



The Stories We Tell



Parables of Jesus



Sunday, March 16, 2025
11AM Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Sonata No. 1, Mvt. 2” Eugénie R. Rocherolle	Allison Harris, violin Neal Harris, piano
Call to Worship		James Brooker
Opening Hymn	“They Asked, Who’s My Neighbor”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Baptism	Reed Centala, <i>son of Kira and Jacob Centala</i> Reilly Knott, <i>son of Colleen and Brandon Knott</i> Landon & Sawyer Cattran, <i>sons of Jennifer & Dan Cattran</i>	
Time of Prayer		
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Hiding Place” Liam Lawton	Sanctus Choir Allison Harris, violin Griffin Anspach, guitar
Doxology #298**	“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (verse 4)	
Gospel Procession	“Glory to You, O Word of God”	
Scripture Reading*	Luke 10:25-37	
Sermon Song	“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”	
Message	“The Good Samaritan: A Mercy Story”	Michael Rosas
Closing Hymn #297**	“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Improvisation on ‘Londonderry Air’” Magdalena Ezoe, OP	

*New Revised Standard Version
**United Methodist Hymnal

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TRANSFORMATIVE RETREATS

We invite you to step away from the busyness of life and immerse yourself in these 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.

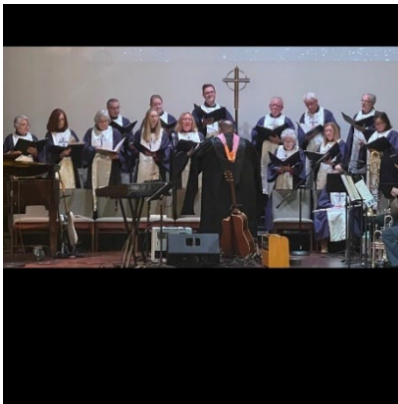


SCAN ME

****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.



WANT THE BEST VIEW OF THE SERVICE DURING HOLY WEEK?

Are you interested in singing with the Sanctus Choir for any of the services during Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter). You can come to the rehearsals on Thursdays from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary starting March 20th. You can commit to singing in one or all four services. Great opportunity for high schoolers and adults alike! No signup needed, just show up for rehearsal.



FISH DINNERS VOLUNTEERS

These dinners are a beloved tradition, drawing in many from the surrounding area and offering a welcoming space for connection. 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 21 & April 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards their camp costs!



SCAN ME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



UPCOMING FISH DINNERS

Friday, March 21 & April 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Our famous fish dinners are here, 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!



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.**



EASTER LILIES SALE-ORDER BY 3/23

We are excited to offer the choice of purchasing a lily or contributing to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in honor or memory of a loved one. The lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20. The names of the donors and those to be honored or memorialized will be printed in the Easter Sunday, April 20th Bulletin. Scan the QR code to order lilies or donate online or stop by the Connections Table for a paper order form before **Sunday, March 23** to either purchase a lily or contribute to UMCOR. You will be able to pick up your lilies after the 11AM Easter Sunday service.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIVESTREAM TRAINING (PIZZA INCLUDED!)

Have you ever wanted to learn how our services are livestreamed every Sunday and help out doing Sunday services or other special events? Kevin Walsh, our Online Video Coordinator is doing a Livestream Training on Sunday, March 23 right after the 11 a.m. service. Please email Michael Rosas at mrosas@rofum.org with RSVP so we order enough pizza for everyone to enjoy!



GET READY FOR “EGG MY HOUSE”!

Make Easter morning “egg-stra” special for your kids with a yard full of candy and toy-filled eggs delivered by Royal Oak First! Purchase twenty-four (24) eggs for \$25 or double the fun with forty-eight (48) eggs for \$50. All proceeds support the Youth Mission Trip. Order by scanning the QR code before Sunday, April 13.



EASTER EGG FILLERS COLLECTION

The kids and youth of Royal Oak First are collecting donations of individually wrapped pieces of candy, toys/trinkets, and plastic eggs for their annual ‘Egg My House’ fundraiser through Sunday, April 13. A collection bin is at the Connections Table. If you prefer to shop from home and have it delivered, simply scan the QR code to order from our Amazon Wish List.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENT Sandwich & Lunch Assembly from Home



LENT SANDWICH & LUNCH ASSEMBLY FROM HOME

Are you looking for a one-time service opportunity this Lent? We've designed an opportunity for many households to sponsor another NOAH at Central lunch together. You can sign up to **make 30 sandwiches or 30 lunches at your home to be delivered to church on Sunday, April 13. Additionally, we are hoping to send 3-5 volunteers to help serve the meal on Tuesday, April 15.** Please scan the QR code for more information and to sign up!

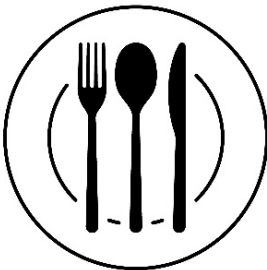


Clothing Closet Needs



CLOTHING CLOSET NEEDS

The Outreach on 7th's Clothing Closet really needs donations of **backpacks (any condition) and men's shoes/boots sizes 10 & 11.** Please drop off at the church office, Monday-Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



Feeding Our Youth Group

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



BAKERY ITEMS (HOMEMADE OR STORE BOUGHT) FOR COFFEE BAR ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Would you like to make everyone who comes to Sunday service happy? Do you like to bake/make yummy snacks or buy treats from the bakery at your local store? 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 the QR code or stop by the Connections Table after service to sign up.



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. We need shoppers for all the upcoming months. Please check your calendar and sign up using the QR code if you are able. Thank you!



HANDS OF MERCY – LENTEN ESSENTIALS COLLECTION

Throughout the Lenten season, we will be joining together to provide gifts of mercy for our neighbors in need. We are asking you to bring in a grocery bag filled with personal hygiene items (toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo & conditioner) to stock the Outreach on 7th (OO7) Essentials Pantry. These are items that everyone needs, but are not covered through assistance programs, and OO7 shares with anyone who asks. Full size items, but not jumbo/bulk bottles, are preferred. Thank you for being Hands of Mercy this Lenten Season!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moms at Pubs

(MAP)



MOMS AT PUBS (MAP)- THURSDAY, MARCH 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, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Lockhart's BBQ, 202 E. 3rd 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.

HAPPY

Saint
Patrick's day

- MARCH 17 -





PALM SUNDAY *Sunday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services -- IN PERSON & ONLINE*

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palms to wave and joy to spread. We will be led by our House Band and the Sanctus Choir at both services. In addition, the Pre-K/K and Lower Elementary Choirs will be singing at the 9:00 a.m. service and the Upper Elementary Choir will be singing at the 11:00 a.m. service. Any children that are here can participate in a Palm Parade at both services. The Abide Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a **SUNDAY BRUNCH** after both services as well. There is no cost for the brunch and reservations are not necessary. There will also be a **YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE** for you to purchase yummy treats to support the Confirmation class Kingdom Projects.

MAUNDY-THURSDAY *Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. service -- IN PERSON & ONLINE*

We will have a simple Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m., and then join us for a worship experience at 7:00 p.m. where we will remember the Last Supper. There will be a homily by Pastor Jeff, communion, and music led by the Sanctus Choir.

GOOD FRIDAY *Friday, April 18, noon service -- IN PERSON & ONLINE*

Join us for a traditional and impactful Good Friday worship service remembering Jesus' final day with music led by the Sanctus Choir. This is a service of deep reflection. Come to the foot of the cross and experience the Passion of Jesus.

7 LAST WORDS POETRY/MUSIC SLAM *Friday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. -- IN PERSON & ONLINE*

You don't want to miss this live event where poets and musicians muse on Christ's last words from the cross. Unique, poignant, and compelling, "7 Last Words" offers insights into Christ's humanity and divinity in his final moments.

EASTER SUNDAY *Sunday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services -- IN PERSON & ONLINE*

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Join us for a morning of worship and celebration featuring our House Band at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, and the Sanctus Choir accompanied by the BrassWorks brass quartet at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

TWO MORE FISH DINNERS LEFT!

Fridays, March 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:

Jane Sledd • Ann Cline • Rick Buxton • Mark Thatcher • Woody Siddall •
Nick Maylen • Ann Anderson • Tom Landry • Judy Bryan • Mary Lou Graeber •
Bill & Allison Hempstead • The Thurman Family • Lori Vickers • George Bard •
Landon & Sawyer Cattran • Tim Murphy • Grace Perkins •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Robert Baker • Bill Diamond • Bernie Stubitsch • Pat Timmons •
Michael Elliott • Beth Copeland • Karen Cunningham • Michael Retaskie •
Jeff Callihan • Lance Wilburn • Ellen Delangy • Carol Marshall •

Sympathies to:

The Fritz family on the death of Brent's father Tom Fritz on March 12, 2025
The Stroud and LaDuke families on the death of Robert LaDuke on March 10,
2025
The family and friends of Deana Sawicki on her death on March 10, 2025
The Luczak family on the death of Brandon's father Stephen Luczak on March
9, 2025
The Thomas family on the death of Nick's uncle Jim Dorsey on March 7, 2025
Lee Trumbull on the death of her stepmother Patti Trumbull on March 7, 2025

Congratulations to:

James and Abigail Semivan on the birth of their daughter Edith Semivan on
March 6, 2025

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

LETTER FROM OUR PREACHER

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent, and if you've made some sort of Lenten discipline (giving up chocolate, reducing your social media consumption, spending more time in prayer, etc.), I hope that you have been able to keep those promises. Don't lose heart if you've accidentally eaten a cupcake or two for St. John Chrysostom (a 5th century archbishop of Constantinople), reminds us in his Easter sermon: "Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages! If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward...And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first."

Our scripture reading is the second in our Lenten series "The Stories We Tell: the Parables of Jesus" and is the very familiar story of the "Good Samaritan." The parable reminds us of extending mercy to everyone, even our enemies.

As a mission project for this Lent, we will be handing out bags at the end of the services for collecting toiletries for the OO7 (Outreach on 7th) Essentials Pantry. Your gifts of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and bars of soap are beautiful gifts of mercy that help enable our unhoused friends to retain their dignity and remind them that they are seen and are valuable members of our community. I hope you can help participate in this amazing project!

I pray that your Lent continues to be a spiritual and enriching time as we make our journey to the cross, and ultimately to the resurrection on Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Michael Rosas