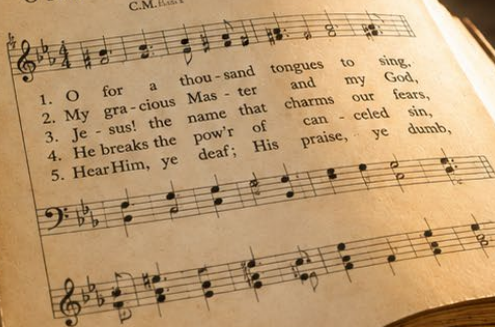


Sunday
August 30, 2026
10:00 AM Worship

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	“Spirit of Freedom, Wake” (Carl Thomas Gladstone)	House Band
Welcome/Call to Worship		James Brooker
Opening Hymn #384**	“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”	
Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Children’s Moment/Blessing of the Backpacks		
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Love Divine (Camp Aldersgate)” (Mark Miller)	
Doxology	“Give Thanks”	
Scripture Reading*	1 John 4:7-21	
Message	“Grace Sends Us”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Song	“Arise, Take Wing” (Carl Thomas Gladstone)	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

***United Methodist Hymnal*

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



SOCK IT TO ME SEPTEMBER (UNDERWEAR TOO!)

Our friends at NOAH at Central give out over 10,000 pairs of socks annually as part of their work supporting the homeless of Detroit. It is our goal to contribute 1000 pairs of socks or underwear to NOAH this year, in addition giving 1000 pairs to Outreach on 7th. Please bring a package of NEW MEN'S CREW SOCKS or NEW MENS UNDERWEAR to church during the month of September. Please drop off the items in the white bin near the Welcome Desk by the Lafayette entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Special Arts, Beats & Eats
Worship Service!**

SPECIAL ARTS, BEATS & EATS SERVICE

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

On Sunday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m., we will worship on the Arts, Beats & Eats 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. Reminder, there will be no Sunday School or Nursery on this Sunday.

MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



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!

Two
**WORSHIP
SERVICES**
RETURN
on
SUNDAY,
September 20.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



COMING HOME TO YOURSELF: AN ENNEAGRAM JOURNEY

Saturdays, beginning 9/26 | 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Do you ever feel disconnected from yourself? This six-week group explores how the Enneagram can help us understand the ways we have adapted to feel safe, loved, and accepted. Through reflection, discussion, and contemplative practices, we'll focus on: self-understanding, self-compassion, and self-trust. Together, we'll learn to reconnect with our inner experience to live with greater freedom, wholeness, and connection to God. Please scan the QR code to sign up.



OUTREACH ON 7TH (007) CLOTHING CLOSET WISH LIST

Our Outreach on 7th Clothing Closet is currently looking for:

- **Men's pants** (waist sizes 34, 36, 38)
- **Men's t-shirts** (L, XL, XXL)
- **Men's belts**
- **Women's underwear** (size 8)
- **Hotel-size soaps**

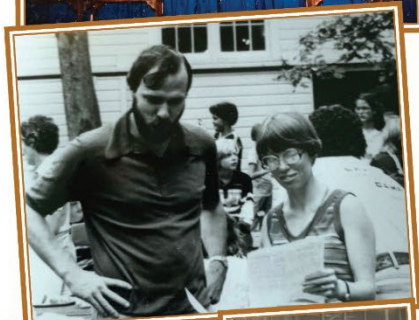


2027 SERVICE TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

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. 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.





*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:

Mike Dabney • Kathy Border • Myra Pollard • Carrie Morse • Lee Hoffmann •
Megan Grimm • 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:

Latha Ravi • Angie Grose • 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 •
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 member, Margie Dallavo on her death on August 21, 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,

All summer long, we have been thinking together about the ways the songs we sing form and shape us. This week, with the passing of Dolly Parton, I have been reminded just how powerful that shaping can be.

My social media feeds have been filled with tributes from people from nearly every walk of life. I am not sure I have ever known another artist who belonged to so many different kinds of people. Somehow, Dolly made people feel seen. She sang about the dignity of people the world often overlooked, especially the poor and working-class people she knew growing up in East Tennessee. Songs like “Coat of Many Colors,” “Me and Little Andy,” and “Hard Candy Christmas” carried the lives of people who did not always make the headlines but whose stories still mattered. And then she lived as though those people mattered too.

Perhaps that is why her passing has touched so many of us. There was a harmony between the songs she sang and the life she lived. The compassion in her music became generosity through her Imagination Library and so many other quiet acts of kindness. The joy, humor, tenderness, and welcome we heard in her songs were also what she offered the world.

I grew up in a house filled with Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, and the Statler Brothers. I honestly thought that was popular music until I arrived at middle school and realized I had better figure out who Def Leppard was if I hoped to have any chance with the cool kids. It took me a few years to discover what should have been obvious all along; Dolly Parton was much cooler than any of us ever realized.

This Sunday, we conclude our series with one of the great Wesleyan hymns, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” Charles Wesley reminds us that God’s love is not simply something we believe in. It is something alive and active within us, slowly shaping us into people who look more and more like Christ. That does not mean becoming flawless, thank goodness, because most of us would be in real trouble. It means becoming more loving. More generous. More tender toward the lives of others. It means allowing the songs we sing and the lives we live to come together in one beautiful harmony.

We are deeply grateful to Carl Gladstone for the many ways he has helped shape our worship and our music this summer. His gifts, spirit, and steady presence have been a blessing to all of us.

Next week, we are also delighted to welcome Stephanie Yu to our staff team as our Music Director. We are excited for the gifts she will bring and for all the ways she will help lead us musically in the season ahead. We will try our very best not to overwhelm her with every idea we have before the welcome lunch is finished.

The songs we sing matter. But they matter most when, little by little and grace by grace, they become the lives we live.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff Nelson