

A background of out-of-focus, bokeh-style lights in shades of blue, purple, and white, creating a soft, festive atmosphere.

In Focus
Advent 2019

The Shepherds

*Nearby shepherds were living
in the fields, guarding
their sheep at night.*

Luke 2:8

*Saturday, December 14
4:00 pm Worship*

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Hymn Sing		Mary Nahhat
Introit	Luke 2:8	*CEB
Hymn #234	O Come, All Ye Faithful Stanzas 1, 3 and 4	**UMH
Call to Worship		Adrianna Marino
Hymn #211	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Stanzas 1, 2 and 6	UMH
Greeting Your Neighbor		
Invitation to Mission		
Call to Prayer		
Advent Wreath Lighting		
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		
Musical Offering	<i>What Child is This?</i> Joan Johnson, Hammered Dulcimer	Traditional
Doxology #95		UMH
Scripture	Luke 2:8-14	CEB
Message	The Shepherds	Jeff Nelson
Focus	<i>Better Days</i> Pete Peltier	The Goo Goo Dolls
Hymn #251	Go, Tell It on the Mountain	UMH



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

11:00 am Traditional Christmas Worship

3:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant

7:00 pm Blue Jeans Christmas Worship

9:00 pm Traditional Christmas Worship

11:00 pm Candlelight & Communion



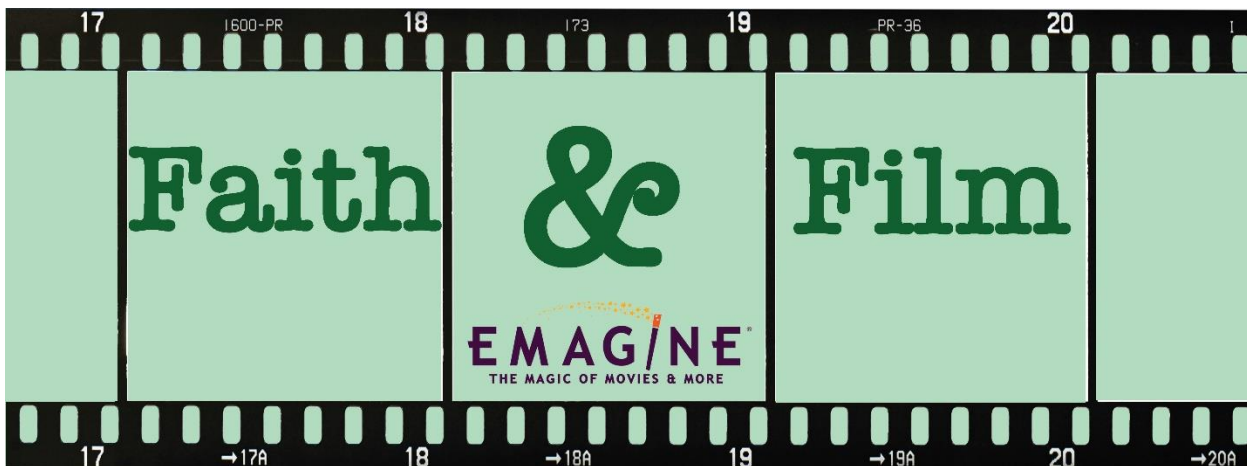
Join a group and

GROW

with us

Part of our

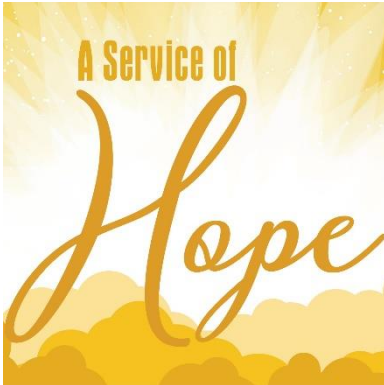
CONNECT GROW SERVE
Ministries



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bake Sale and Live Auction for St. Jude's Sunday, December 15, 12:15 pm

Royal Oak Youth member Tyler Young is holding a bake sale to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Stop by the parlor after the 11:00 am worship service for the bake sale and live auction. If you have any questions, **contact Myra Moreland at mmoreland@rofum.org**.



Service of Hope at Birmingham First Monday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Our friends and neighbors at Birmingham First invite you to this gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. We come together to find strength in community, to remember God's promises, and to share hope for tomorrow. If you have any questions, **contact the church office at office@rofum.org**.

Creation Care Environmental Ministry Wednesday, December 18, 5:00 pm

The world we live in is a beautiful creation of God and caring for that creation is an important part of our mission to make Christ's love real. Join us as we screen the short film *The Story of Stuff*. If you have any questions, **contact Bob Prud'homme at bobp@rofum.org**.





Christmas Collection for Ferndale Lower Elementary School

Free Store is open on Friday, December 20

Our new mission partner, Ferndale Lower Elementary School, is providing a free Christmas store for their students to shop for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. If you have any questions or you would like to volunteer to run the store, **contact Myra Moreland at mmoreland@rofum.org**.

Evening Receptionist Position Available

As a member of the administrative and hospitality staff, the Evening Receptionist serves as a welcoming face for our evening classes, choirs, support groups, committees, and visitors. For more information, visit rofum.org/jobs or **contact Jennifer Tripoli at jttripoli@rofum.org**.



Bring Your Favorite Holiday Treat!

Do you have a special baked goodie that you make for Christmas? We are looking for people to bring their favorite holiday desserts for coffee hour during Advent (the month of December). If you have a treat you have always wanted to share, **contact Mike Monte at mmonte@rofum.org**. If you are willing to share your recipe, we would be happy to print copies for you.

Join a Grow Group

The ConnectGrowServe Ministries at Royal Oak First work to help us connect to each other, grow in faith and knowledge, and serve others in the name of Christ. Our next set of Grow Groups begins in January. For more information about these classes, check out our course catalogue or **contact the church office at office@rofum.org**.



The Mitten Tree

Each year, we fill the United Methodist Women's Mitten Tree with new adult-sized hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for our daily lunch program. This year, we are adding food for the lunches, too. Helpful food items include peanut butter, fruit cups, pudding, raisins, individual serving chip bags, cookies, granola bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, and juice boxes. You can drop off your donations at the tree in the tower entrance. If you have any questions, **contact Kathy Riggs at 248-390-4345**.

Roga Chair Yoga

Fridays at 10:00 am

Yoga can improve flexibility, relieve muscle tension, and improve moods. If that sounds good to you, come to Roga Chair Yoga every Friday for a free session of relaxing chair yoga. If you have any questions, **contact the church office at office@rofum.org**.





Soul Stretch Yoga: Move and Mellow

Mondays, 7:00 pm

Part vinyasa, part yin, and all yoga. Get moving and build some heat then let it mellow with long holding postures. Great for relaxing the active body or activating the body for more activity. Come and try your first class here for free! For more information, check out their website at soulstretch.org.

Love Gift for Caleb Williams

Our Minister of Music and Arts, Caleb Williams, has resigned his position and will be leaving in early January. Help us send him off with love and support by contributing to a Love Gift for him. Mark a contribution envelope with "Love Gift" or make a contribution to the Love Gift Fund online at rofum.org/giving. If you have any questions, **contact Jennifer Tripoli at jtripoli@rofum.org**.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for our church family: Yvonne Quinn; Peggy Waisanen; John Dorsey; Tyler Young; Sue Hughes; Dorothy Matsumoto; Lynn Nord; Kip Tull; Phyllis Hassberger; Betty Locke; Judy Ather; Inge Wichers; Suzanne & Jack Hughes; Lee Hoffmann; Margery Youngs; James Ansell; Dick & Judy Bryan

Prayers for our extended family: Mary Healander; Patrick Tamm; Carl Wilson; Kris Beachum

Senior Spotlight: Gwen Ross

Sympathy to the Lowman family on the death of their wife and mother, Vel Lowman, December 8

This list includes prayer concerns from the past six weeks.

For the complete Prayer List, please contact our Pastoral Care Team at prayers@rofum.org.



Royal Oak First is going back to the movies! Our fourth annual Faith and Film series comes home to Royal Oak. Monday nights in January, we will head over to the Emagine Theatre at 11 Mile and Main at 7:00 pm to see a current movie together. Tickets are only \$7 (a \$5 discount at this premiere theatre.) If you have any questions, contact the church office at 248-541-4100 or office@rofum.org.

January 6 – *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*

A year after the events of *The Last Jedi*, the remnants of the Resistance face the First Order once again—while reckoning with the past and their own inner turmoil. Meanwhile, the ancient conflict between the Jedi and the Sith reaches its climax, bringing the decades-long saga to an end.

January 13 – *Frozen 2* (all kids 12 and under are free!)

Set three years after the events of the first film, the story follows Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf, and Sven, who embark on a journey beyond their kingdom of Arendelle in order to discover the origin of Elsa's magical powers and save their kingdom after a mysterious voice calls out to Elsa.

Two more films will be announced soon, so keep watching this space!

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
12:00 pm	Sweets for St. Jude Bake Sale & Auction.....	Parlor
1:30 pm	Laci's Sing Along	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	Royal Oak Youth Dinner	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
6:00 pm	ROY Youth Group.....	ROY Commons
7:00 pm	ROY Choir Rehearsals	Chapel & Choir Room

Monday, December 16

9:30 am	Director Team Meeting	1 st Floor Conference Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
3:45 pm	Youth Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
6:00 pm	AA Meeting	Parlor
6:30 pm	Girl Scouts	ROY Commons
7:00 pm	Scout Troop 1601	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Missions Meeting	1 st Floor Conference Room
7:00 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Chapel

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 am	First Friends.....	Nursery
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	All Staff Meeting.....	ROY Commons
3:30 pm	Piano Lessons	Parlor
7:00 pm	Men's Basketball.....	Addams Elementary School

Wednesday, December 18

10:00 am	United Methodist Women Book Discussion Group	Parlor
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Sermon Practice	Sanctuary
11:30 am	ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)	The Avenue Restaurant
3:15 pm	Piano Lesson.....	Sanctuary
3:30 pm	Violin Lessons.....	Parlor
5:30 pm	Creation Care Environmental Ministry.....	Room #304
5:30 pm	Holy COW Dinner	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 18 continued

6:00 pm	AA Meeting	Parlor
6:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsals	Theater, Science Room, Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Carillon Bell Choir	Room #307
6:30 pm	Infant & Toddler Music Experience	Bible Times Square
6:30 pm	Lunch Program Volunteers Thank You Dinner	Parlor
7:00 pm	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....	Parlor
7:30 pm	House Band Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Nar-Anon	ROY Commons
7:30 pm	Soul Stretch Yoga.....	Chapel

Thursday, December 19

10:00 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
6:30 pm	Sanctus Social.....	Gathering Space
7:00 pm	Faith & Sexuality Meeting	The Office Coffee Shop

Friday, December 20

9:30 am	As We Gather Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Roga Chair Yoga	Choir Room
10:30 am	Lunch Program	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Therapeutic Rehab Sandwich Making.....	Kitchen
6:00 pm	AA Meeting.....	Parlor

Saturday, December 21

9:30 am	Ascend Church	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Worship & Noisy Bucket	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am	Royal Oak Children's Choir.....	Room #307
9:00 am	Worship & Noisy Bucket	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
10:15 am	Pastor Chat.....	1 st Floor Conference Room
11:00 am	Worship & Noisy Bucket	Sanctuary
	Infants & Toddlers – Nursery	
	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 8) – Bible Times Square	
12:00 pm	Fellowship Hour	Parlor & Gathering Space
12:15 pm	Pastor Chat.....	1 st Floor Conference Room
5:30 pm	Royal Oak Youth Dinner	Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
6:00 pm	ROY Youth Group.....	ROY Commons
7:00 pm	ROY Choir Rehearsals	Chapel & Choir Room
8:00 pm	Youth Group Seniors Small Group.....	National Coney Island

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Today you will notice that a pink candle will be lit on our altar. It is different than all of the other candles on the wreath. The pink stands out. It is special. The pink candle makes this Sunday special—it makes this day stand out from the rest.

What is the significance of Pink Candle Sunday?

Pink Candle Sunday is also known as Gaudete Sunday, which is Latin for rejoice. This Sunday is set apart for joy.

Could you use a little joy? Then this Sunday is for you.

Joy is important to the life of faith. It is like happiness but different, deeper, more profound.

One of my favorite theologians, Henri Nouwen, describes the difference between joy and happiness. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, on what is happening around us and what is happening to us, joy is,

"...the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death—can take that love away."

Joy is present even in the midst of sadness and struggle.

Joy is not about what is happening right now or what might happen one day in the future.

No, joy is about what has already happened—both to us and within us.

The joy of this season is about what God has already done, creating us, and everything and everyone around us, in love.

So, when that Pink Candle gets lit today, take a second and find the joy within you. Realize that God has poured nothing but goodness and love into you.

Take stock of all that you have been given. Give thanks for all that you have come through. Know that the Author of Life and Giver of Love is with you and will be there to meet you no matter what awaits you.

That kind of truth deserves a different kind of candle. It deserves a pink candle.

Happy Pink Candle Sunday!

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff