



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

**Sunday, February 16, 2025**  
**9:00 AM Worship**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>	“Takin’ Care of Business” Bachman-Turner Overdrive	House Band
<b>Greeting</b>		Griffin Anspach
<b>Song</b>	“Build My Life”	
<b>Song</b>	“Fear Is Not My Future”	
<b>Welcome &amp; Invitation to Mission</b>		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
<b>Reception of New Members</b>		
<b>Time of Prayer</b>		Nicole Wilson
<b>Invitation to Offering</b>		
<b>Musical Offering</b>	“God’s Not Done With You Yet” Tauren Wells	Julia Westenberg
<b>Doxology</b>	“Give Thanks”	
<b>Scripture Reading*</b>	Luke 6:17-26	
<b>Message</b>	“Blessings & Challenges”	Bob Prud’homme
<b>Closing Song</b>	“Send Me Out”	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Departing Music</b>		

*\*New Revised Standard Version*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## OUR FIRST FISH DINNER IS THIS FRIDAY!

**Fridays, February 21, March 7 & 21 & April 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.**

Our famous fish dinners are coming soon, so bring your family and friends and join us for four wonderful nights of food and fellowship. Our fish dinners benefit our children and youth where proceeds are used to send them to choir camp.



## SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BAKE SALE AT FISH DINNERS BY BAKING!

Our Youth Group (ROY) will be selling baked goods at all of our Fish Dinners and you can help! All proceeds will go towards the Youth Group's summer service trips. **If you would be willing to bake something for their sale, scan the QR code to sign up.**

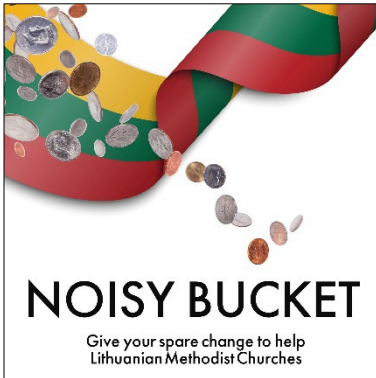


## WHY SHOULD YOU VOLUNTEER AT FISH DINNERS?

These dinners are a beloved tradition, drawing in many from the surrounding area and offering a welcoming space for connection. For those already part of the church, it's a chance to come together, build friendships, and contribute to a greater cause. The funds raised from the dinners help provide scholarships that ensure our youth can attend summer camp, fostering growth, learning, and faith in the next generation. Please scan the QR code to sign up for one or all of the fish dinners on **Fridays, February 21, March 7 & 21 & April 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards their camp costs!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SAVE YOUR LOOSE/SPARE CHANGE FOR NOISY BUCKET

Bring in your spare change in on **Sunday, February 23** at **either service** and we will collect it for our efforts to support the United Methodist churches in Lithuania. Don't miss out on making the bucket noisy!



## MOMS AT PUBS (MAP)- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MAP is a group that meets for fun and fellowship at a local pub, giving moms a chance to relax, laugh, and enjoy the fellowship of other moms. We normally meet monthly on the 4th Thursday of each month so our next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Blind Owl, 511 S. Main St., Royal Oak**. Each month we pick a different location where to meet. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org) or phone/text 248.703.8805.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT-FEB. 28 TO MARCH 2

Hey Ladies! Are you looking for a 38-hour getaway that's close to home? A chance to relax, laugh, and make connections with other women at church? If so, join us for the women's retreat where we will explore how we've experienced God and consider where God might meet us. There will be time for reflection, games, laughter, nature, and naps. **Only two to a room, so grab a friend and register today. Scan the QR code to sign up.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

**Drive Thru Ashes on Lafayette!** Drive up to the Lafayette Street side of the church to receive the imposition of ashes right in your car! Our pastors will be available for a special blessing from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

**Simple Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.** Join us for a simple soup supper in the Gathering Space before worship begins. What better way than to gather around the table with a hot bowl of soup and bread.

**Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m.** Held both online and in-person in the Sanctuary, where we will have the Imposition of Ashes.



## RBI PRODUCE-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For the past six years, Royal Oak First members have provided produce monthly to be given out at the Redford Brightmoor Initiative (RBI) Free Store. This is often the only fresh produce these families receive all month. Currently, **we need 4 shoppers on March 7.**

Please check your calendar and sign up using the QR code if you are able. Thank you!



## WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF SERVICE DAY

For two years, Royal Oak First has sent dozens of volunteers (teens and adults) to World Medical Relief in Southfield to help sort medical supplies to be sent in aid shipments throughout the world.

**Our next service day is Saturday, March 8, 8:45-11:30 a.m.** Wear comfortable shoes, as most volunteers will be standing, but some sitting tasks are available too. Please scan the QR code to sign up.



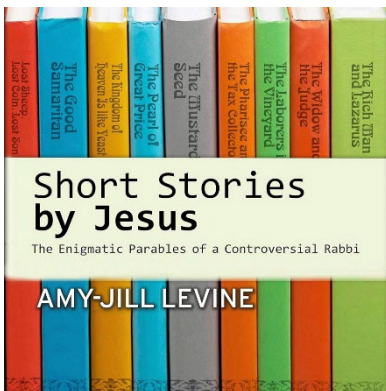


# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## MOVIE SCREENING & DISCUSSION

Royal Oak First is partnering with Journey Center of Michigan to host a **viewing and contemplative discussion** of the documentary “1946: *The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture*” on **Sunday, March 9, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** The documentary follows researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a Bible translation choice in 1946. It chronicles the discovery of archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations and cast significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from scholars, pastors, and the film’s creators, “1946” is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring. Please note the goal that this conversation be held with an atmosphere of respect, civility, love, and open-hearted sharing and listening to one another.



## LENT SMALL GROUPS BOOK STUDY

During Lent this year, everyone is invited to be part of a small group book study! **We will have at least five groups, all beginning the week of March 9th to choose from - evening, daytime, in-person and on Zoom.** The book is "Short Stories by Jesus" which will lead us through Jesus' parables. It is written by Amy-Jill Levine, theological scholar, retired professor and author. Our sermon series will match the topics of the chapters of the book. We hope you will take this opportunity to meet some new people, learn some new things and grow in your own faith! We will have books available at the church Connections Table for purchase for \$12. We will be using the Participant Guide, not the actual book if you plan on purchasing it on your own. Scan the QR code today!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SAVE THE DATE FOR BASEBALL NIGHT

Baseball is coming to Royal Oak First on **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:15 p.m.** We will be hosting a family fun night revolving around baseball. Special guest will be Johnny Kane, Detroit Tigers (and Pistons) broadcast personality with FanDuel Sports Network who will engage us with baseball stories on and off the field. We will start with a tailgate party and then a lively program with music, skits and giveaway prizes, our broadcast personality and ending with fireworks! **Tickets are available at the door: \$10 for adults, \$5 for those 12-18 years old, and kids under 12 are free. Please scan the QR code to sign up.**



## TRANSFORMATIVE RETREATS WITH PASTOR JEFF

Are you feeling the weight of everyday demands? Do you crave a moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God? We invite you to step away from the busyness of life and immerse yourself in our 2025 Winter and Spring Retreats, held every third Saturday from 9:30 to 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.

**\*\*March 15th: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross\*\***  
**\*\*April 19th: Listening for God's Resurrecting Voice\*\***  
**\*\*May 17th: A Morning with the Mystics\*\***

Scan the QR code to sign up for any or all of the retreats.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## JOIN OUR SUMMER CAMP STAFF!

It is time to start thinking about campfires, Olympics, swimming, and all the fun we have at Camp Ohiyesa in Holly! **Camp will be the week of July 20-26 for kids grades 4-12 and we need volunteers! Camp staff applications are available in the church office and at the Connections Table. Please turn in by February 21.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jennifer Tripoli at 248.703.8805 or email her at [jtripoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtripoli@rofum.org).



## FEEDING OUR YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday night, our Youth Group gathers for fellowship and activities to grow in our relationship with God and with each other. A big part of this is having dinner together. **Would you be willing to provide dinner for our youth? You can cook at home, or cook here at church or sponsor us ordering something.** If you would be able to help in this way, please scan the QR code to sign up.



## PARKING REQUEST

Dear Church Family, as we come together in worship and fellowship each Sunday, we want to ensure that our church remains a welcoming and accessible place for everyone. With that in mind, **we kindly ask those who are able to consider parking in the lot or farther from the building, leaving the closest street parking spaces on 7th Street and Lafayette Avenue available for those with mobility challenges.** This small act of kindness can make a big difference for our elderly members, those with disabilities, and anyone who may have difficulty walking longer distances. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for helping us care for one another in this way.



—Royal Oak First Health & Safety Committee



# STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
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Griffin Anspach	House Band Coordinator	<a href="mailto:ganspach@rofum.org">ganspach@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Fredrick Fife, II	Audio Engineer	<a href="mailto:ffife@rofum.org">ffife@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Kevin Walsh	Online/Video Coordinator	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Natalia Tovarez	Nursery Coordinator & Evening Receptionist	<a href="mailto:ntovarez@rofum.org">ntovarez@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
George Bard	Custodian	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100
Ben Graham	Weekend/Evening Custodian	<a href="mailto:office@rofum.org">office@rofum.org</a>	248.541.4100



## 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](http://rofum.org/giving) to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

You can always check out our website, [www.rofum.org](http://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 [jtropoli@rofum.org](mailto:jtropoli@rofum.org).

Thank you!

# PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Lori Vickers • George Bard • Mark Thatcher • Lily Warren • Woody Siddall •  
Landon & Sawyer Cattran • Tim Murphy • Grace Perkins • Mary Lou Graeber •  
Joe & Inge Wichers • Bernice Sayers • Laci Basel • Jan Matsumoto •  
Lee Hoffmann • Lily Faunt •

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

Val Globish • Tom Fritz • Karen Cunningham • Michael Retaskie •  
Jeff Callihan • Lance Wilburn • Ellen Delangy • Jackson Parshall •  
Carol Marshall • Melissa McMahon • Brighton Assembly of God Church •  
Basil Hawai • Ken Schmitz • Missy Winter • Deana Sawicki •

## **Sympathies to:**

The Prud'homme family on the death of Bob's brother in law, David Wiker on  
February 6, 2025

## **Congratulations to:**

Kendra Beedle & Tim Shook on their marriage on February 5, 2025

*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

Hello Church Friends!

As I finish this letter, snow is beginning to fall softly out the window of my studio. I love snow. At least I love looking at it and sometimes walking in it. I do not, however, love shoveling it off the sidewalk and driveway or driving in it. It seems fitting that while I'm thinking about this message, the world around me is about to be blanketed in a soft, bright hug of snow. I will have to contend with it for good or for ill.

There is a lot to be concerned about in our current cultural climate as well. At the same time there is much for me to be grateful for. It has been said to me on multiple occasions that a thought of gratitude is a pure prayer. I need to look to God as the source of this gratitude, but sometimes I cannot see it alone. I must then look to others in our faith community to find it. Left to my own resources I can quickly sink into despair.

Most of us are likely familiar with the Beatitudes, Matthew's version of these teachings from Jesus, most often referred to in the Sermon on the Mount. We may be slightly less so with Luke's version of this, usually called the Sermon on the Plain. There are similarities but also differences. It is in these differences and details that we look to this week for a message of hope. We tend to turn to these sayings for comfort, look for and find blessings in our everyday lives. But there is more to these words; some of it can be a little hard to take. "Rejoice in that day," Jesus says, not about the good things that happen, but about suffering, hatred, rejection, and life struggles. Is this something we want to feel joyful about? If you are like me, it can be hard to digest. But there is good news. I can find comfort in these words as well as discomfort. This is the invitation that Jesus issues here, but how do we find that?

This is about trusting in faith and living out that faith in community. We don't rejoice because of hurt or pain, but we rejoice that we have a community that can help us heal from the hurt. We have relationships that can insulate and protect us from sufferings that we encounter in the world. We can celebrate that community of support and encouragement. We give thanks for one another and how we have been wrapped up in a loving environment that helps shape our identity as a contrast to the identity we sometimes encounter in the world.

Our Father is a God of love, and it is in community that we need to find, express, and celebrate this love. The joy that we seek is not in the hurt or the pain that has come from the world but in the sustaining faith and the comforts in a community that receives its healing hope and love from the Eternal Source.

Peace and Blessings,  
Deacon Bob Prud'homme

