



ALL CREATURES
great and small

*"O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is
full of your creatures." -Psalm 104:24*



First Presbyterian Church
of Royal Oak

At **FPCRO**, we praise God for all the ways God cares for our community. And we praise God for the ways the members of this congregation care for one another and reach out to the wider world.



Together, we care for God's creatures **great** and **small**. Together, we seek to bless people young and old throughout all their years.



The gifts, offerings, and pledges of the congregation make all these connections, care, and ministries possible.



Creature fact: Cattle egrets live on the backs of water buffalo in a **symbiotic relationship**. Egrets feast on the many insects the buffaloes' kick up, while also picking harmful fleas and ticks off their hosts.



Six days per week, the Here to Help Foundation meets up with returning citizens to offer assistance with employment and resources for clothing, vehicles, and housing. Many of these citizens rely on city buses to get around. Since our church building is just one block off Woodward near the bus line, the FPCRO parking lot is a convenient and safe place for the Foundation's director to meet up with clients. This symbiotic relationship puts our church grounds to work serving the community and offers just the right spot for returning citizens to get the help they need to get back on their feet.

Hallelujah!



Creature fact: Otters hold hands while sleeping so they **don't float away** from each other.



There are times when holding on to a human connection is just what we need to get through a hard time. This year, a church member's child received a very difficult diagnosis. Another church member has relatives who are dealing with the same diagnosis. Though they didn't know one another before, these two church members have now been

able to connect for mutual support and prayer. While the health challenges remain, we give thanks that a new friendship has been formed and the two people's faith has been strengthened.

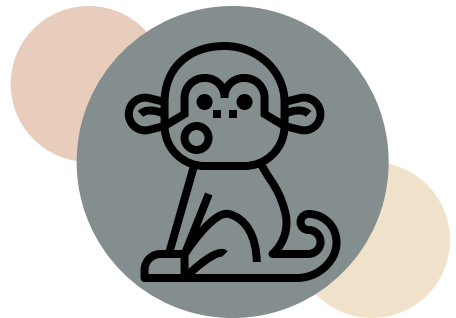
Hallelujah!

Telling our stories of faith is one way we invite new people into discipleship. We have a growing number of church participants from one local elementary school in Royal Oak. At Vacation Bible School, seeing friends from school helped new children feel at home in our building. At school and at church, the parents are actively connecting. These families are also sharing their meaningful experiences at FPCRO with other parents at the school pick-up and drop-off times. Through these conversations, they are planting seeds of invitation and welcome to those searching for a congregation to call home. Talking about our faith is one way our church family grows and blossoms.

Hallelujah!

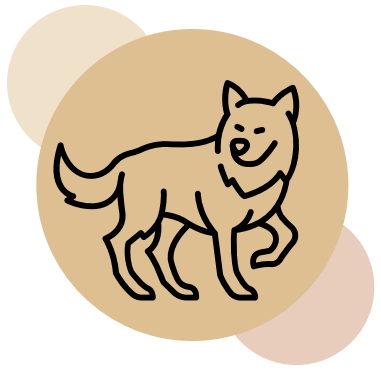
Creature fact:

Howler monkeys are the loudest land animals. Their calls can be heard from almost three miles away.



Creature fact: In parts of Africa, wild dogs survive because they work together and **care for each other.**

Dogs that are injured or too old to hunt are provided food to eat. Older dogs 'babysit' young pups while their parents hunt, freeing up more dogs to hunt and feed the whole pack.



In the congregation, care for one another often happens quietly. But it's always something to celebrate.

Throughout the year, Deacons send nearly 500 greeting cards to church members who are unable to come to worship or going through a difficult time. They are trained to offer home communion and are ready to

bring the sacrament to anyone seeking communion. Congregation members frequently bring meals to those recovering from a surgery. Stephen Ministers offer care to those hurting or grieving through Healing and Wholeness worship services, as well as through individual care givers.

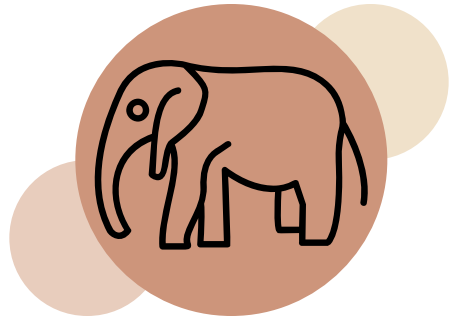
Hallelujah!



Our congregation has numerous mission projects related to food insecurity and feeding the hungry. Through donations of food and funds, we stock our Little Free Pantry full of items, which are quickly utilized by the community. Through congregational events like Snack Pax bags, Rise Against Hunger, and Forgotten Harvest, members give selflessly of their time and energy to ensure others have food to eat. Our new Mobile Food Pantry means volunteers give many hours of their time rescuing food from local businesses, repacking it, and then taking it to twelve different sites in the community where people in need can use it, especially seniors.

Hallelujah!

Creature fact: Elephants play a crucial role in their ecosystems by helping to feed other animals. As they roam and forage, they knock down trees and break branches, making food sources accessible to smaller animals that can't reach high foliage. Additionally, when elephants dig for water, they create watering holes that other animals can use.



FPCRO Sources of Income

Building Rentals	3%
Sunflowers Preschool	6%
Non-Pledge Gifts	8%
Designated Gifts	9%
Investment Income	12%
Pledged Gifts	61%

