

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do. I love story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant what seems, I tell it, more sweet. I

**I Love
to tell the
Story**

the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Sunday, May 5, 2024
9:00 AM Worship**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music “Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him” Kyle Webber
arr. Lloyd Larson

Song “Oh Lord, You’re Beautiful”

Song “Promises”

Welcome & Invitation to Mission Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson

Receiving of New Members

Time of Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Musical Offering “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Erica Plesco
William Runyan

Doxology “Give Thanks”

Scripture Acts 10:44-48

Message “Don’t Withhold the Blessing” Jeff Nelson

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Song “How Great Thou Art”

Benediction

Departing Music House Band

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LINENS OF LOVE



LINENS OF LOVE COLLECTION

During May, our Missions collection focus will be on household linens. Several of our mission partners have expressed the need of these items recently, especially for: **twin size sheet sets, towels, washcloths, and bed pillows.** New and gently used items are welcome, but please keep sets together and label the sizes if not in original packaging. Collected items will be sent to Cass Community Social Services, Heartline Treatment Center for Women (MCHS Family of Services), and Redford Brightmoor Initiative. **Please drop off at bins located at Tower entrance and near the Welcome Desk at the Lafayette entrance.**

PRODUCE COLLECTION

Volunteers Needed!

PRODUCE COLLECTION VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your continued support in providing fresh produce monthly to the families served through Redford Brightmoor Initiative's (RBI) Free Store! **We are in need of shopping volunteers for May 10 and one delivery driver for May 11.** If you are able, please consider also signing up to shop and/or deliver multiple months this year. Scan the QR code to sign up.



SCAN ME

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!

We are fortunate to have many young adults that call this church home. Some have been here their whole life and some are just finding us, and we hope to help you meet each other. **We are getting together for some food and fellowship the evening of Thursday, May 16.** If you are able to join us, email Pastor Bridget at bnelson@rofum.org for the details!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

You are invited to wear **RED** for Pentecost on Sunday, **May 19**. What is Pentecost? It is the second most important part of the Christian year after Easter. It is commemorated by both the Ascension of Jesus and the Descending of the Holy Spirit. What do the symbols of Pentecost mean?

- Wind: Represents God's first breath of love
- Fire: Represents the Holy Spirit
- Red: The liturgical color of Pentecost
- Water: Represents new life
- Dove: The symbol of peace

Pentecost gives us a chance to ask ourselves, "What are we on fire about?" Here at Royal Oak First, we are on fire about Making Christ's Love Real!



ONE SERVICE BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MAY 26

Beginning on Sunday, May 26, we will have only **ONE service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** This will run through our Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 8. We will return to our 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, September 15.



PRIDE & ALLY GROUP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS AT PRIDE EVENTS!

Our Pride & Ally Group will be looking for **volunteers for our booth at some June and August Pride events**. We will be at **Ferndale Pride on Saturday, June 1, Family Pride Night at the Royal Oak Farmers Market on Wednesday, June 12, Berkley Pride on Sunday, June 23 and Royal Oak Pride on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27.**

Please scan the QR code to sign up! If you have any questions, please email prideandally@rofum.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ROFUM BLOCK PARTY!

Sunday, June 2 following the 10:00 a.m. service

Join us for complimentary food from food trucks, a live band & fellowship! Kids' activities include games, a bounce house and face painting. This event is sponsored by the ROFUM Endowment Fund. Let's celebrate summer!



“START THE PARTY”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 17-20, 2024, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party! That's why we believe the Gospel of Jesus is the best news ever! **Come and join us as we “Start the Party” at Royal Oak First this summer! Register your child(ren) that are completing 2nd grade and younger.** There are opportunities to volunteer as well as donate supplies if you are interested. Any questions, please contact Beth Simms at Beth.Simms@gmail.com. Scan the QR code to sign up.



SCAN ME



ESSENTIALS PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The first Saturday of the month, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. the Essentials Pantry is open. **We need volunteers** to gather from our supply inventory and hand out these supplies to those in need. If you are able to volunteer, please scan the QR code to sign up.



SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALLING ALL ROYAL OAK FIRST DADS!

Dads of all ages are getting together twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for breakfast, fellowship and faith to discuss life as fathers and the challenges we all face. **We will next meet on Wednesday, May 8 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. We have rotated locations where we meet**, so please check in with michaelspath1980@gmail.com to learn more.



PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS NEEDED

Please bring in your used but clean plastic grocery bags! Our supply of bags has been depleted. We use these both for the plan mat project and daily with our Outreach on 7th Lunch Program. If you have extra plastic bags at home, please drop them off in the collection box near the Welcome Desk. Thank you!

CHURCH ALTAR by Mary Nahhat

Today our altar has been beautifully decorated by our own Mary Nahhat. Please keep reading to see what each piece means to her. Thank you, Mary!

- Prayer Quilt: Entitled "Spirit of Faith Come Down", honors the creators of it, Peggy Gill & Crystal Clark, and the many women who have served through Shawl Ministry and this church with joy for so many years.
- Purple Butterfly: Signifies the sign of resurrection & continued faith in this season of Eastertide.
- Yellow Forsythias & Purple Violets: Signify the coming of Spring and God's birth of a new season.
- In the Garden Music: Signifies Mary's love for music and honors her mother and grandmother.
- White Cross: Honors our Lord and Savior and how because of him, we live.



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Art Miller • The Gothards • Ginny Panone • Sue Minch • Lee Hoffmann •
Leonard Benyas • Janice Marsh • Grace Perkins • Richard and Dorie Rush •
Allison and Bill Hempstead • Mark Thatcher • Marcy Courtney •
Joyce Negrich •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Neo James Widmayer • Pam Payne • The Armour Family •
Vic & Christy Pantin • Oya Graeber • John and Joyce Barber •
Scott Spaulding • Effie Lambros • Kathleen Scherr • Paula Cudney •
Michael Retaskie • Sydney Wagner • MaryVonne Gray •

Sympathies to:

Jane Sledd on the death of her mother on April 27, 2024

Congratulations to:

Scott and Deanna Didech on the birth of their son, Wesley Oliver Didech on
April 25, 2024

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.*

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

If you are following the news this week, you may have learned of some significant changes that happened for the United Methodist Church as a denomination. This week around 1000 elected delegates from across the globe gathered in North Carolina for worship, prayer and discernment about the future direction of the United Methodist Church. As has been the case for the last several General Conferences, the issue of inclusion for LGBTQ+ Christians was a central topic of conversation.

This Conference marked a significant change for a fuller inclusion of our LGBTQ+ friends, neighbors and fellow Methodists. The language describing same-gender relationships as “incompatible with Christian teaching” has been removed along with the disqualifying of ministerial candidates on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, there will no longer be any penalties for clergy performing marriages for same-gender loving couples. These are significant changes to how the United Methodist Church will move into its future.

I believe that these changes were necessary, just and in line with the heart of Jesus as revealed to me in the Gospels. Over my 20 years of active ministry, LGBTQ+ Christians have been leaders in every church I have served. They have been colleagues in ministry and partners in sharing the Gospel of Christ. The pain and hurt caused by years of exclusionary language and practices have been real and often devastating. I pray that this moment in our church’s history opens a door for a wider inclusion of ALL God’s people to participate in the life of the church, and now makes more space to lean into the other important social justice work to which our faith calls. For Royal Oak First, this allows us to continue our ministry of inclusion and service to the community that has marked this church’s nearly 200 year history.

I invite you to visit UMC.org to read the details from this important General Conference. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of our pastors and we would be glad to talk with you about this moment and what it means for our shared faith.

This Sunday we will come together at the Communion Table. This is our opportunity to practice the inclusive community of love, acceptance and blessing that I believe is at the very heart of the God made known to us in Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with a wide, open mouth and two dots for eyes.

Pastor Jeff Nelson