

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 5, 2025 | 10:30AM

Epiphany Celebration



fpcro

*Spirituality | Service | Sharing*

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

We hope you sense an authentic community here! This church is *not* for people who have everything about their faith figured out. It's not for people whose lives are neat and tidy. *This is a community gathered in Christ.* Together, we are seeking a world made whole. The Holy Spirit draws us together with our doubts, struggles, *and* our celebrations. God is at work transforming us and showing us glimpses of Christ's light in the world!

Our worship service follows a traditional format. Our prayers and preaching put the Bible in conversation with practical questions to help us live faithfully in our daily lives. Our community is made up of people who bring different experiences and perspectives. Together, we trust in God's grace and love, which are free gifts to us, no matter what life brings our way. We don't need to earn that love, yet we can always rely on it.

If you are seeking to be comforted, challenged, or to grow in your faith, we would be honored to accompany you on that journey. You are welcome here just as you are.

*Rev. Emma Nickel*

Pastor

## Children Belong Here

There is a place for families and children of all ages here! We believe children who worship with their church family stick with their faith for a lifetime. Choose what works best for your family:

- The *Prayground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- The **Backyard Playroom** is a free program offering a safe, indoor environment for children ages five (5) and under to play under parental/guardian supervision, and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 12pm.
- Sunday School: Following the Time with Children, kids may go with Sunday school leaders to class, which ends at the conclusion of the worship service.
- Nursery: Childcare for infants and toddlers during the 10:30am service, with background-checked staff and volunteers.

## Finding Your Way

*Kirkman Fellowship Hall:* Use either staircase in the lobby to go downstairs into the Hall. *Nursery:* Located to the right of the lobby, down the hallway across from the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Elevator:* Down the hall, left past the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Restrooms:* Women's & Men's are at the top of the short stairwells in the lobby, All Gender/Single in the narthex outside the sanctuary. *Accessible* is at the end of the hallway near the Fireside Room. *Hearing-assist devices:* Ushers near the sanctuary doors are available to assist you.

## Interested in Joining?

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, new member gatherings take place several times a year. To get connected, contact Rev. Emma Nickel at [enickel@fpcro.org](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



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## Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://www.fpcro.org) to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may set up using a debit/credit card, or a PayPal account using the QR code. Cash/checks may be placed in the offering plates by the side aisle doors or in the basket in the narthex entry. Thank you for sharing your gifts with God and the church!



# GATHERING

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At the ◊ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

## Prelude

“Impression on *We Three Kings*”

*Alfred Fedak*

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## Welcome & Announcements

## Call to Worship

*based on Matthew 2:1-12*

## ◊ Hymn #236

“As with Gladness”

Public Domain

## Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: It is God who can set right what has been broken or gone astray. And so God is the one we turn to for healing and forgiveness. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**All:** **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Prayer of Confession

**All:** **God of all learning, we regret that we are often closed off to learning new things. Like old dogs, we refuse to add fresh ideas to our repertoire. We are sure that our ways are set, and they are already right. Forgive us for our pride and misplaced certainty. Give us courage and curiosity like the wise men who went in search of the Messiah. Hone our love of growing in faith. Help us be prepared to learn like the elders at the temple did from Jesus. Teach us, Lord, as you have taught others, and grant us wisdom and willingness to learn from you and one another.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: We pray in your holy name,

**All:** **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: No matter the roads we've taken, the steps we've made, or the paths we've traveled, there is nowhere we could go that would land us outside of God's love.

**All:** **Through the grace of Christ, we are loved! We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

## ◊ Gloria Patri

*Hymn #734*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## ◇ Passing of the Peace

One: In this season of Epiphany, we are drawn to the light of Christ. Christ is the one who brings peace for us and for the whole world. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Time with the Children and Star Word Reflections

*~Anne-Marie and Ted DeVantier*

*After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers. Those attending Sunburst Singers music time will be taken directly there from Sunday school. Others will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination<sup>1</sup>

**All: God of starlight, just as you guided the magi to Jesus, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.**

### Anthem

“We Have Seen His Star”

*Everett Titcomb*

*~Chancel Choir*

*“We have seen His star in the East, and are come with our offerings to worship the Lord.”*

©1935 Carl Fischer, Inc.

### Scripture Reading

Luke 2:41-52

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 60*

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

“Curious Questions”

*Rev. Emma Nickel*



## THANKSGIVING

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### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Johannes Matthias Michel*

©2004 Concordia Publishing House

### ◇ Doxology

*Hymn #34*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen***

### ◇ Prayer of Dedication

## Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

### Invitation

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer<sup>2</sup>

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right and our joy...And so, with the entire company of heaven we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na



in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: In the fullness of time...great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

One: Gracious God...We pray in the triune name of God using the prayer of Jesus:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Communion of the People and Receiving of Epiphany Stars**

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation. Communion is offered by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to the servers at the front of the church. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Gently dip your bread into the cup of juice, then eat it all together. **Then, take a star from the basket on the way back to your seat, returning by the side aisles.***

*A gluten free station is in front of the lectern on the right side of the sanctuary for any who prefer to use it. At this station, individual cups of juice are available instead of the dipping option. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby.*

*If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.*

### **Prayer After Communion**

**All: Lord, you have taught us your wisdom in the scriptures, the music, and at this table. You have fed our hearts and minds. You have drawn us together in your house, so that we may go from this place to love and serve. Help us to follow your light. Continue to give us curiosity about this journey of faith. Through Christ our Lord, we pray, Amen.**



## **SENDING**

## ◇Benediction

### Postlude

“In Thee is Gladness”

J. S. Bach  
Public Domain

- 1 Prayer adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
- 2 Communion liturgy adapted from Michelle Henrichs, *Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebration and Experience the Love of God* (Life in the Labyrinth LLC, 2020), 23-26.

### LITURGIST

Laurie Geraldts

### FPCRO STAFF

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist:* Joseph Jackson

*Chancel Choir Dir.:* Kent Wattleworth

*Church Admin.:* Kari Peruski

*Admin. Assistant:* Sally Gilreath

*S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director:* Jessica Gibbs

*Nursery Care Worker:* Abby Pochron

*Dir. of Christian Education:* Joelle Jarrait

*Organ Scholar:* John Etsell

*Sunburst Singers Dir.:* Audrey Frieberg

*Facility Manager:* Alan Glasel

*Sunday/Evening Reception:* Todd Crawford

*Backyard Playroom Coordinator:* Ashleigh McKnight

### SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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*Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Contact the pastor if you are in need.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Bob Lengjel in memory of Carol Lengjel.

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### Congregational Lenten Devotional—Contribute an entry before Feb 9

You are invited to contribute to our 2025 Congregational Lenten Devotional. This year, we are compiling a booklet to use for spiritual enrichment during Lent. Each day of Lent will include a short entry for reflection, written by church members and friends. To make it possible, we need you to contribute an entry (or two or three!) To write an entry, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3jxbszap> Select a weekly topic and use the prompt to guide your reflection. Each entry only needs to be 100-250 words. Writers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate!

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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## Ordination Service at 2pm Today

Join FPCRO and the Presbytery of Detroit this afternoon, **Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 2pm** to celebrate the ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament for FPCRO member Lon Kuehn. A reception will follow.

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## Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will gather at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge) starting at **7:30pm on Monday, January 6, 2025**. Join us for some multifarious topics of conversation. If you can't join us at 7:30pm, don't worry. Join us at 8pm or 8:30pm and you can find a place in one of the conversations.

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## Taking Down the Greens

Join us for a few minutes after worship on **Sunday, January 12** to take down the Christmas greens in the sanctuary and around the church. Then enjoy coffee hour hosted by Shirley & Ron Gillham.

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## Upcoming January S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Regular Meeting on **January 12**, from 4:30-6:30pm at **First Presbyterian Church Birmingham**. Service day at Crossroads on **January 26**. S.T.A.G.E. (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about and share the love of Christ! Join our newsletter by emailing **stageyouth@gmail.com** for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade)

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LEARN  
MORE



## Women's Fellowship Group

Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation. We'll meet at North End Taproom (111. S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food.

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## Save the Date! The Big Game Sub Sandwich Fundraiser Sat, Feb 8 • 1-3pm & Sun, Feb 9 • 7:30-11:30am

We will need youth to help with our annual fundraiser! Saturday, February 8 we will be prepping the ingredients for the subs, and Sunday, February 9 we will assemble the subs bright and early. Both days we will be at FPCRO and our goal is to have all sub orders for the respective congregations ready for pick-up mid morning on February 9. Refreshments for volunteers will be provided Sunday.

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