

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JULY 7, 2024 | 10:30AM

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



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:

- *Playground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- *Pew Pouches* with children's Bibles to help guide children who sit with their family during the worship service. Find these in the back pew.
- *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

“Aria”

Eugène Bozza, arr. Gower

©1936 Alphonse Leduc Editions Musicales, Paris

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship¹

One: We come from the day-to-day busyness of our lives.

All: We come with cares and worries, joys and celebrations.

One: Let us set it all aside and enter this time of worship.

All: May our hearts and minds be open to what God might say to us this day.

One: Trusting always in the Spirit to meet us,

All: let us gather to worship God!

◊Hymn (*next page*)

“God is Calling through the Whisper”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle ©2006 GIA Publications; Tune: Polish carol harm. ©1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: When we gather to worship God, we must first be honest with ourselves. We are not who God has called us to be as a group or as individuals. Let us unburden ourselves and confess our sins, knowing that God is ready to forgive and renew. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, we live in the tension of what we are called to be and our lived reality. We often fall short of the good we intend. Our growing in the likeness of Christ is painfully slow at best. We miss the sweetness of your message and choose not to make it part of our lives. Forgive us we pray. Offer us the peace that passes all understanding that we might be forgiven and begin anew.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray,

All: Amen.

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!



Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the Good News! The old life is gone, a new life has begun. You are not who you were. May you live into who you can be. Know that through Christ, we are forgiven and can be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God for the gift of grace!

◇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 share the peace Christ offers. 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. They will return to the sanctuary to participate in communion or at the end of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Loving God, open our hearts and minds to what you want to say to us this day. Speak Lord, for your people are listening. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 123”

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

“I lift my eyes to you, O Lord, your throne, earth’s canopy;

As masters hold their servants dear, so, Lord, remember me.

More like a child than bonded slave, I claim your grace outright;

The proud shall fall, but yet the meek find favor in your sight.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 123 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-3:3

Pew Bible, OT pg. 858

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Sweetness of the Word”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Sing with Grace in Your Heart”

G.F. Handel arr. Fredrickson

~Mackenzie Kirkwood

“Sing with grace unto the Lord, sing with grace in your heart, singing praises unto our God; giving thanks, give thanks to God, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. All our blessings come from Him, praise our God, praise the Lord; great is our God, gracious and kind; sing with thanksgiving unto the Lord, sing with thanksgiving unto our God. Sing with grace unto the Lord, sing with grace unto our God. Praise the Lord upon the harp; let all nations sing His praise. Praise Him, sun and stars of light, singing songs, songs of praise unto our God. Singing songs of praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord.”

©1959 R.D. Row Music 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

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise..Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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: You are holy, O God of majesty...You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him. Great is the mystery of faith:

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

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...This we pray through the power of the Holy Spirit and using the prayer that Jesus taught, saying together:

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

Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation. During the summer months, 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. Return to your seat 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 Communion²

All: Since, dear God, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this place filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



SENDING

◇ Hymn #671

“Lord, We Hear Your Word”

Text: Margaret Clarkson ©1987 Hope Publishing Co.

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Achieved is the Glorious Work”

Josef Haydn
Public Domain

- 1 Today's liturgy, except where indicated, was written by Tara Bulger and is used by permission from *Presbyterian Outlook*, copyright 2024.
- 2 David Lee Beebe *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds. (New York: Pilgrim Press, 1990), 149.

LITURGIST

Jim Demerath

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

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: Julia Carroll

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms.

When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes without compensation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Norm Dell in honor of Janet Dell: *"A happy birthday to a loved wife, sister, and friend."*

July is Our Church's Sabbath Month

During July, our church's programs and ministries are taking a Sabbath. The Session has decided to follow God's invitation to *rest*. Sunday worship and Sunday school will still happen as usual, and staff continue working regular schedules. But, we are taking a rest from committee meetings, board meetings, and we are not adding any new mid-week programs, activities, or ministries to our calendar. All are encouraged to rest in God and find refreshment in the Spirit! Questions? Contact the church office or Pastor Emma Nickel.

Detroit Institute of Arts Visit: Please Note New Date!

The State Employees Retirement Association (SERA), who meets at FPCRO, would like to invite any senior church members to join SERA on a free bus trip from FPCRO to the Detroit Institute of Arts will now be on **Tuesday, July 16 at 12pm** (changed from 9am on Thursday, June 20 as previously advertised). Questions? Please contact Barbara Weiskopf via email at **oldscout36@gmail.com** or by phone at 248-968-2799.

Job Opening

FPCRO is seeking a **Nursery Coordinator** to care for infants and toddlers during Sunday morning worship services. Please visit **<https://www.fpcro.org/jobs>** to see the Job Description. Resumes may be sent to Joelle Jarrait at **jjarrait@fpcro.org**.

Flower Dedications

New Flower Dedication charts for September 2024-August 2025 are now posted, so sign up to honor, remember, or recognize a person or group. The dedications cost \$45, and add nature and beauty to our sanctuary on Sunday morning. You may fill out a dedication card right away and wait until the month before your dedication date to pay. Questions? Contact Chris Klein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Save the Date: Recommendation Station with Dessert Potluck, Thursday, August 29 at 7pm

What's a great book you've read recently that others might enjoy? Is there a movie, documentary, or podcast that has really opened your eyes or made you think? Come share your recommendations and hear ideas from friends on **Thursday, August 29 at 7pm**. Your recommendations might be faith-based, but that is not required. Beach reads, true crime, powerful cinema, and good laughs are all equally welcome! Bring a dessert to share. We'll enjoy sweets as we share our favorite recommendations and get ideas for what read, watch, and listen to this fall. If you need childcare, let Pastor Emma know by August 15.

Backyard Playroom (BYP) is Now Open!

The BYP is a free program offered to the community by FPCRO and offers a safe, indoor environment for children ages five (5) and below to play under parental or guardian supervision. The BYP is open 9am-12pm, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For updates, follow us on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/backyardplayroom> On Saturday's the BYP is available for rental to host birthday party's or other celebrations. Email us at byp@fpcro.org for information and to schedule.

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may be running short on funds. 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.