



**Sunday, November 1, 2026**  
**9:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

|                                         |                                                    |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Gathering Music</b>                  | "Bless Me"<br>(Maverick City Music, Kirk Franklin) | House Band       |
| <b>Call to Worship</b>                  |                                                    | Cathy Young      |
| <b>Opening Song</b>                     | "Any More"                                         |                  |
| <b>Invitation to Community</b>          |                                                    | Jeff Nelson      |
| <b>Consecration Sunday Announcement</b> |                                                    | Wayne Michalak   |
| <b>Time of Prayer</b>                   |                                                    |                  |
| <b>Making Christ's Love Real</b>        |                                                    | Jennifer Tripoli |
| <b>Invitation to Offering</b>           |                                                    |                  |
| <b>Musical Offering</b>                 | "Corner of the Sky"<br>(Stephen Schwartz)          | Jenni Clark      |
| <b>Doxology</b>                         | "Give Thanks"                                      |                  |
| <b>Scripture Reading*</b>               | Deuteronomy 26:1-11                                |                  |
| <b>Message</b>                          | "Never Forget Where You Came From"                 | Jeff Nelson      |
| <b>Sacrament of Holy Communion</b>      |                                                    |                  |
| <b>Communion Music</b>                  | "What A God"                                       |                  |
| <b>Closing Song</b>                     | "Promises"                                         |                  |
| <b>Benediction</b>                      |                                                    |                  |
| <b>Departing Music</b>                  |                                                    |                  |

*\*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2026 Church Conference

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

## 2026 CHURCH CONFERENCE TODAY!

**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.**

**A Zoom link was emailed out to everyone on our church email list on Thursday, October 29th.**



## 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.



## NIGHT OF LAMENT

**Thursday, November 5 | 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Genesis: the Church (309 N. Main St., Royal Oak)**

This year has seen an increase in racial tensions throughout the United States, escalating with a recurrence of lynchings in the south. We are partnering with Genesis: the Church and other area churches and organizations for a moment of lament. This hour long service will include time to lament through song, reflection, and prayer for the pain racism causes in our nation.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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! **The whole church is invited** to wrap up our *Our Way* series with food, friendship, laughter, terrific prizes, and bingo with a few unexpected twists! **Help fill the potluck table** by bringing a favorite dish—homemade or store-bought! Can't bring food? Come anyway! There's always room for one more at the table! **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.

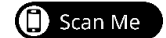


## IT'S CHRISTMAS GREENS SALE TIME!

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

Christmas is right around the corner, and it's time to order your holiday greens! Choose from 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 place your order!



## 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



## ALL SAINTS DAY OBSERVED

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

On All Saints Day, we will remember beloved church members, family, and friends who have passed away since November 20, 2025. To include a loved one's name in our special Bulletin remembrance, please email Danielle Moody at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).



## HELP US DECK THE HALLS

**Sunday, November 22 | 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Help us get Royal Oak First ready for Advent and Christmas! We need volunteers to decorate the church, put up Christmas trees, and untangle those holiday lights. Grab a friend and join the fun as we prepare for Advent on November 29! **Scan the QR code to sign up.**



## HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS SPECIAL AT OUTREACH ON 7TH!

Help make Thanksgiving and Christmas special for our Outreach on 7th guests! Volunteers are needed to cook donated turkeys for Thanksgiving and to help prepare, serve, clean up, and share fellowship during our holiday meals. **Volunteer shifts are 9:00 a.m.–noon on Thanksgiving and Christmas mornings.** Scan the QR code to sign up for either meal.



# 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:

Karen Cunningham • Brent Routkowski • 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 • Russhele 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 •

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,  
please contact Danielle Moody at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto: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've been doing this for more than 25 years now. Every fall, somewhere between the changing leaves and the approaching holidays, I find myself writing a letter asking people to consider their financial commitment to the church. You would think after all these years I would have gotten used to it. But for a long time, this season made me a little anxious.

We would work hard to tell the story of our church, share all the wonderful things happening here, and make the case for why people's generosity mattered. And all of that was good and important. But somewhere mixed up in those efforts was this nagging feeling that whatever people gave was somehow a reflection of my leadership. As though the final number at the bottom of a spreadsheet was going to tell me whether I'd been a good pastor that year.

Looking back, that's a pretty exhausting way to approach something that's supposed to be about gratitude. But I've noticed something changing in me over the years. I don't feel quite the same anxiety anymore. Instead, I find myself looking around at this church and feeling an almost overwhelming sense of gratitude. I think about the friendships we've made, the children growing up among us, the people who find a place to belong, and the extraordinary ways this congregation reaches beyond itself to make life a little better for our neighbors.

There's just so much to be grateful for. And how can I not be grateful when my boyhood Milwaukee Brewers are playing in the World Series for the first time in 44 years? I realize that has absolutely nothing to do with our church budget, but come on, 44 years is a long time!

Somewhere along the way, I've come to understand that generosity really does begin with gratitude. We give because we've been given so much. We share because we know what a difference it makes when someone shares with us. And we support this church because we believe in the kind of community we're building together, and we want others to experience that same love and belonging.

Of course, there are still bills to pay and budgets to balance. The work of making Christ's love real requires real resources. But I no longer want our annual invitation to generosity to feel like a sales pitch. I'd much rather it be an opportunity for all of us to look around, recognize the blessings in our lives, and ask how we might share a little more of those blessings with the world.

Next Sunday, November 8, is our **Consecration Sunday**, when we'll invite everyone to make their financial commitment to the church for the coming year. And because we're Methodists, we are also going to eat! We'll have a wonderful buffet-style **Consecration Brunch following both worship services**, a chance to gather around tables, enjoy one another's company, and celebrate the gift of this community. We would really appreciate your reservations (scan the QR code here or fill out the card you were given with your Bulletin on Sunday, so we can make sure there's plenty for everyone.



I hope you'll be part of it. Not because we need to convince you that this church matters, but because I believe we already know how much it matters to us, to one another, and to the world around us.

And for that, I am deeply grateful.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff" with a smiley face drawn below the name.

Pastor Jeff Nelson

**P.S.** One more thing! Our annual Church Conference is this Sunday, November 1, at 3:00 p.m. We'll be gathering virtually with our District Superintendent, and everyone is welcome to participate. You can find the link in your email. Hope you'll join us!

