



ROYAL OAK
FIRST
A United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 23, 2025
11:00 AM Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Lead Me, Guide Me” Doris Akers	Michael Rosas
Call to Worship		Jeff Jones
Opening Hymn #549**	“Where Charity and Love Prevail”	
Affirmation of Faith		
Musical Response #64**	“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” (verse 4)	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Mission Moment	“Noisy Bucket”	Leonard Benyas, piano
Time of Prayer		
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Come, Thou Fount” arr. Craig Courtney	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #95**	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Scripture Reading*	Luke 6:27-38	
Message	“Things I Wish Jesus Didn't Say”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #384**	“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” arr. Calvin Taylor	

ANNOUNCEMENTS



UPCOMING FISH DINNERS

Fridays, 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 wonderful food and fellowship. Our fish dinners benefit our children and youth where proceeds are used to send them to choir camp. We have Cod (baked or deep fried), Zander (Pike Perch) and Chicken Tenders along with choice of Baked Potato or French Fries, Coleslaw, Roll with Butter and a Beverage and Dessert! YUM!



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.**



FISH DINNERS VOLUNTEERS

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, March 7 & 21 & April 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards their camp costs!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moms at Pubs

(MAP)



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 or phone/text 248.703.8805.

Women's Retreat



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 3 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.

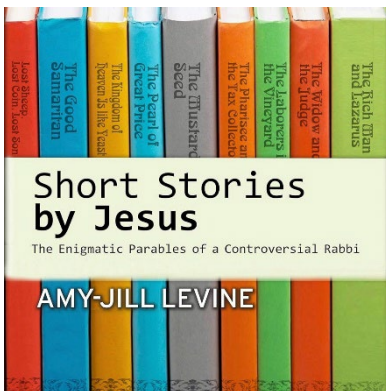


ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 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 14th 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.



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 Team

STAFF DIRECTORY

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Jeff Nelson	Lead Pastor	jnelson@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1216
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Shirley Harris	Kitchen/Meal Coordinator	sharris@rofum.org	248.541.4100 x 1120
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Fredrick Fife, II	Audio Engineer	ffife@rofum.org	248.541.4100
Kevin Walsh	Online/Video Coordinator	office@rofum.org	248.541.4100
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

THREE MORE FISH DINNERS LEFT!

**Fridays, March 7 & 21 and April 4
4:30-7:00PM**

Did you know that proceeds from our fish dinners benefit our children and youth?

Kids Meal (12 & under)---\$5

Choice of: Baked or Deep Fried Cod, Chicken Tenders and either Baked Potato or French Fries.
Includes: Coleslaw, Roll with Butter, Beverage and Dessert

Kids Meal (13-18)---\$10

Choice of: Baked or Deep Fried Cod, Chicken Tenders and either Baked Potato or French Fries.
Includes: Coleslaw, Roll with Butter, Beverage and Dessert

Chicken Tenders Plate---\$14

Includes: 1/2 lb. Chicken Tenders, choice of either Baked Potato or French Fries, Coleslaw, Roll with Butter, Beverage and Dessert

Petite Cod Plate---\$15

Includes: 1/3 lb. Deep Fried Cod, choice of either Baked Potato or French Fries, Coleslaw, Roll with Butter, Beverage and Dessert

Full Cod Plate---\$17

Includes: Choice of 1/2 lb. Deep Fried or Baked Cod, choice of either Baked Potato or French Fries, Coleslaw, Roll with Butter, Beverage and Dessert

Zander (Pike Perch) Plate---\$18

Includes: 1/2 lb. Deep Fried Zander (Pike Perch), choice of either Baked Potato or French Fries, Coleslaw, Roll with Butter, Beverage and Dessert



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Lori Vickers • George Bard • Mark Thatcher • 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 •

Congratulations to:

Colleen and Travis Hebden on the birth of their daughter, Reese Ellen Hebden
on February 14, 2025

*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,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support which has given our mission a robust financial start to 2025. Your faithful contributions are vital in helping us fulfill our vision of Making Christ's Love Real.

Let me share three impactful ways your gifts are touching lives in our community:

Share the Love: Last month, we delivered 68 care packages to members of our community who may not be able to join us for worship as often as they would like. These tangible acts of love serve as a reminder that God remembers them and is walking alongside them on their journey.

Holy COW: Our Wednesday night fellowship, Holy COW (Church on Wednesdays), is a wonderful mid-week gathering for children and families. Each week, upwards of 50 children, fifth grade and under, come together for a meal, music, prayer, and community. If you ever want to witness the love of Christ in action, stop by Holy COW. It's a beautiful expression of how we are making Christ's love real to our kids and their families.

Essentials Pantry: Through our Outreach on 7th program, we provide a non-food essentials pantry that offers personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies to support underserved populations. We typically give away around 200 rolls of toilet paper each month, and last month, we served a record 82 households—all thanks to your generosity.

A quick reminder about our church finances: we have an annual budget of \$905,033, with 95% funded by contributions from members and those who consider Royal Oak First their church home. This means we need \$75,500 each month to stay on track.

In January, we contributed \$80,141.93 to support the mission and ministries of Royal Oak First. Thank you for your incredible support! I encourage you to stay engaged with our congregation's health and vitality. One way to do this is through regular contributions via direct withdrawal or credit card. If you need assistance setting up regular giving, please contact Pastor Jennifer at Jtripoli@rofum.org, and she will be happy to help.

Together, we are making Christ's love real!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff" with a simple smiley face drawn below the name.

Pastor Jeff Nelson

