, August 30 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.



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.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WE NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS FOR ARTS, BEATS & EATS ON MONDAY EVENING

Monday, September 7

We are still looking for just three volunteers on Monday evening. 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.



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!



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



TWO WORSHIP SERVICES RESUME!

Sunday, September 20 | 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we return to our normal worship times of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, September 20. Our 9:00 a.m. service is a more contemporary service and our 11:00 a.m. service is a more traditional service. Join us at one or both services!

OUTREACH ON 7TH (007)

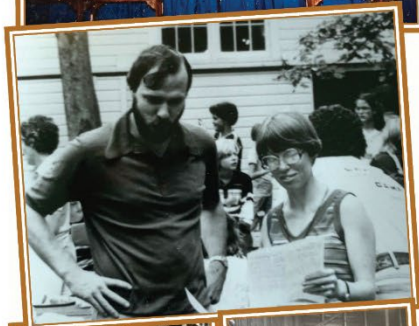
CLOTHING CLOSET WISH LIST

Our Outreach on 7th Clothing Closet has an eclectic mix of needs this week! We are currently looking for:

- **Men's t-shirts** — our supply is still very low.
- **Men's belts** — most of the belts we have are too small.
- **Women's size 8 underwear** — this seems to be a very popular size, and we are completely out!
- **Hotel-size soaps** — our supply is getting low, so if you're traveling, please consider bringing those unused hotel soaps home for 007.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Outreach on 7th!





*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:

Margie Dallavo • Myra Pollard • Carrie Morse • Lee Hoffmann • Megan Grimm •
Kathy Border • Elizabeth Kincannon • Barb Simmons • Rita Nicholas •
Phyllis Hassberger • Pam Payne • 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:

Ashley Mink • 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 Connors • 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 former member, William David Starling on his death in August 2026

Congratulations to:

Jordan and Sarah Altman on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Katharina Altman on August 12, 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
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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,

Last Sunday, as I was shaking hands and sharing hugs after worship, Lee Ross stopped me for just a moment. She knew what was coming for our family. This week we took Sam to Albion for his first year of college, and next week Casey heads back to Grand Valley. Bridget and I are entering what people generally call the “empty nest” years.

But Lee offered me another way to think about it. She said, “Maybe it isn’t an empty nest. Maybe it’s an open nest.” Well, that one stayed with me.

An empty nest is defined by what is no longer there. By what has left. By the quiet where there used to be noise. And, if you have raised young men, perhaps by the strange collection of water bottles, mismatched socks, charging cords, and other artifacts they apparently no longer need.

But an open nest? An open nest is about possibility. It is about being grateful for what has been, while also wondering what might be next. That feels a lot like grace to me.

We have spent much of this summer talking about the grace of God, this love that meets us before we have earned anything and keeps working in us, through us, and even ahead of us. Grace does not simply help us hold on to what has been. Grace opens us to what God might yet do.

This Sunday we get to see that openness in a beautiful way as we baptize Jack, the son of William and Cat. A little more than a year ago, I stood with William and Cat as they made covenant promises to one another in marriage. Now we will stand with them again and make promises around their son.

And baptism, in so many ways, is an act of holy openness. We do not know yet who Jack will become. We do not know where his life will take him, what gifts he will discover, what questions he will ask, or what the world will look like as he grows. Thankfully, baptism does not ask us to know any of that. We simply proclaim that he is loved by God now, and that a whole life of grace and possibility is open before him.

Maybe that is the invitation for all of us.

Our homes can be open nests. Our marriages and friendships can be open nests. Our church can be an open nest. Our lives can be open to the new thing God is still doing.

There will always be moments when we grieve what is changing. I certainly felt some of that driving away from Albion this week. But I am trying not to call the nest empty. I am trying to call it open.

And I am becoming more convinced that grace is what gives us the courage to do exactly that.

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 a single loop on the right side.

Pastor Jeff Nelson