



The Stories We Tell



Parables of Jesus



Sunday, March 23, 2025
11AM Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	“Were You There?” arr. Sandra Eithun	Carillon Ringers
Call to Worship		Megan Landry
Opening Hymn	“The Kingdom of Our God is Like”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Nicole Wilson
Mission Moment	Noisy Bucket	Griffin Anspach
Baptism		Charlie Kozan <i>Son of Tori & Mike Kozan</i>
Time of Prayer		
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Wondrous Love” arr. Paul Christiansen	Sanctus Choir
Doxology #298**	“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (verse 4)	
Gospel Procession	“Glory to You, O Word of God”	
Scripture Reading*	Matthew 13:45-46	
Sermon Song	“I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For/ Stand By Me”	Griffin Anspach & Analisa Thomas
Message	“A Story of Purpose”	Jeff Nelson
Closing Hymn #301**	“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”	
Benediction		
Postlude	“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” arr. Diane Bish	Michael Rosas

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAST DAY TO ORDER EASTER LILIES

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 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.



LIVESTREAM TRAINING TODAY!

(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!

Moms at Pubs

(MAP)



MOMS AT PUBS--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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 (our next rehearsal is March 27). 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 any or all of the rehearsals.

FISH DINNERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



FISH DINNER 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 our final fish dinner on **Friday, April 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Note: Kids that volunteer get credit towards their camp costs!



Don't Miss Our Fish Dinners!

OUR LAST FISH DINNER

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

Join us for our last fish dinner with your family and friends and 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Support Our Youth by Baking!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BAKE SALE AT OUR LAST FISH DINNER BY BAKING!

Our Youth Group (ROY) is selling baked goods at our last Fish Dinner 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.**



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!



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!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



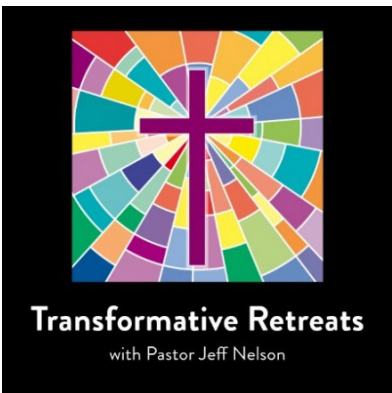
GET READY FOR “EGG MY HOUSE”!

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.



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.

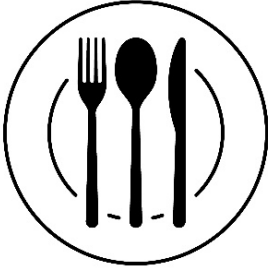


****April 19th: Listening for God’s Resurrecting Voice****

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



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!



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.



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Clothing Closet Needs



CLOTHING CLOSET NEEDS

The Outreach on 7th's Clothing Closet really needs donations of **backpacks (any condition)** and **men's shoes sizes 10 & 10.5**. Please drop off at the church office, Monday-Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.





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.

ONE MORE FISH DINNER LEFT!

Friday, 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 • Bernie Stubitsch • Pat Timmons •
Michael Elliott • Beth Copeland • Karen Cunningham • Michael Retaskie •
Jeff Callihan • Lance Wilburn • Ellen Delangy • Carol Marshall •

Sympathies to:

The Diemond family on the death of Adam's father, Bill Diemond on March 15,
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,

As I take a moment to reflect on our journey together, my heart is full of gratitude for each and every one of you. It's truly inspiring to see how your commitment and generosity breathe life into Christ's love within our community. Thank you for being the hands and feet of that love; it means more than words can express.

Together, we make Christ's love real in four beautiful ways:

1. Extending Inclusive Love to All – Here, every person, no matter their background, is embraced with open arms.
2. Commitment to Children, Youth, and Families – We are nurturing our future, wrapping our young ones in love and guidance.
3. Caring for the Hungry, Unhoused, and Economically Vulnerable – Together, we make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need, reaching out with compassion.
4. Creating Moments to Celebrate God's Presence – Whether it's a baptism, wedding, or a final farewell, we honor life's sacred moments together.

Speaking of sacred moments, I can't help but smile when I think back on the nine baptisms we celebrated this past season! Each one was a unique and precious event, welcoming our youngest members into the embrace of our faith family. Our wonderful Worship & Music Director, Michael Rosas, often shares the joy of our baptisms, noting that in his previous church, they celebrated just one over seven years. To see us come together to honor nine in just one quarter shows the incredible love and support your generosity extends to young families.

One baptism that particularly touched my heart was the day we welcomed four young boys into our faith family. It was a beautiful sight, especially knowing their mothers had all grown up together in this very church! This moment was a touching reminder of God's presence throughout our lives, showing us how faith connects us across generations.

Your generosity makes all of this possible. As we look at our finances for February, I want to share some encouraging news. Our annual budget stands at \$905,033. For February, we projected an income of \$53,356, and thanks to your kindness, we received \$49,221. In January, we brought in \$80,205, leading to a year-to-date total of \$129,426. This is ahead of our projection of \$114,424. Your faithfulness in giving is truly remarkable!

In the coming weeks, keep an eye out for a special invitation for our Easter offering. This is an opportunity to give a little extra, alongside your regular contributions, supporting our ongoing mission of sharing Christ's love in our community. Remember, every gift, no matter how small, plays a role in making that love real.

If you ever have questions about how your generosity is making a difference, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your impact matters.

With deep appreciation,

Pastor Jeff Nelson