

Kk

# Kingdom of God

*/'kɪndəm/*

*noun*

1. Actively aligning the way we live as a community with the highest ideals and purpose.
2. When God's peace and justice are realized here and now.
3. The Kin-dom: the family, the household of God.

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
rofum.org • 248-541-4100

Saturday, March 3  
4:00 pm Afternoon Worship

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymn #715	Rejoice, the Lord Is King Stanzas 1-3	*UMH
Call to Worship		Bob Prud'homme
Song	10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) Chorus only	
Greeting Your Neighbor		
Invitation to Mission		
Time of Prayer		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>Both Sides Now</i> Laci Marie Basel	Joni Mitchell
Doxology #95		UMH
Scripture	Mark 1:14-15 and Revelation 21:1-5	**CEB
Message	What do you mean when you say Kingdom of God? Myra Moreland	
Communion	<i>The Goodness of God</i> Laci Marie Basel	Bethel Music
Hymn	Just a Closer Walk with Thee	

\* United Methodist Hymnal

\*\* Common English Bible

# BIG BOY NIGHT



**Big  
Boy**

TUESDAY, MARCH 5  
5:00-8:00 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6  
7:00 PM

## In Paradise

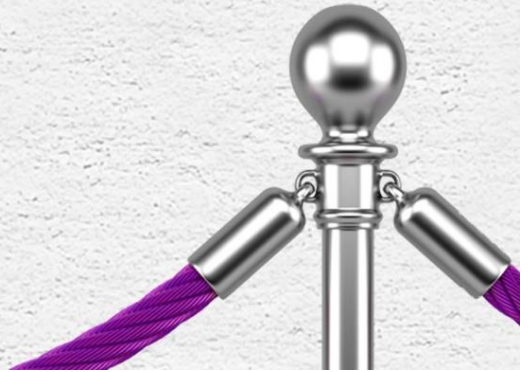
Heaven in Music:  
from Fauré to Coldplay

Sunday, March 10  
4:00 pm

# Coffee and Conversations

Wednesdays, beginning March 13

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm



# Euchre Party for Lithuania

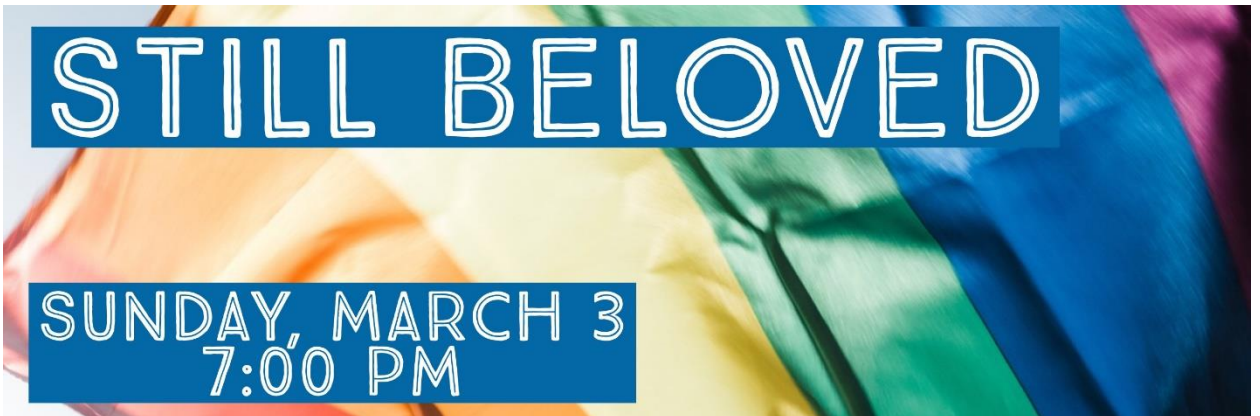
Saturday, March 23

6:00 pm



# STILL BELOVED

SUNDAY, MARCH 3  
7:00 PM



# OPPORTUNITIES

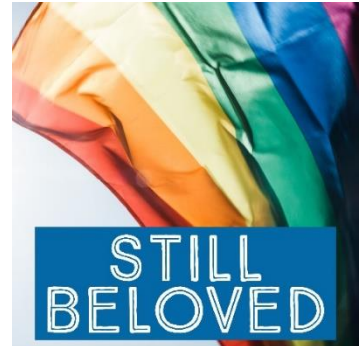
## Still Beloved

**Sunday, March 3, 7:00 pm**

A Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church was held last weekend to examine and alter paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and to explore options to strengthen church unity. Though the conference delegates voted in ways that exacerbate the pain and vulnerability of our LGBTQ+ siblings, we are going to the mountaintop where God's justice can roll like a river, and where these hurts and pains might wash away in the ever-flowing spring of God's love.

Join us at 7:00 pm for worship and communion. All are welcome to join the open choir for the event at 6:00 pm.

For more information, visit [rofum.org/stillbeloved](http://rofum.org/stillbeloved) or contact Minister of Worship and Arts Caleb Williams at [caleb@rofum.org](mailto:caleb@rofum.org).



## Big Boy Night for Music Guild

**Tuesday, March 5, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Come to the Big Boy at 30460 John R Rd. in Madison Heights and enjoy dinner with your church family and 20% of your dinner tab (with a flyer) goes to the Royal Oak First United Methodist Music Guild to support Choir Camp. There are drawings for wonderful prizes and you get to eat where (almost) everybody knows your name! Contact Shirley Harris at [sharris@rofum.org](mailto:sharris@rofum.org) with any questions. Flyers are available at the Welcome Table.

## Ash Wednesday

**March 6, 7:00 pm**

Every year, as the church prepares for Easter, we enter a season called Lent. These 40 days help us refocus and remember who we are before the big celebration. We begin the season next week with a worship gathering called Ash Wednesday. At 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 6, join us for this deep and powerful hour of worship. If you have any questions, contact the church office at [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org).



## United Methodist Women Program and Meeting

Thursday, March 7

Committee: 10:30 am, Choir Room

Program: 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall



Join us for a special presentation from Friends of Lithuania Chairperson, Robin Richardson, as she teaches us more about our partners in Lithuania and the ways that we can help each other. If you have any questions, contact the church office at [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org).

## Scripture and Human Sexuality Follow-Up

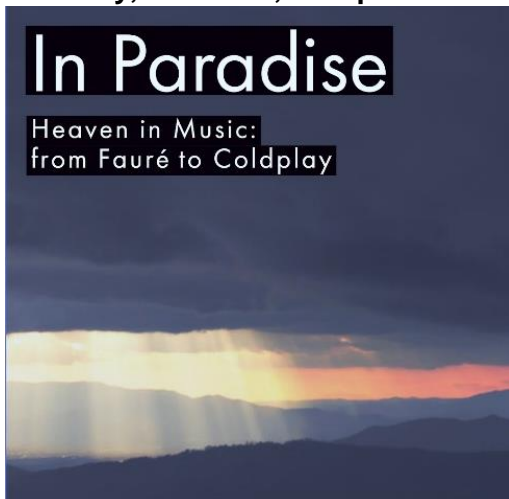
Thursday, March 7, 7:00 pm

Join us for this follow-up to our Scripture and Human Sexuality study. This time will be spent sharing our stories to be heard, loved, and known as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any questions, contact the church office at [office@rofum.org](mailto:office@rofum.org).



## In Paradise: Heaven in Music

Sunday, March 10, 4:00 pm



Music has the power to transport us, to comfort and to challenge, and to offer a glimpse of heaven on earth. Join us March 10 for a concert that explores many ideas of heaven, from the choir and harp of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* to Coldplay's *Paradise*. Youth and adult choirs, orchestra, and our own House Band will join forces for this unique event. Free admission, so bring a friend. For more information, contact the office or Minister of Worship & Arts Caleb Williams at [caleb@rofum.org](mailto:caleb@rofum.org).

## Coffee and Conversations: Lenten Discussion Sessions

Begins Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Join us for Coffee and Conversation each Wednesday night in Lent. Together we will tackle critical issues: Bringing America Back together, Growing Young, Finding God in a Digital Age, The End of Racial America, and Sustainability and Happiness. We will meet in the sanctuary and hear from an expert on the topic, then break into discussion groups. If you have any questions, contact Myra Moreland at [mmoreland@rofum.org](mailto:mmoreland@rofum.org).



## Camp Staff Applications

Deadline: Friday, March 15



It isn't too early to start thinking about campfires, Olympics, swimming, and lots of fun! Our annual choir camp is coming, and you have the opportunity to be part of this transformative week for the children and youth of the church. Camp will be the week of July 21-27, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us!

Camp staff applications will be available in the church office and at the Welcome Table. The deadline for submission is Friday, March 15. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Tripoli at 248-703-8805 or email her at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).

## Fish Dinners are Back!

March 15, 29, & April 12

4:30 – 7:00 pm

Our famous fish dinners are back! Be sure to join us in March and April for these wonderful nights of food, fellowship, and service. Adult meals start at just \$10.

Opportunities to serve are available to everyone (children and youth even get credit for Choir Camp) so be sure to sign up at [rofum.org/links](http://rofum.org/links). If you have any questions, or if you would like to help make these dinners successful, contact Jennifer Tripoli at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).



## United Methodist Women Cookie Walk

Friday, March 15, 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm



Be sure to check out the cookie walk at the next Fish Dinner on Friday, March 15. \$4 gets you a small, one-pound can to fill with the cookies of your choosing, and \$8 gets you a large, three-pound can.

If you would like to bake cookies for the event, you can drop them off at the church on March 15 by 12:00 pm. Please label all cookie donations for allergens.

Proceeds from this cookie walk, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, support missions here and abroad. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Baker at 248-288-2125.

## Service Opportunity at Redford Brightmoor Initiative

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join us at Redford Brightmoor Initiative in Redford to help prepare and serve lunch during their Free Store on Saturday, March 16, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. If you like to spend time with babies and children, you can sign up to be a babysitter to watch the children while parents shop. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Welcome Table. For more information, contact Astrid Harrod at 248-635-6357 or [RBI@rofum.org](mailto:RBI@rofum.org).



## Euchre Party for Lithuania

Saturday, March 23, 6:00 – 11:00 pm

Royal Oak Farmers' Market

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for a fun night of cards with your church family while supporting our partnership with Lithuania. Bring a beverage, an appetizer to share, and a friend. The party starts at 6:00 pm, and the games will begin at 7:00.

Sign up online at [rofum.org/links](http://rofum.org/links) or at the Welcome Table. Admission is \$25 per person. If you have any questions, contact Jennie Notarantonio at [missions@rofum.org](mailto:missions@rofum.org).





## Family Bowling Day

Sunday, March 24, 2:15 pm

Join us at Hartfield Lanes in Berkley for a fun afternoon of bowling with your family. All are welcome! Bumpers, ramps, and light bowling balls are available for anyone who needs them.

The cost is \$8 per person, which includes shoe rental and 2.5 hours of bowling. Let us know if you will join in on the fun so we have enough lanes ready. Contact Danielle Moody at [dmoody@rofum.org](mailto:dmoody@rofum.org) to RSVP or if you have any questions.



## PRAYER LIST

**Prayers for our church family:** Mary Lou Graeber; Inge Wichers; Linda Somers; Doris Whitney; Joan Johnson; Anna Cline; Art Miller; Mary Anne Tempest; James Respecki; Jennie Notarantonio; Don Siedler; Jean Foster; Shirley Gnegy; Diana Shornak; Lee Hoffmann; Anne Brace; The Lowman Family; Dorothy Matsumoto; Gwen Ross; Eileen Albers; Jayden Bryant; Nancy Lorenz; Brad & Judy Ather; Charlene Faunt; Nate DeAngelo; Lisa Rye; Janet Cork; Kris Hanstrom; Dian Wurdock; Don & Marilyn McCreedy; Suzanne Hughes; Ann Anderson; Stephanie Smallwood; Charles White; Pam Shewchuck

**Prayers for our extended family:** Carl Wilson; Alexis Bagrosky; George Bartley; David Moser; Sarah Leoni; Carol Barney; Larry Buger; Tim Johnson; Susan Chamberlain; Susie Inch; Brian Boozan; Helen McGee; Chuck Bartley; Clayton Simons; Nancy Sydanmaa

**Sympathy** to Larry and Anne Brown on the death of their mother, Jean, February 20.

**Sympathy** to Paul and Marian Kremer on the death of their mother, Mary Jean, February 24.

**Sympathy** to the family and friends of Dori Bridson on her death, February 27.

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Betty Cairnes

Please contact our Pastoral Care Team at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org) with any prayer concerns.

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, March 3 – Scout Sunday

9:00 am	Worship & Communion .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery, Preschool, & K-3 – Parlor	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Worship & Communion .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery – Parlor; Preschool – Room #405	
	Lower Elementary (K-2) – Room #402	
	Upper Elementary (3-5) – Room #403	
	Middle School (6-8) – Room #414	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm	World Sabbath .....	Islamic House of Wisdom
5:30 pm	High School Choir Rehearsal .....	Room #403, Room #414
6:00 pm	Cantata Academy Chorale .....	Choir Room
6:00 pm	Still Beloved Choir .....	Sanctuary
6:40 pm	High School Youth Dinner .....	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
7:00 pm	Still Beloved: a Healing Service .....	Sanctuary

## Monday, March 4

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Dori Bridson Visitation and Funeral Service .....	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Core Team Meeting .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
3:00 pm	Directors' Team Meeting .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
6:00 pm	Refueling Our Faith Using Motors .....	Duggan's Irish Pub
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts .....	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga .....	Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Music Guild Meeting .....	Choir Room

## Tuesday, March 5

10:00 am	Pastor's Book and Bible Study .....	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Jackie Bell Memorial Service .....	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Roga Chair Yoga .....	Choir Room
1:00 pm	Staff Team Huddle – Office Closed early .....	Off Site
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons .....	Choir Room
5:00 pm	Big Boy Night .....	Madison Heights Big Boy on John R
6:00 pm	Sing Out Detroit .....	Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball .....	Addams Elementary School
7:00 pm	Women's Book and Bible Study .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor

## Wednesday, March 6 – Ash Wednesday

10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Sermon Practice .....	Sanctuary

### Wednesday, March 6 continued

11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out).....	The Avenue Restaurant
2:00 pm	Piano Club .....	Choir Room
3:15 pm	Piano Lesson .....	Choir Room
4:30 pm	Violin Rehearsal.....	Choir Room
5:30 pm	Holy COW (Church On Wednesday) .....	Fellowship Hall
6:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsals .....	Choir Room, Room #403, Room #414
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship .....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon.....	Room #403
8:00 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Room #414

### Thursday, March 7

7:00 am	Men's Morning Fellowship .....	Nello's Eatery
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	United Methodist Women Executive Meeting .....	Choir Room
1:00 pm	United Methodist Women Program.....	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Ascend Church .....	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Scripture & Human Sexuality Follow-Up.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
7:00 pm	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal .....	Choir Room

### Friday, March 8

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study .....	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program .....	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Therapeutic Rehab Sandwich Making .....	Kitchen

### Saturday, March 9

10:00 am	In Paradise Dress Rehearsal – Angelus and Sanctus.....	Sanctuary
10:00 am	Sing Out Detroit Retreat.....	Choir Room
4:00 pm	Worship.....	Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 10

9:00 am	Worship .....	Sanctuary
	Nursery, Preschool, & K-3 – Parlor	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Worship.....	Sanctuary
	Nursery – Parlor; Preschool – Room #405	
	Lower Elementary (K-2) – Room #402	
	Upper Elementary (3-5) – Room #403	
	Middle School (6-8) – Room #414	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour .....	Fellowship Hall
12:15 pm	Emergency Training Team .....	Sanctuary
1:30 pm	Metro Detroit Recorder Society .....	Choir Room
4:00 pm	In Paradise Concert .....	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Middle School Choir Rehearsal .....	Choir Room, Room #403, Room #414
6:45 pm	Middle School Youth Group and Dinner .....	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

The Spirit works in mysterious ways. Weeks ago, when we set out our preaching themes, we did not think about how what we were planning would coincide with the Special General Conference held in St. Louis this past week. Therefore, it is strangely ironic and deeply appropriate that this week we are looking at what Jesus meant when he talked about the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God—the moment, the place, the people where the peace and justice of God are most deeply realized and present. When Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God, he was not talking about something light-years away or something we experience when we die. No, when Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God, he was talking about a reality in the present, in the here-and-now. That is what we pray for every week in The Lord's Prayer when we utter those words, "Thy Kingdom Come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Let that sink in for a minute.

What was really at the heart of debate in St. Louis? More than just the place of LGBTQ persons in our church. It was the Kingdom of God, what it looks like and who can belong to it, that was being debated. Today at Royal Oak First, we will simply reaffirm what we believed to be true before this week's conference.

The Kingdom of God is built on healing and wholeness, acceptance and inclusion, grace and redemption, compassion and justice. We believe that it is open to people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, nationalities, and economic standings.

In God's Kingdom the hungry are fed, the sick are visited, elders are honored, children are both protected and empowered and the dignity of all people is affirmed.

Therefore, I am glad that on this Sunday in particular we can talk about the one thing Jesus talked about more than anything else, The Kingdom of God.

May we live into it today "on earth as it is in heaven!"

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff