

ROYAL OAK FIRST
A United Methodist Church

**Sunday, November 15, 2026**
**9:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Gathering Music** | “Praises”<br>(Elevation Rhythm) | House Band |
| **Call to Worship** | | Connie Royal |
| **Opening Song** | “Made For More” | |
| **Invitation to Community** | | Jeff Nelson |
| **Consecration Sunday Report** | | Rick Buxton |
| **Time of Prayer** | | |
| **Making Christ’s Love Real** | | Nicole Wilson |
| **Invitation to Offering** | | |
| **Musical Offering** | “Different”<br>(Micah Tyler) | |
| **Doxology** | “Give Thanks” | |
| **Scripture Reading*** | Matthew 25:14-30 | |
| **Message** | “A Different Game” | Jeff Nelson |
| **Closing Song** | “Good Plans” | |
| **Benediction** | | |
| **Departing Music** | | |

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS




## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

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

**Sign up by Monday, November 16**

SCAN ME

All women of the church are invited to enjoy an evening of speakers and music as we prepare for the Christmas season. A program in the Sanctuary will be followed by dessert in the Parlor, Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall. Host a table of friends and family, host a table we can fill for you, or simply attend. Scan the QR code to sign up by November 16.




## WELCOME INN COMMUNITY WORK DAY

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

**Saturday, November 21 | 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Welcome Inn, 1717 W. 13 Mile, Royal Oak**

SCAN ME

Join faith communities and partners across Southern Oakland County to help prepare Welcome Inn for the important work ahead. Volunteers will organize spaces, sort clothing and supplies, clean, prepare guest sleeping areas and more. No special skills required—just a willingness to help! No major construction or painting is involved. Welcome Inn offers hospitality, dignity, safety and hope. This work day is a meaningful way to put our shared belief that no one is disposable into action.




## LIKE TO DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

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

SCAN ME

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. **Scan the QR code to sign up.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADVENT MISSION PROJECT

For this year's Advent Mission Project, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for children in area families who are struggling financially. There are two special giving opportunities to participate in, each supporting a different organization.

**Adopt a Family — Metro Detroit Youth Club**

Help make Christmas special for an entire family of children through the Metro Detroit Youth Club, based in Royal Oak. To adopt a family, contact Heather McNutt, Missions Coordinator at missions@rofum.org before November 23. You will be asked to purchase two gifts and a stocking stuffer for each child. Families range in size from 1–6 children, so you can request a family size that works best for you.




**Giving Tree — Cass Community Social Services**

You can also help bring Christmas joy to children in Detroit by participating in our Giving Tree! Simply select one or two tags from the tree on the Connections Table in the Gathering Space, purchase the suggested gifts, and return them unwrapped to the church collection bin near the Welcome Desk by December 8.

You are also welcome to donate any fun, unwrapped toy of your choice—the Giving Tree tags are simply there to provide ideas. These gifts will help stock the Cass Community Social Services Christmas Store, where nearly 300 Detroit families will "shop" for Christmas gifts for their children.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS




## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE

**Sign up by Sunday, November 29**

We invite you to purchase a poinsettia or contribute to UMCOR in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 20 and Christmas Eve. Donors and those honored or remembered will be listed in the December 20 Bulletin. To participate, complete the form below and return it to the Connections Table OR scan the QR code by **Sunday, November 29.** Payment must accompany this order form.

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___Enclosed is $18.00 for a 1 stem red poinsettia

___Enclosed is $33.00 for a 2 stem red poinsettia

___I will pick up my plant(s) following the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

___Enclosed is my donation of $_____ for UMCOR in place of a poinsettia.

This will be a memorial to _____

**OR** in honor of _____

Given by _____

Phone_____

SCAN ME



# ANNOUNCEMENTS




## CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF

**Every Sunday in Advent | 7:30 p.m.**

Starting November 29 at 7:30 p.m., join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live every Sunday evening in Advent (11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20) for a reading of a story that will get you in the spirit of the season.




SCAN ME

## SPREAD THE CHEER THIS CHRISTMAS!

**Saturday, December 5 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

This Christmas season, let's make sure everyone in our church family feels remembered and loved!

**Christmas Cards:**

Purchase or create Christmas cards and mail them any time before Christmas. For some of our church family, your card may be the only one they receive this season. A simple card can mean so much!

**Christmas Cookies & Treats:**

Help us continue our Christmas Cookie Delivery tradition! Bake or purchase two dozen of your favorite cookies or holiday treats before Sunday, December 5, and bring them to church that day. Together, we'll assemble plates and bags of goodies to deliver to members of our congregation who could use a little extra love this season.

**Deliveries & Fellowship:**

We also need volunteers to deliver these treats and spend a little time visiting with the recipients. Sharing conversation and fellowship is just as meaningful as the goodies themselves!

There's a way for everyone to participate, kids and adults alike! Whether you make or mail cards, bake or buy treats, help package goodies, or make deliveries, you can help make Christ's love real this Christmas season. Scan the QR code to sign up and spread some Christmas joy!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS




## FEAST OF CAROLS

**Sunday, December 6 | 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for the 72nd annual "Feast of Carols" Christmas Concert: The Brightest Night, featuring the ensembles of Royal Oak First including our Sanctus Choir, Carillon Ringers, Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, and House and Youth Bands, in addition to guest instrumentalists. Be sure to take in the sounds of Christmas at Royal Oak First for an afternoon of glorious music. After the concert, join us for cookies and punch in the gathering space organized by the Music Guild.




## SANTA IS COMING TO ROYAL OAK FIRST

**Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Santa is making a special stop at Royal Oak First this Christmas season! Mark your calendars and plan to stop by for a little holiday cheer and a chance to visit with Santa. More details to come, but for now, save the date! We hope to see you there!



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MISSIONS COORDINATOR HEATHER MCNUTT

We are excited to welcome our new Missions Coordinator Heather McNutt to our staff team! Heather and her husband Mike are members of our church that have been involved in a variety of things including our Essentials Pantry. Heather has a Masters in Social Work and has worked in various non-profit settings. She brings a wealth of knowledge of local services and agencies. Heather will be working with our Missions Team to help our congregation to make Christ's love real out in the world. You can reach Heather at missions@rofum.org. Welcome Heather!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS




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

SCAN ME

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.




## WINTER ESSENTIALS NEEDED

Our Outreach on 7th is currently in need of:

- Long Underwear (sizes adult medium to 2XL)
- Winter Hats (skull caps)
- Winter Gloves
- Hand Warmers

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 Clothing Closet on the lower level.**




## SHOP ON SUNDAY CHURCH STORE

SCAN ME

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! Watch for the store to pop up in the Gathering Space about once a month**. And shop online anytime!**

# STAFF DIRECTORY

| NAME | TITLE | EMAIL | PHONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jeff Nelson | Lead Pastor | jnelson@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1216 |
| Jennifer Tripoli | Executive Associate Pastor | jtripoli@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1225 |
| Bridget Nelson | Associate Pastor of Programs | bnelson@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1102 |
| Nicole Wilson | Worship & Formation Pastor | nwilson@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1218 |
| Lee Trumbull | Communications Director | ltrumbull@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1224 |
| Karen Calhoun | Operations Manager | kcalhoun@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1220 |
| Danielle Moody | Assistant Program Director | dmoody@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1315 |
| Stephanie Yu | Music Director | syu@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1220 |
| Robert Bryson | Outreach on 7th Coordinator | rbryson@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x1108 |
| Heather McNutt | Missions Coordinator | hmcnutt@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 |
| Shirley Harris | Kitchen/Meal Coordinator | sharris@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 x 1120 |
| Meagan Grammatico | Children's Music Coordinator | mgrammatico@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 |
| Sarah Vandervest | Sunday School Coordinator | svandervest@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 |
| Kiersten Ciccone | Nursery Coordinator | kciccone@rofum.org | 248.541.4100 |
| 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:

Noel Peterson • Joan Johnson • Lee Ross • Pam Payne • Janie Castle • Gerson Vasquez • Lee Gnegy • Carolyn Kubacki • Tom Janes • Tim Murphy • Lori Vickers • Phil Button • Mark Thatcher • Liz Malama • Noah Ryckman • Linda Anderson • Mike Dabney • Kathy Border • Margie Carrington • Myra Pollard • Carrie Morse • Lee Hoffmann • Megan Mckenzie-Grimm • Elizabeth Kincannon • Phyllis Hassberger • Ann Anderson • Michele & Bob Prud'homme • Jerry Elliott • Kay Nowaczok • Kathy MacFarlane •

## Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Holly Hempstead • Karen Cunningham • Brent Routkowski • Russ and Judy Dore' • Amy Fausone • Cindy Mulvahill • Bill Mahaffy & Family • The Klipfel Family • Kerry Doty • Linda Frank • Donna Bartley • Rachel Hopkins • Lee Potter • Jean Murphy • James Cudejko • Noah Armstrong • Russhele Dohnal • Patricia Guarino • Tracy Zawaski • Mike Sopheia • Sue & Harold Williams • Latha Ravi • Angie Grose • Ashley Mink • Allyson Jones • Kathy Latham • John Barber, Jr. • Doug Zorn • Ron Gilmour •

## Sympathies to:

The Schuldeis family on the death of Sue's sister in law, Melissa McMahon on November 8, 2026

## Congratulations to:

Joyce Negrich on her 90th birthday on November 17

Mitch and Sana Huber on the birth of their son, Adam Jaffrey Huber on November 3, 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 Beloved Community,

Well, my heart is full.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for a wonderful Consecration Sunday. Thank you for coming to worship, for showing up with generous hearts, for sharing a meal, and for the first wave of commitment cards that have already been turned in. I don't know how many times a pastor can say thank you before it starts sounding like a broken record, but I'm more than willing to find out!

And yes, I know the question many of you are wondering: **So, how did we do?**

The numbers are still coming together, and Rick Buxton will share a preliminary report with us in worship this Sunday. I'm looking forward to hearing it right along with you. But even before we know the final totals, there's something I want you to know.

**Your generosity really does make Christ's love real.**

It makes room for children to grow up knowing they are loved and that they belong. It makes room for those sacred moments when we gather around a baptismal font, celebrate a wedding, or hold one another through the grief of a funeral. It keeps a kitchen humming, serving 250 to 300 meals every week to our neighbors.

And apparently, it makes room for Bingo Mania! If you missed last Friday's festivities, you won't want to miss the next one. There was Jell-O, there were prizes, there was bingo, and there was even a championship belt that a young man named Lennon proudly carried home. I'm not sure John Wesley ever envisioned championship belts as part of Methodist fellowship, but I think he would have approved!

It makes this a place where you can belong, where friendships grow, where you can worship and connect with God, where you can serve alongside others, and where together we can make a real difference in the world.

Your generosity does all of that. And yes, it keeps the lights on, too, which is especially nice when we're trying to read the hymnal!

If you haven't had an opportunity to participate in Consecration Sunday yet, there's still plenty of room for you. Just reach out to Pastor Jennifer at **jtripoli@rofum.org**, and she will be delighted to get you a commitment card. We'd love to have you add your name to the wonderful community of people saying, "Count me in. I want to help make Christ's love real." Friends, I hope you know how grateful I am for you. For your faithfulness, your generosity, your kindness, and the countless ways you keep showing up for one another and for our neighbors.

What a joy it is to be part of this church. And what a privilege it is to be your pastor.
With a very full and grateful heart!

Grace and Peace,




Pastor Jeff Nelson

