



The Stories We Tell



Parables of Jesus



Sunday, March 9, 2025
9AM Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP

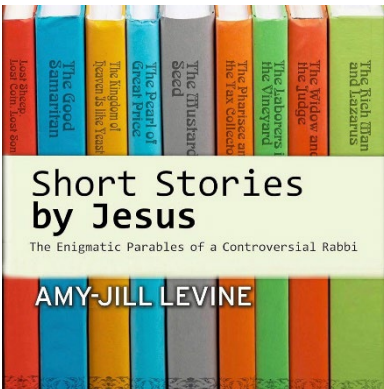
Gathering Music	“Centerfield”	House Band
Greeting		Griffin Anspach
Song	“Fear is Not My Future”	
Welcome & Invitation to Mission		Jeff Nelson & Jennifer Tripoli
Mission Moment		Michelle Haight
Special Music	“This Little Light of Mine”	Upper Elementary Choir
Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon		
Musical Response	“Kyrie Eleison”	
Time of Prayer		
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“In Christ Alone” arr Joel Raney	Kiersten Ciccone & Kirsten Williams
Doxology	“Give Thanks”	
Gospel Processional	“Glory to You, O Word of God”	
Scripture Reading*	Luke 15:3-7	
Song	“The Story”	Julia Westenberg
Message	“The Lost Sheep: A Love Story”	Jeff Nelson
Song	“The Table”	
Benediction		
Departing Music		

ANNOUNCEMENTS



“1946” MOVIE IS TODAY!

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. 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.



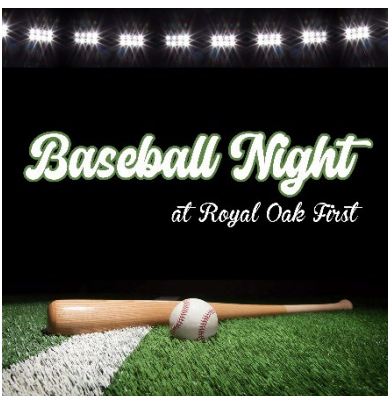
LENT SMALL GROUPS BOOK STUDY

We have 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" written by Amy-Jill Levin which will lead us through Jesus' parables. Books are 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!



BASEBALL NIGHT THIS FRIDAY!

Our family fun night on **Friday, March 14th starting at 6:15 p.m.** will include special guest, 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 (which include autographed baseballs and jerseys), 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.



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.

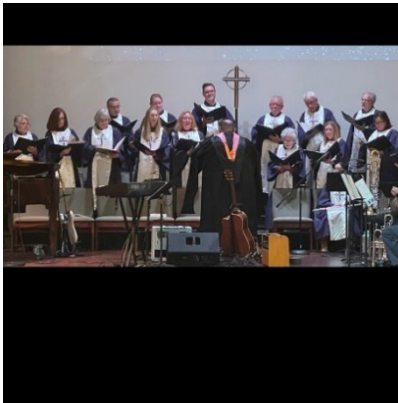


****March 15th: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross****

****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.



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!



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! 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.**



EASTER LILIES SALE

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!



SENIORS! ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS OPEN!

For those students planning to attend or who are already attending undergraduate or graduate school, you may wish to be aware of Metropolitan United Methodist Church's annual academic scholarship program. Each year the Church's Centennial Fund awards over 50 scholarships each amounting to \$2,000. The qualifying criteria for the scholarship are noted in the application forms available on the Metropolitan United Methodist Church's website at www.metroumcdetroit.org/scholarships. **This year the application deadline is May 2nd.** Any Methodist church member is welcome to apply.



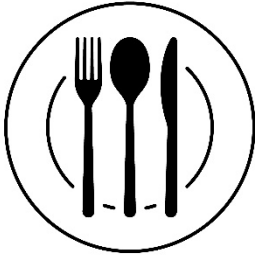
Clothing Closet Needs



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.

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 click the button below to sign up.



BAKERY ITEMS (HOMEMADE OR STORE BOUGHT) FOR THE 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.



YARN DONATIONS
FOR SHAWL MINISTRY



YARN DONATIONS FOR SHAWL MINISTRY

If you or your loved ones have extra yarn, please consider donating it to our Shawl Ministry. The Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 1-3 p.m. They share fellowship while knitting or crocheting comfort items that are gifted to others in times of sorrow or celebration. New members are always welcome! And yarn donations are greatly appreciated! **Please leave your donations in the white collection barrels.**

holy week

at Royal Oak First

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:

Tom Landry • Nick Maylen • Ann Anderson • Judy Bryan • Joyce Negrich •
Bill & Allison Hempstead • The Thurman 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:

Bill Diemond • Deana Sawicki • Tom Fritz • Bernie Stubitsch • Pat Timmons •
Michael Elliott • Beth Copeland • 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 •

*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,

What a truly miraculous Ash Wednesday we had together. Our team of Pastors, including our Worship and Music Director, Michael Rosas, and Deacon Bob Prud'homme, spent the day administering ashes to everyone who drove up in their cars at the Lafayette entrance. It was so heartwarming to connect with 122 people. Each moment was powerful and filled with deep grace and love.

Throughout the day we shared prayers with both members of our church and new friends! We prayed for families, health, and even for guidance in jobs. Many asked to lift prayers for our world and our nation. Each encounter ended with the gentle placing of an ashen cross on folks' foreheads, a small but significant reminder of our hope in Christ.

Afterward, over 100 of us gathered for a simple soup supper (thank you, Shirley Harris!). It was such a joy to connect and share life together. Then we moved into the Sanctuary for an evening of prayer and reflection, where once again, ashes were marked as a sign of hope.

When I got home, I looked at my hands, covered in ash, a reminder of all the prayers we shared. My white shirt bore the marks of our time together as well! Lent reminds us that God meets us in the messiness of life—both our personal mess and the mess in our world. It's a time to remember that Jesus walks with us through it all.

So welcome to Lent here at Royal Oak First! Honestly, we are a bit of a messy movement, and I'm a bit of a messy pastor! But together, we're finding our way to the hope of Easter, trusting that God makes beautiful things out of dust.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff Nelson

