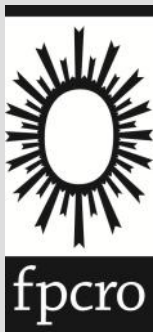


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 19, 2025 | 10:30AM

Second 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.
- 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



SCAN ME

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

“Rhapsody for Organ and Piano”

Clifford Demarest

~John Etsell, piano

~Joseph Jackson, organ

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Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship¹

One: Today, be ready to hear God’s surprising story.

All: We come with our ears ready to listen.

One: Be ready to encounter a word of justice and peace.

All: Our hearts are open to the work of the Spirit.

One: Be ready to sing praises to the one who frees us from our sin.

All: We are ready to raise our voices in praise!

One: Let us join in worship!

◊Hymn #93

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Text: Rusty Edwards ©1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Call to Confession

One: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. With God, we can confess our sin in honesty and in hope. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession²

All: God of all the nations, sometimes we are not good at loving all the people of the earth. We speak ill of others; we assume that we know best. Forgive us when we act against your intent to love and save all your children. Help us to embrace people of all colors and kinds: those with technology and without; those who make do with very little and those who use many resources; those with formal education and without; those who call upon your name and those who do not. Give us the humility and courage to live out the love you modeled for us.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the name of Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God's anointed one proclaims good news to us. By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are released from our sin and set free to serve and to love!

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: 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

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

Prayer for Illumination

All: Living God, by the power of your Spirit, let us be amazed at the gracious words that come from your mouth. When we are surprised by your message, give us openness to consider it. Peel away our preconceptions of what you are about. Allow us to hear, understand, and learn from the message your scriptures share with us. In your name we pray, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 146”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Beecher*, #358 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

***“Blest are they whose hope is vested in the God of Israel;
In the hour of deepest anguish, God’s provisions will not fail;
Freedom for the shackled spirit, strength and stay to those who fall;
Blessings offered without measure, righteousness enough for all.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 146 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 4:14-30

Pew Bible, NT pg. 62

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“The Spirit of the Lord”

Phillip Stopford

~Chancel Choir

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations.”

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Sermon

“Celebrating the Good News for Others”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Spiritual arr. Mark Hayes

~Bryan Clinthorne

“My Lord, what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways, joined that heavenly band. My Lord, what a mornin’, when the stars begin to fall.”

©1998 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

◇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—from the Confession of 1967 of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Left: God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary.

Right: *The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights.*

Left: Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it.

Right: Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize others, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.

All: In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's own self. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

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



SENDING

◇ Hymn #600

"In Christ There is No East or West"

Text: Michael Perry ©1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

◇ Benediction

Postlude

"Afro-Cuban Prelude on the Chorale *In Thee Is Gladness*" Johann Mathias Michel

©1999 Concordia Publishing House

1 Adapted from *Spill the Beans* Issue 21, Luke 4:14-32, January 15, 2017, p. 70, 2016.

2 Inspired by the prayer from Working Preacher, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/narrative-lectionary/sermon-at-nazareth-2/commentary-on-luke-414-30-4>

LITURGIST

Cassie Coates

EPCRO 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 Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given with love by Beth & Brian Egan DeGuise in memory of their fathers: Russell Egan and Bill Hackett.

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

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)

SCAN TO
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.

Men's Fellowship Group

Join us at the Men's Group gathering on **Monday, February 3, at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge) in Berkley. There's no telling what topics the always stimulating conversation will cover, so feel free to bring your favorites! If you can't make it at 7:30pm, drop in at 8pm or whatever time you can arrive. We are usually there for a couple of hours, sometimes even closing the place down at 10pm (it is a Monday night after all!).

The Big Game Sub Sandwich Fundraiser—Buy Yours Today!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Congregational Lenten Devotional—Sign up to Contribute an Entry

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/3pxbszap> 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!

Cookie-Bakers Needed

Can you help us have a *whale* of a time at our 'All Creatures Great and Small' Coffee Hour on **Sunday, February 16**? The Generosity and Resources Committee invites you to take home from the table in the lobby one animal-shaped cookie cutter to use in baking a dozen or more cookies for the event. Use your favorite dough recipe. Frost or decorate them however you like, or even unfrosted is fine, too. Bring your batch back to church ahead of worship on Sunday, February 16. (The cutter is yours to keep!)

Flower Dedications

The FPCRO **2025 Flower Dedication Chart** is up and ready for your requests. Please add your name in the slot of your choice to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or honor someone with flowers this year. The chart is in the hallway across from our reception desk. You may fill out a card immediately or closer to your dedication date. Dedications are \$45. Please see Chris Klein or call 248-990-8586 if you have questions. Thank you very much.

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may need a little extra help with groceries. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the "Little Free Pantry" on the check or note. **Pull-Tab Cans:** stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. **Non-perishables:** granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).



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.