



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

**Sunday, November 24, 2024**  
**11:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Choral Introit</b>	“Soli Deo Gloria” Michael Praetorius	Sanctus Choir
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Griffin Anspach
<b>Opening Hymn #327*</b>	“Crown Him with Many Crowns”	
<b>Affirmation of Faith</b>		
<b>Musical Response #79*</b>	“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” (verse 4)	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
<b>Mission Moment</b>	“Noisy Bucket”	Leonard Benyas, piano
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		Nicole Wilson
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“Christus Paradox” arr. Alfred Fedak	Sanctus Choir
<b>Doxology #102*</b>	“Now Thank We All Our God” (verse 3)	
<b>Scripture Reading**</b>	John 18:33-37	
<b>Message</b>	“What Lasts?”	Jeff Nelson
<b>Closing Hymn #159*</b>	“Lift High the Cross”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	“Te Deum” Magdalena Ezoe, OP	Michael Rosas

*\*United Methodist Hymnal  
\*\*New Standard Revised Version*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are excited to offer the choice of purchasing a poinsettia or contributing to UMCOR in honor or memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 22 and at our Christmas Eve services. The names of the donors and those to be honored or memorialized will be printed in the Sunday, December 22 Bulletin. If you wish to participate, fill out the form below and drop off at the Connections Table OR scan the QR code before **Sunday, December 8.**



***Please use one (1) form per poinsettia/UMCOR tribute. More forms are available at the Connections Table.***

Payment must accompany your order (checks payable to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church)

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\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$18.00 for a 1 stem red poinsettia

\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$33.00 for a 2 stem red poinsettia

\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) following the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for UMCOR in place of a poinsettia.

This will be a memorial to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

**OR** in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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 with Michael Rosas; December 11, Christmas Carol Sing with Maria Moro and Chris Mikell; 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.



## 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. There are also mailing labels for church members that you can pick up at the Connections Table 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!



SCAN ME

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **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.



## **SHAWL MINISTRY CRAFT & CARD SALE**

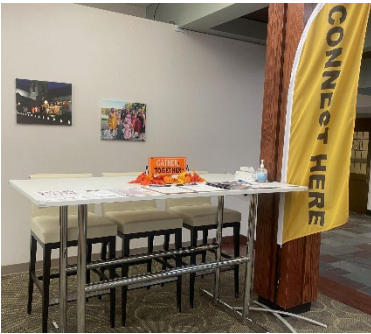
**Shawl Ministry is having a craft and card sale on Sunday, December 8 after each service.** Crocheted kitchen items, toys, fidgets, scarves and more. Come and purchase one-of-a-kind gifts. All proceeds will benefit Outreach on 7th and the Music Guild.



## **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.** 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. But 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



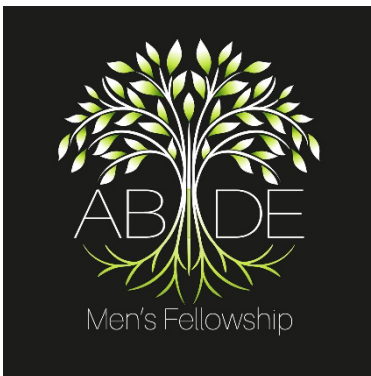
## CONNECTIONS TABLE NEEDS YOU!

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.**



## 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.



## ABIDE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The ABIDE Men's Fellowship meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Royal Oak Tap House (714 S. Washington, Royal Oak) at 7:00 p.m. All other meetings during the month will be held at the church every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. ALL men are welcome and invited to join us at any of the meetings. This will be a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship. Our ABIDE Men's Fellowship has three goals: 1. Make space for friendship and fellowship. 2. Create opportunities to serve. 3. Offer opportunities to grow in faith. We hope you can join us!

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Diana Shornak • David Salvette • Charlene Orletski • Michele Prud'homme •  
Vanita Wallace • Diane Sexton • Theresa Skelton • Joe Nowaczok •  
Carrie Morse • Marlene Yago • The England Family • Noel Peterson •  
Jeanette Maylen • Sue and Dave Minch • Joyce Russell •

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

Marykay McCaskey • Dan Cowles • Charlie Maher • Robin Mayers • Mary B. •  
Dorothy Follette • James • Joyce Micheaux • Jessica Boyer •  
Holly Hempstead • 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 Michael Faunt on his death on November 17, 2024

The family and friends of Virginia Sleeman on her death on November 19, 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 PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The church follows a unique calendar, highlighting liturgical seasons that guide us through the life of Christ. Next week marks the first Sunday of Advent, ushering in a new beginning and a new year for the church.

This Sunday, however, is the last Sunday of the church year, known as Christ the King or The Reign of Christ Sunday. It's a moment for us to pause and reflect on how our lives and our church align with the way of Jesus. Endings provide a wonderful opportunity for reflection, allowing us to acknowledge our gratuities and take stock of our losses. As we transition into this new season, I encourage you to take time this weekend to reflect on the past year.

## **Examen Practice: Reflecting Christ the King in Our Lives**

This Sunday, as we honor Christ the King, let's reflect on how we embody His teachings and identify areas for growth.

### **Examen Steps**

#### **1. Pause and Breathe:**

Take a few deep breaths and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reflections.

#### **2. Gratitude Reflection:**

Recall moments from this last year that reflected Christ's love.

Prompt: Write down three instances that brought you joy and connection.

#### **3. Self-Examination:**

Identify areas where you struggled to reflect Jesus' teachings.

Prompt: Note one situation this past year where your thoughts or actions didn't align with His way.

#### **4. Openness to Change:**

Consider how you can invite Christ's teachings into these areas.

Prompt: Write down one specific step you can take this week to embody His love more fully.

#### **5. Closing Prayer:**

Conclude with a prayer for guidance as you seek to follow Jesus.

Prompt: Write a short prayer asking for strength to grow in love and compassion.

May this examen deepen your commitment to reflecting the love of Christ the King in all that you do.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with a flower-like shape to its right.

Jeff Nelson