

The background of the poster is a dark, textured gradient of brown and orange, resembling a sunset or a starry night sky. In the lower-left foreground, there are silhouettes of two figures: one riding a horse and another walking beside it. In the distance, a small silhouette of a city or town is visible on the right. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

Advent 2024

"With Us on the Journey"

Sunday, December 22, 2024
11:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Heavenly Hosts” For King + Country	Cassandra Wilson
Call to Worship		Carrie Beerer
Opening Hymn #238**	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	
Advent Candle Lighting		The Showers Family
Musical Response	“On the Journey”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
Mission Moment	“Noisy Bucket”	
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Canticle of the Turning” Rory Cooney, arr. John Ferguson	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #221**	“In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)	
Pageant	“Joy Story: The Gift of a New Beginning”	
Scripture Reading*	Luke 1:39-45	
Message	“Make Space”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #246**	“Joy to the World”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“The Angel Gabriel” Noel Rawsthorne	Michael Rosas

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FINAL CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF IS **TONIGHT!**

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 EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream

"Blue Jean Christmas" - a modern worship experience. Come as you are and worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will also have a service of candlelight as part of our worship. Our Youth Band and House Band will be leading us. The Nursery will be open.

9:00 p.m. - Sanctuary/Livestream

Traditional Christmas Eve worship service featuring Sanctus Choir, organ, piano, hand bells and a woodwind quartet. A service of candlelight will conclude our worship.

11:00 p.m. - Outside on the Front Lawn

Join us outside on our front lawn for a simple, yet Holy worship experience in the dark of night as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A service of candlelight will be included.



RBI PRODUCE COLLECTION

Thank you for your continued support in providing fresh produce monthly to the families served through Redford Brightmoor Initiative's Free Store! **We are in need of shopping volunteers for the upcoming months.** Scan the QR code to sign up.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Church Office Holiday Hours

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will have **reduced hours** on both Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31. We will be open from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on each of those days. The church office **will be closed** on: Wednesday, December 25, Thursday, December 26, Wednesday, January 1, and Thursday, January 2. Our normal office hours (Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) will resume on January 6.



Sunday, December 29
Sunday, January 5

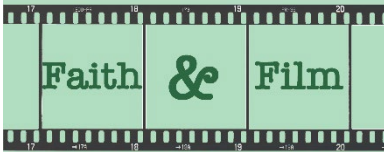
Only one service at 10:00 a.m.



ONE SERVICE ON 12/29 AND 1/5

We will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. on both Sunday, December 29 and Sunday, January 5. There will also be no Sunday School either of those days. We will return to two services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) on Sunday, January 12.

January 13, 20 and 27
7:00 p.m.

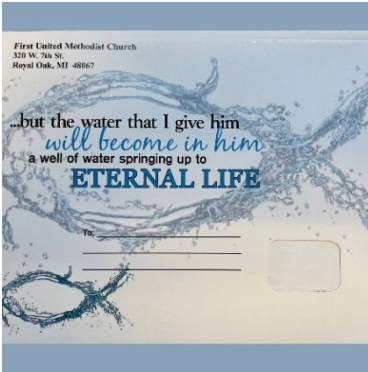


MJR Troy Movie Theater

FAITH & FILM IS COMING IN JANUARY

Royal Oak First is going to the movies in January! For **three Monday nights in January, (13, 20 and 27), we will head over to the MJR Troy Movie Theater at Maple and Livernois Roads at 7:00 p.m.** to see a current movie together. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 248.541.4100 or office@rofum.org. Stay tuned to this space for details about what movies we will be seeing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

2025 Royal Oak First offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up after service at the Welcome Desk! If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, we'll begin mailing them out after January 9. Contact Karen Calhoun at kcalhoun@rofum.org or 248.541.4100 if you have any questions.



SAVE THE DATE!

SPAGHETTI DINNER VARIETY SHOW

On **Sunday, February 2** the Music Guild will be putting on a Spaghetti Dinner Variety Show! Proceeds will help our youth go to camp this summer. The opportunity to showcase your talents will be open to all, so stay tuned for details. Plan to come join the fun on Sunday, February 2!

TRANSFORMATIVE RETREATS WITH PASTOR JEFF

Feeling the weight of everyday demands? Craving a moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God? We invite you to immerse yourself in our **2025 Retreats, held every 3rd Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** Our retreats are intentional spaces designed to cultivate a deeper relationship with the divine, offering you the opportunity to recharge your spirit and discover the profound peace that comes from being in God's presence. Scan the QR code to sign up! Here's a glimpse of what we have planned for you:



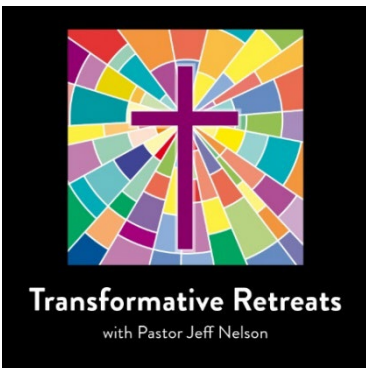
****January 18th: Silence, Stillness, and Solitude****

****February 15th: Faith and Fatherhood****

****March 15th: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross****

****April 19th: Listening for God's Resurrecting Voice****

****May 17th: A Morning with the Mystics****



Poinsettias Decorating Our Sanctuary



In Memory of

Beloved Church Friends
Mark & Velma Lowman
Our parents we deeply miss
Maryann Cristof
Stephen Nielander
Gerald Gibson
Brothers Don, Bill & Jim Kincannon
Bill Kincannon
Our parents & grandparents
 Floyd & Marjorie Showers
Our parents & grandparents
 Harlon & Dorthy Kincannon
Neva Callihan
Mary Nahhat
Phyllis Turner & Jacob Ross
Josie Nunéz
Delphine Frey
Zola Webster
Joseph Waisanen, Jr.
Jim & Marie Dunstan
Dennis & Kathy Nelson

In Honor of

Alejandro & Maria Vasquez
Kay & Joe Nowaczok
Beverly & James Miller
Rocco Opari

Given by

Kim Christopher
Dan & Jenny Cattran
Roger & Sue Lynn
The Nielander Family
The Nielander Family
Richard & Diane Gibson
The Kincannon Family
Elizabeth Kincannon
The Kincannon Family

The Kincannon Family

Sue & John Showers
Sam Nahhat, her children & grandchildren
Lee & Jon Ross Family
The Tovarez Family
Mike & Colleen Frey
Zola Webster's Family
Jay & Patty Dunstan
Jay & Patty Dunstan
Jeff, Bridget, Casey & Sam

Given by

Gerson Vasquez
Fred, Jen, Olivia & Audrie
Fred, Jen, Olivia & Audrie
Mike Dabney



Our congregation has contributed to UMCOR
(United Methodist Committee on Relief) in honor or in memory
of the following:

In Memory of

Janis Stroud
William & Mary Dawe
Marion Kujda
LeRoy & Jean Scheibner
H. Allan Knappenberger
Arthur & Gertude Miller
James & Isabel Retaskie
Arthur Miller
Keith & Audrey Leenhouts
Flora Jones

In Honor of

All Church Volunteers
My parents Don & Keri Anderson
My children Sameer & Leena
Jim & Kathy Leenhouts

Given by

Kim Stroud
Scott & Willa Cummings
The Evans Family
The Evans Family
His Family
Delores Miller
Delores Miller
Delores Miller
William Leenhouts
Jeff & Linda Jones

Given by

Elsie Consolacion
Hollie Saraswat
Hollie Saraswat
William Leenhouts



Royal Oak First is always grateful when people give of their TIME, TALENT and/or TREASURE.

Did you know that there are several different ways to give financially?

Text to Give: Text the amount you wish to give to 855.566.0093.

In Person: You can place a check or cash in an offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate when it goes by or in one of the offering collection boxes just outside the Sanctuary.

Giving App: Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app to set up one-time or recurring donations.

Online: Visit rofum.org/giving to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

You can always check out our website, www.rofum.org for **Volunteer Opportunities** or subscribe to our weekly email, by going to this link: <http://eepurl.com/c9m7L9> or by stopping by the Connections Table in the Gathering Space.

For more information, contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at 248.541.4100 ext. 1225 or email jtripoli@rofum.org.

Thank you!

Merry Christmas

from all of us
at Royal Oak First!



STAFF DIRECTORY

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
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Natalia Tovarez	Nursery Coordinator & Evening Receptionist	ntovarez@rofum.org	248.541.4100
George Bard	Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Landon & Sawyer Cattran • Robin Burkett • Lily Faunt • Lisa Rye •
Pam Shewchuck • Ginny Panone • Michelle Wirsu • Diana Shornak •
Melissa Couture • David Salvette • Charlene Orletski • Diane Sexton •
Theresa Skelton • Joe Nowaczok • Carrie Morse • Marlene Yago •
Noel Peterson • Sue and Dave Minch •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Missy Winter • Renee Rahim • Jim Castellani • Barbara Witherspoon •
Meghin Russell • Camryn Cogburn • John Morris • Bernie Stubitsch •
Mike Elliott • Deana Sawicki • Effie Lambros • 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 •

*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,

One of my favorite Christmas memories is from my days as a shepherd in the children's pageant. Picture this: a cool robe, a towel tied around my head, and a crook—my very own prop! And the only instruction was..."Don't hit the other shepherds!"

But the best part was being part of the story alongside my Sunday School pals.

The children's reenactment of the Christmas story is a cherished tradition in many churches, and it's about so much more than just those adorable photo ops. It reminds us that the Christian narrative is alive! It's real—filled with real people, in real places, at real moments in history. Our faith isn't just a collection of ideas and doctrines; it's a vibrant story about community and connection. Each of us has a role to play!

This Sunday at 11:00 a.m., the children of Royal Oak First will bring this tradition to life with our annual Christmas Pageant. This year, we're changing things by presenting it on the Sunday before Christmas Eve, hoping to include more families who might be traveling.

Get ready for a contemporary twist! Our pageant will blend the traditional nativity story with elements from the beloved film "Toy Story," reminding us that our faith is truly "incarnational"—it takes shape right here in our world. So, join us at 11:00 a.m., or catch it online later. I promise it will lift your spirit. And my deeper hope is that it will create lasting faith memories for our young performers!

Christmas is almost upon us!

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff Nelson

