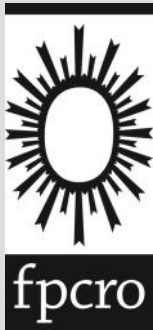


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | 10:30AM

Seventh Sunday of Epiphany



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. Third graders and older are encouraged to sit with their family in the pews.
- 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



Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at 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

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

Prelude

“Vesper Voluntary No. 3”

Edward Elgar

~John Etsell, organ

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Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship

One: For everything there is a season,

All: And for everything a time and purpose under heaven.

One: Lord, satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the morning,

All: So we shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

One: May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us,

All: And prosper the work of our hands!

◊ Hymn #112

“You Servants of God”

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Call to Confession

One: “If we say we have no sin,” as the apostle Paul writes, “then we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth.” Confession is where we speak truth; to ourselves, to another, and to God. In doing so, God’s truth dispels deception and brings us into right relationships. Let us pray our prayer of confession together. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love and kept in your care through loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God's word called you into existence, and fixed you forever in God's love. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and sing with gratitude, for the Lord has forgiven you.
Friends, your sins are forgiven, be at peace!

All: 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: As forgiven people, we celebrate the peace Christ brings into our lives. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time with the Children

After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Dear God, your creative and loving power has brought us into being, fitting us for a life which is complete only through you. Grant us wisdom in the hearing of your word, the inspiration to understand, and the courage to be your congregation, your people in this world. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

Pew Bible, OT pg. 760

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

“Psalm 25”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Anne*, #84 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

***“Make me to know Thy paths, O God, and lead me in Thy way;
To learn Thy saving truth my heart shall meditate each day.
The Lord is goodness, truth, and love, God’s path the saints have trod;
And children of the covenant still walk beside their God.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 25 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

John 1:35-46

Pew Bible, NT pg. 94

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake”

Richard Farrant

~Chancel Choir

“Lord, for Thy tender mercies’ sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk with a perfect heart before Thee now and evermore.”

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Sermon

“Who Wants to Be an Evangelist?”

Rev. Leslie Mott



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“For the Mountains Shall Depart”

Felix Mendelssohn

~Bryan Clinthorne

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but Thy kindness shall not depart from me; neither shall the covenant of Thy peace be removed.”

Public Domain

◇ **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**

◇ **Affirmation of Faith** — Apostles’ Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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



◇ **Hymn #561**

“Christ for the World! We Sing”

Music: arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar ©2001 Hope Publishing Co.

◇ **Benediction**

Postlude

“Imperial March”

Edward Elgar
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Today, Rev. Emma Nickel has been invited to preach at Drayton Presbyterian’s worship service in Evans Chapel to celebrate the retirement of Rev. Dr. Scott Miller.

We welcome the Rev. Leslie Mott to FPCRO’s service. The Rev. Leslie Mott received her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary; her Spiritual Direction certification through the Linwood Spiritual Center in Rhinecliff, NY, and is a member of Spiritual Directors International and the International Focusing Institute. Prior to her call to be the Temporary Executive Presbyter of Detroit, she served as pastor and interim pastor at several churches in Michigan and New York. Leslie was also the Coordinator for Spirituality and Practice in Bedford, NY, and the Coordinator of the Pastoral Sabbath at Holmes Camp and Stony Point Center from 2015-2019. Leslie is a yoga and meditation teacher, Spiritual Director, and Certified Focusing Professional. As a retreat leader, she has presented to and guided groups at The Garrison Institute, Holy Cross Monastery, Johnsonburg Camp, Mariondale, the NEXT Church Conference, and Maryknoll, among others, and is currently a member of the Presbytery Leadership Formation Group.



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.

LITURGIST

Suzanne Lewand

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

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

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the ninth anniversary of Naomi's baptism by Emma and Matt Nickel.

Blanket-tying Mission Event Today, February 23!

After worship **today**, join the Mission in Service Committee to tie Fleece & Thank You Blankets at Coffee Hour. The blankets are sent to children who are hospitalized to offer warmth and comfort. Plan to welcome the S.T.A.G.E. youth who will be joining us for the event.

Souper Bowl of Caring

During February, our congregation is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring! You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for our Little Free Pantry. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, do so by labeling it "Souper Bowl of Caring" or "Little Free Pantry."

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Upcoming February S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Regular meeting at FPCB on **March 2**, and at FPCRO on **March 16**.

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)

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Celebrating Drayton Presbyterian's Ministry

On **Sunday, March 2 at 2pm** in the FPCRO Sanctuary, Drayton Presbyterian Church will celebrate and conclude its ministry. All are invited to give thanks for their congregation's legacy, as we also give thanks for the promise of resurrection. A reception will follow.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, March 5 at 7pm

Join us for the imposition of ashes and to mark the beginning of Lent on **March 5 at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed.

Visit a New Mission Partner—Building Beds 4 Kids in Oak Park

After worship and a brief coffee hour on **Sunday, March 9**, drive the short distance to **Building Beds 4 Kids** at 14241 W. Eleven Mile Road in Oak Park for a tour. (Please note: the parking and building entrance are at the rear of the building.) This local organization, run by fellow Presbyterians, is a 501(C)(3) utilizing an all-volunteer staff and workforce. At no cost to families, Building Beds 4 Kids provide beds to kids who have no bed to sleep in—often in situations of fleeing domestic violence, foster care, or other family transitions. Over the last two years, two FPCRO congregation members have been serving here weekly, sanding bed frames for assembly by other volunteers. We expect the tour to last until around 1pm. Session recently approved a financial gift to BB4K from our Mission budget. We hope you can join us!
