

JESUS, GRACE WITH A FACE

LOOK TO CHRIST



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Litany” (Charles Callahan)	Stephanie Yu
Call to Worship		Dale Milford
Opening Hymn #89*	“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”	
Welcome/Invitation to Community		Jeff Nelson
Time of Prayer		
Making Christ’s Love Real		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Offertory	“For the Beauty of the Earth” (John Rutter)	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture Reading**	Mark 1:40-45	
Message	“Jesus, Grace with a Face”	Jeff Nelson
Sacrament of Communion		
Communion Song	“Taste and See”	
Closing Hymn #378	“Amazing Grace” Verses 1, 2, 3, & 4	
Benediction		
Postlude	“The Rejoicing” (Charles Callahan)	

*United Methodist Hymnal

**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



HALLOWEEN CANDY NEEDED FOR SPOOKTACULAR!

Royal Oak Spooktacular is on Sunday, October 18 from 2:00-5:00 p.m., and we will be hosting a trick or treating stop on our corner! We need donations of Halloween candy to pass out to all the kids! Donations can be brought to church office Mon-Thu from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. or on Sundays.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT WITH KIDS EMPOWERED **Join the Missions Team at a Trunk-or-Treat event** **hosted by Kids Empowered**

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

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.





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 Big Boy Night on Tuesday, October 13 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Troy Big Boy (200 W Maple). Present a card at checkout and 15% of your purchase will support our Youth Summer Camp! Cards are available at the Connections Table. Enjoy dinner, fellowship, and door prizes while supporting our youth!

Also, if you feel led, we would gratefully accept any items you would be interested in donating for our raffles.



ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT MISSIONS?

We are in need of a Missions Coordinator!

Do you enjoy organizing people and donations to make a difference in the community? We are in need of a part-time Missions Coordinator to work with our Missions Team and our partner organizations to create opportunities for our congregation to be in service.

See Pastor Bridget for a full job description.

WELCOME INN COMMUNITY WORK DAY

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

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

Welcome Inn, 1717 W. 13 Mile, Royal Oak

Join us as we prepare the Welcome Inn for the winter! Help organize, clean, sort supplies, and prepare guest spaces. You can also help by donating needed supplies, including paper products, cleaning supplies bottled water, and individually packaged snacks. Bring donations on Saturday, October 17 or order directly from the Amazon Wish List. Scan the QR codes to sign up or shop the Wish List.





CHOIR REUNION WEEKEND

OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

SIGN UP NOW!

This is the last weekend to register for the choir reunion! If you have participated in a choir or attended camp, we invite you to join us for a fun filled weekend.

We are planning a welcome reception on Friday, a rehearsal and dinner on Saturday, and an 11 am service performance on Sunday. We hope to see you there!

FROM THE PERSONNEL TEAM

This month, we pause with grateful hearts to honor our pastors. Thank you for faithfully answering God's call, leading us with wisdom and compassion, and serving with love and faith. Through your prayers, teaching, encouragement, and example, you help us grow closer to Christ and stronger together as a church family. You touch our lives in ways both seen and unseen, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do. May the Lord continue to renew your strength, guide your steps, and bless you always. We love and appreciate you!

Please take a moment to write a note, make a call, send an email or give a hug to all our pastors. We are so blessed to have them in our lives and church.



BINGO AND POTLUCK NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 6 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 p.m., Bingo at 7 p.m.



Please scan the QR code to sign up to bring a dish to share.



Christmas Greens Sale

IT'S CHRISTMAS GREENS SALE TIME!



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 1pm.**

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Beloved Community,

Over these last few weeks, we've been talking together about what it means to be United Methodist—about grace going first, but underneath all of that is something even more basic. **Jesus.**

Which, I realize, is not exactly a groundbreaking discovery for a church. Twenty-five years of seminary and ministry, and this week your pastor has arrived at: **Jesus is important.** You're welcome. But I mean something more than simply saying his name or believing the right things about him. I think we need to keep knowing Jesus—the whole Jesus. His life and his teaching. The people he spent time with; the people he defended.

*continued on back

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Patrick Calhoun • Phil Button • Mark Thatcher • Liz Malama • Noah Ryckman • 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 • Kathy MacFarlane •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Donna Bartley • Rev, Marvin McCallam • 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 • William McMahon • Effie Lambros • Ron Gilmour • Tracy Zawaski • Kerry Doty • Ron & Betsy Fisch •

Sympathy to:

The family and friends of Barbara Simmons who died on September 25, 2026

The Hunter family on the death of Sheryl's mom, Jacquelyn Joy Janney, on September 24, 2026

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.*

We notice the questions he asked. The stories he told. The tables he turned over and the tables where he pulled up a chair. His death. His resurrection. All of it belongs together.

Because when we separate Jesus' death and resurrection from the way Jesus actually lived, it becomes pretty easy to lose something important. The cross can become only a transaction. The resurrection can become only a victory. Faith can turn into a formula for deciding who is in and who is out. And Jesus can become an idea instead of a way of life.

I think that matters a lot right now. We're living in a moment when Christianity can get tangled up pretty quickly with power and certainty, with nationalism and the desire to win. And then I go back and read the Gospels, and the Jesus I meet there just keeps pulling me somewhere else—toward mercy and humility, courage and forgiveness, generosity and a love that keeps making room for people the world would rather leave outside.

Our Methodist tradition is one attempt, among many across 2,000 years of Christian history, to figure out how to live faithfully in that story. We certainly haven't always gotten it right. Methodists have never suffered from a shortage of committees, opinions, or casseroles. But at our best, we keep coming back to Jesus and asking the same question: What would it look like to live this way here? In this community? In this moment? With these neighbors?

This Sunday, after we sing and pray and spend some time wrestling with all of that together, we'll come to the Communion table. And I love that this is where the morning leads us, because the table is one of those places where the way of Jesus becomes more than something we talk about. We actually get to practice it.

We come with empty hands and discover there is enough. Nobody has earned their place there. We receive the bread and the cup as gifts, and somehow, in receiving them together, we're reminded that we've also received one another. Grace goes first at the table, just as we believe grace goes first everywhere.

And then we leave. We go back to our homes and neighborhoods, our schools and workplaces, our families and friendships, all the very ordinary places where most of life actually happens. Maybe that's where this whole conversation about being Methodist finally lands. We keep returning to Jesus so that, little by little and probably less perfectly than we'd like, his way becomes our way. The love we receive at the table starts showing up in the way we live with one another.

I hope you'll join us Sunday. Bring whatever questions you have, whatever faith you have, whatever doubts you have. Just bring yourself. There will be room at the table.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff