LOVE MADE REAL IN PUBLIC

NEIGHBOR LOVE IS THE TRUE SHAPE OF HOLINESS

ROYAL OAK FIRST
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, October 18, 2026
9:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	"make heaven crowded" (Josiah Queen)	House Band
Call to Worship		Megan Landry
Opening Song	"Goodness of God"	
Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Finance Moment		Craig Sleeman
Time of Prayer		
Making Christ's Love Real		Jennifer Tripoli
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	"Beautiful Dawn" (The Wailin' Jennys)	Kiersten Ciccone & Analisa Thomas
Doxology	"Give Thanks"	
Consecration Sunday Announcement		Jonathon Parker
Scripture Reading*	Luke 4:16-21	
Message	"Our Way: Mission 2.0"	Jeff Nelson
New Members		
Closing Song	"Love God Love People" (Danny Gokey)	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

OUR WAY

About This Sermon Series

Why do you come to church? Most of us answer that question differently, although there are usually some common threads. At Royal Oak First, one thread is often about experiencing the grace and love of God before anything else. In this series, we want to explore “Our Way,” we want to give vocabulary and history to why we teach that grace goes first. We want to explore what it means to be loved before anything is expected of us, and to see how Jesus is the divine example of love and grace. We want to remember that communion and baptism are means of experiencing grace so that we can be God’s love made public. And we want to learn together what it means to stay, even when staying is hard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER FOR MCHS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Wednesday, October 21 from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

We are hosting the birthday club this month at the Methodist Children’s Home Society (MCHS). We need volunteers to help with the birthday club by serving food, socializing with the residents, and having fun! **We also need one person to purchase gifts for the birthday boy(s). Gifts will need to be dropped off to the church by October 18.** Please scan the QR code to sign up.

SCAN ME

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Monday, November 30 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to join us for an evening of speakers and music to get us ready for the Christmas season ahead. We will have a program in the Sanctuary followed by dessert at tables in the Parlor, Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall. You are invited to host a table of friends and family, or host a table we can fill for you, or simply attend. Let us know you will be joining us by scanning the QR code by **November 16.**

SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMS AT PUBS (MAP)

Thursday, October 22 | 7:00 p.m.
The Rock on 3rd (112 E. 3rd St., Royal Oak)

Moms at Pubs is a relaxed, welcoming space for moms to connect, share a meal, and enjoy meaningful conversation. We meet monthly at restaurants around Royal Oak, no agenda, just good food and great company. To receive monthly reminders and locations, email Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@rofum.org.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT WITH KIDS EMPOWERED

Saturday, October 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Join the Missions Team at a Trunk-or-Treat event hosted by Kids Empowered. The event takes place in the parking lot of an Auburn Hills hotel. These families do not have a neighborhood to attend traditional trick-or-treating, so this event is especially meaningful. We would love your help to make this event special! Please scan the QR code to sign up.

SCAN ME

BINGO AND POTLUCK NIGHT

Friday, November 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

ALL are invited to join us as we conclude the Our Way series for a traditional Methodist Potluck & Bingo Night. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Bingo at 7:00 p.m. Please scan the QR code to sign up to bring a dish to share.

SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S CHRISTMAS GREENS SALE TIME!

Scan Me

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner and it's time to order the greens to deck the halls! We again have wreaths, crosses, canes, balls, centerpieces, and garlands! Royal Oak First Music Guild's Christmas Greens Sale benefits our Summer Camp Program Scan the QR Code, call the church office at 248.541.4100 or stop by the Connections Table to order yours today! **You must place and pay for your order by November 8 at 1:00 p.m.**

OUTREACH ON 7TH (OO7) CLOTHING CLOSET WISH LIST

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

- **Sleeping Bags**
- **Sweatshirt Hoodies**
- **Blankets**
- **Winter Hats (skull caps)**
- **Winter Gloves**

These winter 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.**

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

From the Personnel Team: This month, we honor our pastors with grateful hearts for their faithful leadership, compassion, and dedication to our church family. Through their prayers, teaching, and encouragement, they help us grow in faith and love. We are truly blessed to have them! Please take a moment to show your appreciation with a note, phone call, email, or hug. Let our pastors know how much they mean to us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 1, 3:00 p.m.

Please join us for our Annual Church Conference on Zoom. We will be conducting our business meeting, electing our leadership for the next year and learn of what is happening in the wider connection of the United Methodist Church. This is an important meeting and will give you a chance to help shape the direction of our congregation. **This meeting will be held on Zoom only and a link will be sent out to everyone on our church email list closer to the date.**

NOISY BUCKET ON OCTOBER 25

Bring in your spare change in on Sunday, October 25 at either service and we will collect it for our efforts to support the United Methodist churches in Lithuania. Don't miss out on making the bucket noisy!

GROCERIES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED

As we reflect on this week's theme, "Love Made Real in Public," we have an opportunity to put our love into action by helping families in need in our community. When heading to the store this week, please consider picking up a few extra pantry staples to support these families in need. **Items needed:** Bagged rice, bagged black beans, 4 lb. bags of corn flour (such as Maseca), white sugar, vegetable oil, canned jalapeños/chilies, and salt. Thank you for helping make love real in our community! **Drop off by November 1st.**

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Pam Payne • Phil Button • Lee Gnegy • Tom Janes • Tim Murphy • Lori Vickers • Patrick Calhoun • Mark Thatcher • Liz Malama • Noah Ryckman • Linda Anderson • Mike Dabney • Kathy Border • Margie Carrington • Myra Pollard • Carrie Morse • Lee Hoffmann • Megan Grimm • Elizabeth Kincannon • Phyllis Hassberger • Ann Anderson • Michele & Bob Prud'homme • Jerry Elliott • Kay Nowaczok • Kathy MacFarlane •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Cindy Mulvahill • Bill Mahaffy & family • The Klipfel Family • Melissa McMahon • Linda Frank • Donna Bartley • Rachel Hopkins • Dianne Stobbe • Lee Potter • Jean Murphy • James Cudejko • Noah Armstrong • Russhele Dohnal • Patricia Guarino • Mike Sopheia • Sue & Harold Williams • Latha Ravi • Angie Grose • Ashley Mink • Allyson Jones • Kathy Latham • Tom & Ann Thompson • Russ Dore' • John Barber, Jr. • Doug Zorn • Ron Gilmour • Tracy Zawaski • Kerry Doty •

Sympathies to:

The friends and family of member Kay LaCombe on her death on October 10, 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 Friends,

This week, I received an email from a woman I have never met. Her name is Lisa (Craig) Merte, and she grew up here at Royal Oak First United Methodist Church. She had hoped to join us for this weekend's Choir Reunion, but a death in her family has made that impossible. She didn't want the weekend to pass without sharing what this church, and particularly its music ministry, has meant to her.

Lisa began singing in our children's choirs when she was in third or fourth grade. She sang through high school, attended choir camp every summer, went on choir tours, participated in Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), and made lifelong friends here. She was baptized and confirmed in this church. As she put it, "I found my voice, the love of music and the love of Jesus from these experiences." But that's only the beginning of her story.

After leaving Royal Oak in the early 1980s, Lisa went on to study music, became a music educator for 30 years, teaching thousands of children in Livingston County, and served as a church music director, leading choirs, hand bells, and worship in other congregations. And she wanted us to know that all of it began here.

I've been thinking about that ever since I read her email. We don't always know what happens to the seeds we plant. We don't know where the children who sing in our choirs, attend our camps, or find a place to belong in this community will end up. We simply make room for them, encourage their gifts, teach them a few songs, and remind them that they are loved. And sometimes, decades later, we get a letter like Lisa's, reminding us that those songs are still being sung.

This Sunday, at our 11:00 worship service, we will welcome back generations of singers for a special choir reunion. Our expanded choir will fill the sanctuary with music, and I imagine there will be plenty of stories, laughter, memories, and perhaps a few tears. What a gift to celebrate those who have made music in this place through the years, and all those who have made that music possible.

I'm especially grateful for the children who are finding their voices here today, just as Lisa did so many years ago. Because the beautiful thing about a church choir is that the music doesn't stop when the singing ends. It goes out into the world, carried in the lives of people we may never see again, touching lives we may never know.

Lisa closed her letter with a hope that this ministry would continue to thrive and ripple through the lives of others.

I can't think of a better prayer for this weekend.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff Nelson