

Hello

my name is



Dylan

Be
Our
Guest


April 30, 2017

9:00 am Arise! Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

(248)541-4100 •  • www.rofum.org • office@rofum.org

Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

Hearing enhancement devices and **large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

*All who choose may stand

FWS: Song printed in black Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

Welcome

* **Song of Faith** Undignified

* **Call to Worship** Crystal Reed

One: We are the house of faith,
crafted by the Architect of creation:

**All: our hearts a shelter for the outcast;
our hands open to the stranger.**

One: We are people created in the image of love

**All: to tell others of God's grace,
to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.**

One: We are people of hope,
called to give of ourselves:

**All: chosen to serve the lost and lonely,
gifted to serve a hurting world.**

One: All are welcome in this place.

All: Thanks be to God!

* **Song of Faith** Welcome

* **Greeting Your Neighbor**

Welcome and Invitation to Mission

Time with Children

Sunday school will follow Time with Children. If you are attending for the first time, parents should accompany children to the Narthex to meet the leaders and sign in.

Song of Praise Kimi Matsumoto, flute

Time of Prayer

Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

One: Hear the confession of our lives, Precious God.

All: Sometimes we cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. To often we rush to defend the issues that matter to us, and dismiss the views of those different from us. Uniting God, hear our silent prayer.

Assurance of Pardon

One: We are not alone. We belong to God and are invited to live in the fullness of God's love.

**All: We are forgiven, redeemed, made whole.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering

You Have Shown Us
House Band

CompassionArt

Scripture

Genesis 18:1-15; Hebrews 13:2

Common English Bible

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant."

They responded, "Fine. Do just as you have said."

So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, "Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!" Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah?"

And he said, "Right here in the tent."

Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!"

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I'm no longer able to have children and my husband's old.

The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?' Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son."

Sarah lied and said, "I didn't laugh," because she was frightened.

But he said, "No, you laughed."

Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it.

Message

Be Our Guest

Jeff Nelson

*** Song of Faith**

Draw the Circle Wide

Blessing

Dear Friends,

His name was Dick Miller and I will never forget him!

I had not been a regular church attender since high school. I was now in my mid-twenties, newly married and living in a new community, having just moved to Detroit from Wisconsin. We were ready to give church a try. We found Central United Methodist Church, the church right next to what is now Comerica Park. I had grown up Methodist so I thought it would be a great place to start.

Here is what I remember - going to a new church for the first time can be really scary. You are not sure what to expect. You are not exactly sure where to go. "Am I dressed appropriately?" "What if I sit in someone else's seat?" It takes a lot to walk into a new church for the first time.

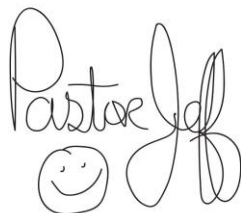
That is why I will never forget Dick Miller. He was the first person we met when we walked into Central that day. He was standing at the door. A tall, elderly man with a gentle smile. He extended his hand and welcomed us. He introduced himself. He asked if this was our first time worshipping and pointed us towards the sanctuary. He told us to come find him if we needed anything. Dick was our first friend at what would become our new church.

Even before we heard the music and the preacher, we felt like maybe we were in the right place and Dick Miller was the one who made that possible. Most people can tell you who the first person was that made them feel welcome at the church and it was that welcome that made them feel like they could belong.

We are a growing church! We have lots of people walking through our doors for the first time, hoping that this might be the right place for them to connect. Be their "Dick Miller!" Be the one who extends the hand and the warm smile. Introduce yourself? Let somebody know that "we are glad that they are here!" Whether you have been here for 40 years or just four weeks, welcome the people next to you today. You might be the one who helps them find a faith community they could call home.

Thanks, Dick Miller! You were the one who welcomed us when that's exactly what we needed.

Grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor J". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.