

The background of the poster is a dark, atmospheric scene with a warm, orange-to-red color palette. It depicts a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. In the foreground, the silhouettes of two figures are visible: one riding a horse and another walking beside it. In the distance, a small, dark silhouette of a city or town is visible on a hill. The sky is filled with a soft, glowing light, and several small, bright stars are scattered across it, with one particularly prominent star in the upper right quadrant.

Advent 2024

"With Us on the Journey"

Sunday, December 8, 2024
11:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Prélude du choral sur ‘Rorate Coeli’” Jeanne Demessieux	Michael Rosas
Call to Worship		Sam Nelson
Opening Hymn #213**	“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”	
Advent Candle Lighting		The Matsumoto Family
Musical Response	“On the Journey”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jennifer Tripoli & Jeff Nelson
Mission Moment		Karla Goetz
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Advent Carol” arr. Hal Hopson	Carillon Ringers
Doxology #221**	“In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)	
Prayer for Illumination		
Scripture Reading*	Malachi 3:1-4	
Canticle of Zechariah		
Scripture Reading*	Luke 3:1-6	
Message	“Make a Wish”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #706**	“Soon and Very Soon”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Sortie sur ‘Venez, Divin Messie’” César Franck	

**New Revised Standard Version*

***United Methodist Hymnal*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAST DAY FOR 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 by **Sunday, December 8.**



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

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

___ 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



FEAST OF CAROLS CONCERT IS TODAY!

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 IS TODAY!

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.



CHILDREN'S STORYTIME WITH PASTOR JEFF ON FACEBOOK LIVE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



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 unwrapped 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.



CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY

Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship
Wear your favorite Christmas sweater - "ugly" or not! Come and spread the joy of the season with your best Christmas get-up!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Longest Night Service



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Whether mourning the loss of a loved one, dealing with an illness, navigating financial struggles or simply not feeling the spirit of Christmas; this service is a quiet, prayerful moment acknowledging the difficulties of the season.

Children's Christmas Pageant



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 22, 11:00 a.m.

At our 11:00 a.m. service, the children of Royal Oak First will present the story of the first Christmas. Music will be provided by the Children's Choirs of Royal Oak First. Please note there will not be a Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve this year!

Sunday, December 22, 11AM

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, handbells 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.

*Christmas Eve
Worship Experiences*



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Diane Sexton • Diana Shornak • Michelle Wirsu • Melissa Couture •
David Salvette • Charlene Orletski • Theresa Skelton • Joe Nowaczok •
Carrie Morse • Marlene Yago • Noel Peterson • Jeanette Maylen •
Sue and Dave Minch • Joyce Russell • Michele Prud'homme •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Effie Lambros • 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 • 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 •

Congratulations to:

Noel Peterson on his 90th birthday on December 2
Joe Waisanen on his 100th birthday on December 9
Sue Minch on her 80th birthday on December 11

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

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Beloved Community,

As we step into the sacred season of Advent, we are reminded of the importance of traditions that anchor us in memories guiding us to reflect on what truly matters in our lives. Traditions serve as a bridge that connects us to our past, grounding us in the love and values that shape our faith. In this busy world they remind us of the people, stories, and experiences that have profoundly impacted our journey.

This Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m., we are invited to gather in our Sanctuary for one of our church's longest-standing traditions—the 70th Annual “Feast of Carols” Christmas Concert. This cherished event is not just a celebration of the season, it is a beautiful expression of our music ministry's gift to both our church and the wider community.

Prepare to be uplifted as we enjoy seasonal offerings from all of our musical ensembles—children, teens, praise music, hand bells, and the Sanctus Choir—all coming together to create a joyful and reverent atmosphere that gives glory to God. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the talent and dedication of our musicians, as they share their voices and hearts with us.

We are especially excited to welcome Michael Rosas as our new Worship & Music Director. Michael brings a fresh perspective that promises to breathe new life into this beloved tradition, while honoring its rich history.

This event is sponsored by our Music Guild and is free to attend with a goodwill offering to support our annual Choir Camp. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as it allows us to continue nurturing the next generation of musicians. After the concert, please join us for a delightful refreshment reception where we can gather, share stories, and enjoy each other's company.

I encourage you to plan to join us for this special occasion and extend an invitation to your neighbors. Let's come together as a community to celebrate this beautiful season of hope, joy, and connection.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff" above a simple line drawing of a smiling face with a cross on its forehead.

Pastor Jeff Nelson

