

WE STAY IN THE ROOM

LOVE REFUSES
TO WALK AWAY



ROYAL OAK
FIRST
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, October 25, 2026
11:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	"Excerpt from Danse Macabre, Opus 40" (Camille Saint-Saens)	Stephanie Yu
Call to Worship		Liz Wright
Opening Hymn 632*	"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"	
Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Consecration Sunday Announcement		Matt Williams & Rick Buxton
Noisy Bucket		
Time of Prayer		
Making Christ's Love Real		Jennifer Tripoli
Invitation to Offering		
Offertory	"Offertory" (John Ness Beck)	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95*	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"	
Scripture Reading***	Acts 15:1-21, 28-29 Philippians 2:1-5	
Message	"We Stay in the Room"	Jeff Nelson
Baptism		Lily Warren
Closing Hymn #2223**	"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" (verses 1, 2 & 3)	
Benediction		
Postlude	"Rigaudon" (Andre Campra)	

**United Methodist Hymnal*

***The Faith We Sing*

****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



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!



2026 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 1 | 3:00 p.m. on ZOOM

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GROCERIES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED

Drop off by Sunday, November 1

Put your love into action by picking up a few extra pantry staples to support families in need in our community. **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!



SPREAD THE LAUGHS

AN EVENING SUPPORTING THE WELCOME INN

Thursday, November 5 | 5:00-10:00 p.m.

Join South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless (SOCH) for *Spread the Laughs* at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle (310 S. Troy St., Royal Oak). Enjoy a strolling dinner, silent auction, comedy, and more while supporting Welcome Inn's mission to provide a warm, safe place to sleep for those experiencing homelessness. Scan the QR code for more information and tickets.



BINGO AND POTLUCK NIGHT

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

What's more Methodist than a good old-fashioned potluck? A potluck with bingo, of course! Join us as we wrap up our *Our Way* series with food, friendship, laughter, terrific prizes, and bingo with a few unexpected twists! Bring a favorite dish (homemade or store-bought!), invite a friend, and enjoy an evening of fellowship. And if all you can bring is yourself, that's more than enough! **Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by bingo at 7:00 p.m.** Scan the QR code to sign up to bring a dish to share.



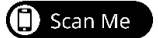
ANNOUNCEMENTS



IT'S CHRISTMAS GREENS SALE TIME!

Order and pay by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 8

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!



ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday November 22 | 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

On Sunday, November 22, we will remember the many beloved church members, family members, and friends who we have lost since November 20, 2025. The names of these loved ones will be included in the All Saints pages in the Bulletin, if you have a name you would like included please email Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

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

Sign up by Monday, November 16

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. Scan the QR code to sign up by November 16.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Essentials Needed



WINTER ESSENTIALS NEEDED

Our Outreach on 7th is currently in need of:

- **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.**

COFFEE, CONVERSATION & YOU!

Looking for a fun, easy way to get involved?

We'd love to welcome you to our Coffee Bar team!

The Coffee Bar is more than a place to grab a cup of coffee. It's where conversations begin, friendships grow, and people feel at home. And you can help make that happen! Volunteers help prepare coffee, tea, and snacks before worship, then keep things running smoothly afterward while connecting with others. **New to volunteering? No worries! You'll work alongside an experienced volunteer who will show you the ropes.** All you need is a friendly smile and a willingness to help!



SCAN ME



SHOP ON SUNDAY

ROYAL OAK FIRST CHURCH STORE!

Show your Royal Oak First spirit wherever you go! Our Shop on Sunday church store offers a variety of clothing and household items featuring Royal Oak First designs. Whether you're shopping for yourself or looking for a gift, there's something for everyone! **Shop in person on Sundays or browse and order online anytime!**



SCAN ME

SHOP ON SUNDAY

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Pam Payne • Lee Gnegy • Tom Janes • Tim Murphy • Lori Vickers • Patrick Calhoun •
Phil Button • 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:

Russ and Judy Dore' • Amy Fausone • 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 • Russhale Dohnal • Patricia Guarino • Mike Sopheia •
Sue & Harold Williams • Latha Ravi • Angie Grose • Ashley Mink • Allyson Jones •
Kathy Latham • John Barber, Jr. • Doug Zorn • Ron Gilmour • Tracy Zawaski •
Kerry Doty •

Sympathies to:

Carolyn Gabler on the death of her nephew, John Howard Gabler, Jr. on October 2, 2026

Congratulations to:

Elena and Mike Moses on the birth of their daughter, Molly Rae Moses on October 15, 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,

I have long believed that if you really want to understand what it means to be a United Methodist, you could do worse than attend a church potluck.

We have some pretty important theological convictions. We believe in grace, serving our neighbors, and growing together in faith. But somewhere along the way, we also decided that a folding table covered with casseroles, crockpots, and an alarming variety of Jell-O salads was a pretty good expression of what we believe. And I think we were onto something.

At a potluck, everybody brings what they can. Some arrive with a cherished family recipe handed down through generations. Others bring something they picked up at Costco on the way to church. Both are welcome. There are Swedish meatballs, green bean casseroles, and mysterious dishes involving miniature marshmallows. (And seriously, when did adding Jell-O to something make it a salad?)

The beauty is that nobody brings the whole meal. We each bring something, and together we create a feast. We enjoy one another's gifts and make room at the table. That sounds an awful lot like the church to me.

Throughout this fall, as we've explored *Our Way* and what makes our United Methodist identity distinctive, we've talked about grace, belonging, service, and growing in Christ. But sometimes growing together in Christ looks a whole lot like simply enjoying being together. We Methodists have a word for that. We call it *fellowship*. Which is a wonderfully churchy way of saying we like hanging out with each other. And frankly, I think we could all use a little more of that right now.

So, on **Friday, November 6, from 6:00–8:00 p.m.**, we're throwing a good old-fashioned **Potluck and Bingo Night** to celebrate the conclusion of our fall *Our Way* season. There will be food, friendship, terrific prizes, and bingo with a few unexpected twists. This won't necessarily be your grandmother's bingo night. Although, knowing some of the grandmothers around here, they might be the most competitive people in the room.

I really hope you'll come. Bring a dish to share if you can. Bring a friend. And if all you can bring is yourself, that's more than enough.

Because sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is pull up a chair, share a meal, laugh until our sides hurt, and remember how good it is to belong to one another. And if somebody brings the good cheesy potatoes, save me a scoop.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff Nelson