



Sunday, September 13, 2026
10:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	“Place For You” (Griffin Anspach)	House Band
Welcome/Call to Worship		Julie McKeeman
Song	“Made For More”	
Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		Jennifer Tripoli
Musical Offering	“‘Gigue’ Fugue in G Major, BWV 577” (Johann Sebastian Bach)	Stephanie Yu
Doxology #95**	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture Reading*	Matthew 18:21-35	
Message	“What We Cannot Unsee”	Jeff Nelson
Sacrament of Communion		
Closing Song	“The Church”	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

***United Methodist Hymnal*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



AFTER SERVICE TODAY!

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

Sunday, September 13 | right after worship

Join us today after service 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!

Sock-It-To-Me

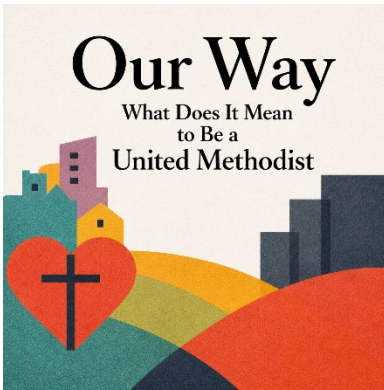


September

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 1,000 pairs of socks or underwear to NOAH this year, in addition giving 1,000 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



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A UNITED METHODIST?

**Join a six-week small group
beginning the week of September 20**

What does it mean to be a United Methodist? Have you ever wondered what the significance is to the United Methodist part of our name? Have you always attended a United Methodist church but aren't sure how to tell people how it's different from any other church? This fall, we are going to use a curriculum written for us by Pastor Jeff that helps us understand Our Way. We are inviting you to read this book in groups as a way of understanding how our history as United Methodists shapes us into people who are covered in grace, formed in love, and sent to serve. We have designed a six-week sermon series with accompanying small groups. Most of these groups will kick off the week of September 20. Find a group and sign up today. Buy the book at the church or from Amazon (\$10 print, \$7.50 kindle).



MOMS AT PUBS (MAP)

Thursday, September 24 | 7:00 p.m.

Rock & Brews (208 W. 5th St., Royal Oak)

Moms at Pub is a relaxed, welcoming space for moms to connect, share a meal, and enjoy meaningful conversation. We gather once a month on Thursdays, September through June, at different restaurants around Royal Oak. There is no agenda, just good food and great company. Our next gathering will be September 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Rock & Brews (208 W Fifth Street, Royal Oak). We send out a monthly email reminder with details and locations. To be added to the list, please email Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at jttripoli@rofum.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



COMING HOME TO YOURSELF: AN ENNEAGRAM JOURNEY

Saturdays, beginning September 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. Cost is \$60 per person. Please scan the QR code to sign up.



NEW HERE? COME TO PASTOR CHAT!

Sunday, September 27 | 10:15 a.m.

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 pastor, ask questions, and discover your next steps at Royal Oak First. The next Pastor Chat will be on Sunday, September 27 at 10:15 a.m. in the Parlor and last no more than 45 minutes. We'd love to meet you!

BIG BOY NIGHT

Tuesday, October 13 | 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Troy Big Boy (200 W. Maple, Troy)

The Music Guild invites you to an evening of fellowship and support for our Youth Summer Camp! On Tuesday, October 13, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., the Troy Big Boy (200 W. Maple, Troy) will donate 15% of our sales to our cause when you present a card at checkout (card available for pickup at the Connections Table). There will also be wonderful door prizes donated by our members, you won't want to miss it! Come enjoy a good meal, connect with friends, and help make Summer Camp possible for all of our youth.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME INN COMMUNITY WORK DAY

Saturday, October 17 | 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Welcome Inn, 1717 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak, 48073

Hosted by the South Oakland Faith Alliance in partnership with the Welcome Inn

Join faith communities and community partners from across Southern Oakland County as we come together to prepare the Welcome Inn for the important work ahead. We will organize common spaces, sort clothing & supplies, clean & declutter, prepare guest areas, and more.

There is another way to help by donating needed supplies: Toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, hand sanitizer, garbage bags, cases of bottled water, individual bags of chips, fruit cups, other individually packaged snacks. You can bring donated supplies with you on Saturday, October 17 or you can have items from the Wish List sent directly to the Welcome Inn. Scan the QR code to sign up and the other QR code to order supplies.



SCAN ME

SIGN UP



Scan Me

AMAZON
WISH
LIST

OUTREACH ON 7TH (007)

CLOTHING CLOSET WISH LIST

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

- **Backpacks**
- **Bath towels**
- **Blankets**

These everyday essentials help us provide practical support and a warm welcome to our Outreach on 7th guests. Donations may be dropped off at the church during regular office hours or on Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping us keep the Clothing Closet stocked and ready to serve our community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



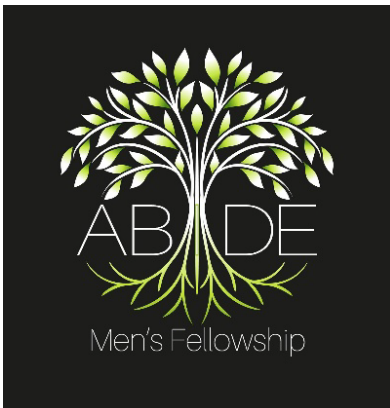
ESSENTIALS PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.



RBI PRODUCE COLLECTION

Thank you for your continued support in providing fresh produce monthly to the families served through Redford Brightmoor Initiative's Free Store! **We are in need of shopping volunteers for the upcoming months.** Scan the QR code to sign up.



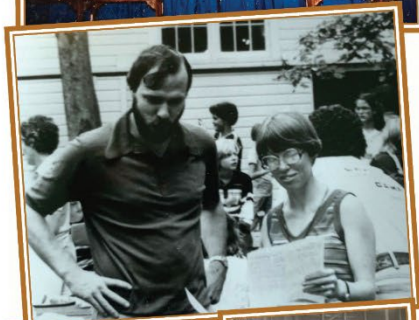
ABIDE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The ABIDE Men's Fellowship meets on most Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the church. See below for specific dates.

Our ABIDE Men's Fellowship has three goals: 1. Make space for friendship and fellowship. 2. Create opportunities to serve. 3. Offer opportunities to grow in faith. This is a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship.

ABIDE will meet regularly from September 15 through December 1, 2026 and it will then be off for a Christmas/New Year break. Meetings will resume on February 2 through April 13, 2027 then off for the summer.

We hope you can join us, and feel free to invite someone new to come along as well!



*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



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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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

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Don Seidler • Noah Ryckman • Barb Simmons • Linda Anderson • Lee Gnegy •
Mike Dabney • Kathy Border • Margie Carrington • Myra Pollard • Carrie Morse •
Lee Hoffmann • Megan Grimm • Elizabeth Kincannon • Phyllis Hassberger •
Pam Payne • Ann Anderson • Michele & Bob Prud'homme • Jerry Elliott •
Kay Nowaczok • Mark Thatcher • Kathy MacFarlane •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Patricia Guarino • Mike Sopheia • Harold Baker • Sue & Harold Williams • 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 •

*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 is something good about the church finding its fall rhythm again. Familiar faces return, stories from the summer get shared, and the building starts filling up with music, conversation, and people looking for the room they were pretty sure they remembered.

This Sunday, we'll gather for one last worship service at 10:00 a.m. before our fall worship schedule begins. Afterward, stick around for lunch and a little time together at Hot Dog Sunday. Come hungry. We'll feed your spirit and hand you a hot dog. We believe in caring for the whole person around here.

Across these coming days, Holy Cow, choir, bells, and our fall programming begin shifting into gear. We're especially excited to welcome Stephanie Yu, our new Director of Music, to the staff and into our life together. There is a lot to look forward to, and I hope you'll find a place to join in.

This fall, we'll also spend time exploring *Our Way*, alongside the new book we've produced, *What Does It Mean to Be a United Methodist?* Now, I realize that title may not immediately make you clear your evening and settle into your favorite reading chair. But stay with me.

This book grew out of our life together. Its pages hold the things we keep saying, practicing, and sometimes needing to hear again ourselves: a way where grace goes first, where you belong before you prove anything, and where we try to make love real in the way we live with one another and in the world.

That is an identity worth claiming. Our United Methodist tradition gives us a way of following Jesus that makes room for questions, trusts the grace of God, and calls us to care for our neighbors. I hope you'll recognize something of this community in these pages. I hope you'll also find language for why this way of being Christian matters to you, and for the kind of life we're still learning to live together.

So whether you've been here all summer, have been in and out between trips, or are finding your way back after a longer stretch, come join us. I'm looking forward to seeing your face, hearing how you've been, and beginning another season together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff Nelson

P.S. A big, heartfelt thank-you to Pastor Jennifer, Karen, our building leaders, and our custodial team for the extra care they've given our historic building this summer. Between the air conditioning repairs and this week's plumbing challenges, there have been more phone calls, appointments, and "Well, we thought that fixed it" moments than most of us will ever know. This old church is well loved, and these folks have been doing a great deal of that loving lately. Thank you for your patience, persistence, and all the work that makes it possible for the rest of us to walk in and feel at home.