



**ROYAL OAK**  
**FIRST**  
A United Methodist Church

**Sunday, November 17, 2024**  
**9:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>	“This Is Our God”	House Band
<b>Greeting</b>		Joanna Whaley
<b>Song</b>	“Raise a Hallelujah”	
<b>Song</b>	“Who You Say I Am”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Give Me Jesus”	Kiersten Ciccone
<b>Doxology #2036**</b>	“Give Thanks”	
<b>Scripture Reading*</b>	Mark 13:1-8	
<b>Message</b>	“What is Your Security?”	Nicole Wilson
<b>Song</b>	“Great Things”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Departing Music</b>		

*\*New Revised Standard Version  
\*\*The Faith We Sing*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## STAFFING UPDATE

We want to inform you about some recent transitions within our staffing team. This decision was not made lightly, and it reflects our current size and engagement levels. The positions of Building Project Coordinator and Adult Discipleship Coordinator will no longer be funded in 2025. We are grateful to Bob Prud'homme and Joyce Hollingsworth and their dedication to our mission and community. In addition, we are glad to tell you we have filled two positions that are critical to our worship experience. Frederick Fife, II is our new Audio Engineer and Griffin Anspach is our new Worship Band Coordinator. We are in the process of finding a new Coordinator for Outreach on 7th. We thank Karla Goetz for acting as an Interim this fall.



## ADVENT MISSION PROJECT

For this year's Advent Mission Project, **we will be collecting children's Christmas gifts for area families who are struggling financially.** If you are feeling especially generous, reach out to Karla at [missions@rofum.org](mailto:missions@rofum.org) and **you can adopt a whole family of children through the Metro Detroit Youth Club**, based in Royal Oak. You will be asked to purchase 2 gifts and a stocking stuffer for each child in the family. Families range in size, so you can request the size of family you are able to support, ranging from 1-6 children. **Alternatively, you can pick one or two tags off our "giving tree" on the Connections Table in the Gathering Space.** Shop for those items and return them to the church collection bins by December 15. Feel free to bring in any fun, unwrapped toy of your choice, as the giving tree simply gives ideas for those who need them. These gifts will help stock the Cass Community Social Services Christmas Store where nearly 300 families in Detroit will "shop" for their kids' Christmas gifts.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WE NEED PEOPLE TO COOK TURKEYS FOR THE THANKSGIVING MEAL FOR 007

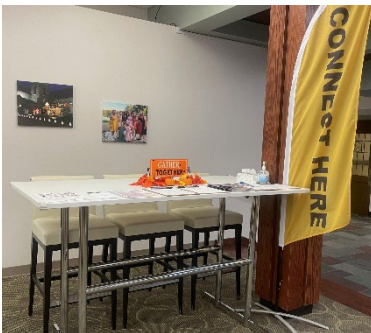
For our Thanksgiving meal this year, Outreach on 7<sup>th</sup> (007) **needs volunteers to pick up a turkey from us and cook and slice it and return it to the church by November 27.** Scan the QR code to sign up to cook a turkey.



**Volunteer Opportunity**

## COULD YOU HELP PREPARE/SERVE THE CHRISTMAS MEAL FOR 007?

For our Christmas meal this year, Outreach on 7<sup>th</sup> (007) is expecting approximately 80+ people from our Lunch Program and the Essentials Pantry. **We need volunteers to help prepare and serve the Christmas meal on Christmas Day.** Scan the QR code to sign up to volunteer at the Christmas meal.



## CONNECTIONS TABLE NEEDS YOU!

Did you know that our Connections Table (located in the Gathering Space) is not only the place to sign up for service opportunities and get information about what is happening in the church, it is also a place where new folks often feel most comfortable approaching to start to learn about Royal Oak First. **Swing by the Connections Table after service to learn more or scan the QR code to sign up for a shift.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SNACKS NEEDED FOR THE COFFEE BAR

Would you like to make everyone who comes to Sunday service happy? Do you like to bake or buy yummy snacks?

**If so, please sign up to bring 3 dozen snacks for the Coffee Bar on Sundays.** The smiling faces and happy bellies will be all the joy you need for the day for sure! Scan QR code or stop by the Connections Table to sign up.



## CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

### WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Join Pastor Jeff on Facebook Live **every Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Advent (December 1, December 8, December 15, and December 22)** for a reading of a children's story that will get you in the spirit of the season.



## CHRISTMAS MINI-CONCERTS—

### LIVESTREAMED AND IN-PERSON

Join us in-person or on our YouTube Channel or Facebook page for live mini-concerts featuring musicians from Royal Oak First. **Concerts will be presented at Noon during the three Wednesdays in Advent: December 4, Christmas Organ Music; December 11, Christmas Carol Sing with the Royal Oak First Music Department; December 18, Violin and Piano Christmas Music with Allison Harris and Neal Harris.** Concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and will lift your spirit with the music of the season.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SPREAD THE CHEER

**Saturday, December 7 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

We need kids to make cards, people to send cards, to bake, to assemble bags of cookies and to deliver cookies. Starting on Sunday, November 17, you can pick up a list of church members to mail Christmas cards to. On Saturday, December 7, bring four dozen of your favorite type of cookie or holiday treat to share and you will go home with a variety of cookies. This is a lovely, and delicious, way to spread holiday joy within our church family. Scan the QR code to sign up!



## SHAWL MINISTRY CRAFT & CARD SALE

**Shawl Ministry is having a craft and card sale on Sunday, December 8 after each service.** Crocheted kitchen items, toys, fidgets, scarves and more. Come and purchase one-of-a-kind gifts. All proceeds will benefit Outreach on 7th and the Music Guild.



## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FEAST OF CAROLS CONCERT

**Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for the 70th "Feast of Carols" Christmas Concert featuring ensembles of Royal Oak First including our Sanctus Choir, Carillon Ringers, Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, and Bands. Be sure to take in the sounds of our ensembles at Royal Oak First for an afternoon of glorious music. Join us after the concert for cookies and punch in the Gathering Space.



# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

## **Prayers for Our Church Family:**

Jenny Cattran • Vanita Wallace • Diane Sexton • Theresa Skelton •  
Joe Nowaczok • Carrie Morse • Marlene Yago • The England Family •  
Noel Peterson • Jeanette Maylen • Sue and Dave Minch • Phil Button •  
Joyce Russell • Amy Youngquist • Michele Prud'homme • Joyce Negrich •  
Jaime Luczak •

## **Prayers for Our Extended Family:**

Marykay McCaskey • Dan Cowles • Charlie Maher • Robin Mayers • Mary B. •  
Dorothy Follette • James • Joyce Micheaux • Jessica Boyer •  
Michael Retaskie • Bret Thatcher • Fred Jackson, Jr. • Susie Inch •  
Margie Reese • Diane Miller • Ellen Delangy • Lisa Wilson • Grayson Hamlet •  
Phillip & Corine Samuelson • The O'Mara Family • Margaret Maas •  
Deana Sawicki • Barbara Witherspoon • Val Globish • Dave Lozowski •  
Steve Sealander • Pat Timmons • Pamala Winnie • Darby Dickenson •  
Micki Rhen • Missy Winter • Marie Russian •

## **Sympathies to:**

The family and friends of Nancy Matson on her death on November 11, 2024

The Pollard family on the death of Myra's brother, Joseph Connors on  
November 9, 2024

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,  
please contact Danielle Moody at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).*

# LETTER FROM OUR PREACHER

Good Morning,

The first Sunday my family attended Royal Oak First, when Pastor Jeff greeted the congregation by assuring us that: everyone was welcome—no matter who we loved or who loved us, no matter the doubts we held or questions we carried, no matter the countries we came from or the languages we speak (or in my case don't speak), we were welcome. I knew there was something different about this place. Now, more than 80 Sundays later, I am grateful to call Royal Oak First United Methodist Church my recommending church. Thank you for voting at the Church Conference last week to affirm my call to ordained ministry.

Finding my way to this call has been a little like walking through a maze. For as long as I can remember, there was a light that I have been walking toward, but at times the barriers blocked the light, and I took a wrong turn. At other times I thought I was on the path to the light and then found myself walking back after hitting a dead end.

Thank you for being a place that has shown me God's love and allowed me to feel safe enough to take a risk and walk forward again. I believe it is God's prevenient grace that has kept me on this path and has brought me to this place at this time.

Thank you for being on the journey with me and for allowing me to share with you what God has put on my heart.

Grace and Peace,  
Nicole Wilson