

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 | 10:30AM

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**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)



SCAN ME

## 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

“Prélude Élégiacque”

*Joseph Jongen*

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### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: The Spirit of God passed over, and it was terrible and wondrous.

**All: The Spirit of God came and God's commitment to freedom held firm.**

One: The Spirit of God calls us here to worship.

**All: We come. We worship. We rejoice!**

#### ◊ Hymn #8

“New Songs of Celebration Render”

Text: Erik Routley ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.

### Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: We often cling to sin, even though God is always inviting us into freedom and new life. Let us trust God's invitation and open our hearts in confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Holy God, you gift us with stories on which to center our lives. But we choose other stories to live by, which do not reveal your good news. We forget who we are and whose we are. We live for ourselves instead of for you and for the common good of the community. Lead us back to your stories of creation and salvation, where we find renewal.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Renew and restore us, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news: the God who made us, and knows our every thought, hears us and forgives us our sin!

**All: We have been redeemed through Jesus Christ, God's son! 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: Through Christ, God invites us into a new kind of life marked by freedom and peace.  
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 at the conclusion of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open your word and illumine our shadowy world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 116”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Germany*, #591 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

**“I love the Lord, who heard my voice, and answered my most earnest plea;  
When snares of death my life would take, e’en then, O God, I call on Thee”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 116 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 64 & 66*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Anthem

“Draw Us in The Spirit’s Tether”

*Harold Friedell*

~Chancel Choir

*“Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them: Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment’s hem. As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.”*

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## THANKSGIVING

### Invitation to the Offering

#### Offertory

“Thou, O Lord”

*Camille Saint-Saëns*

~*Olivia Donnel*

*“Thou, O Lord, art my Protector, Thou, O Lord, art my Redeemer, Thou O Lord, art my Protector and my Redeemer.”*

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—from Romans 8

**All: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 #501

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

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## ◇ Benediction

### Postlude

~John Etsell

“Praeludium”

*Anonymous, Lüneburg Tablature 17<sup>th</sup> C.*

Public Domain

1 Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 20, Spill the Beans Resource Team, 2016, p. 35-36.

### LITURGIST

Beau Woehrle

### FPCRO STAFF

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

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

*Organ Scholar:* John Etsell

*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

*Chancel Choir Dir.:* Kent Wattleworth

*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*

*Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved. 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

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### S.T.A.G.E. Youth Fundraiser—Mission: Possible

This fundraiser goes directly to support the summer high school mission trip and the middle school *Friends Reaching Out for God* (F.R.O.G.) week. The format is simple—in the lobby, see the board with envelopes showing different dollar amounts on them. You pick the one that's right for you, fill the envelope with a donation for that amount (cash, or check payable to S.T.A.G.E. Youth ministry), then turn in the envelope to the front desk. Watch the video showing our youth reflecting on their mission trip experiences from this past summer. <https://youtu.be/vSLQT7C-g1E> Thank you for your support!

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED**

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### **Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation Today**

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place today immediately following worship. We'll receive the Annual Report, hear brief updates from the pastor and leaders, and vote on the pastor's terms of call for the coming year. Members are encouraged to attend and visitors are also welcome to be present. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby or on the website under "Forms."

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### **Women's Wellness Circle: Sharing Ideas & Experiences**

#### **Wednesdays at 7pm, Oct 2 thru Nov 14, in the Fireside Room**

The responsibilities of caregiving for family, friends, and communities, alongside demanding careers or volunteering, often take a toll on women's wellness. The effects may be felt in our mental or spiritual health, or eventually, our physical health. We need to find rest, support, tools, and resources to cope, as we continue to contribute our time and souls to those we love. It we take time to gather together, we can share these tools and resources with one another, accept that we are in this together, support one another, and continue doing these tasks while protecting our wellness. Each week we'll share and discuss a scheduled topic, but also check in with one another to gauge our individual "okay-ness." Facilitated by Heather Gleason. Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3xjh5t>

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### **Parents' Night Out**

Are you looking for an opportunity to have an adult night out? On **Friday, October 4**, we are hosting a Parents' Night Out for our church families. Parents may drop off their children at the church between **6pm and 9pm**. Activities will include a movie and light snack. Nursery care will also be available for infants and toddlers. Please sign-up with Joelle Jarrait by **today**.

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### **New Member Class Meets October 6, 13, and 20**

Classes meet Sundays from **9-10am** and conclude October 20 with breakfast and a brief Session meeting to receive new members. We'll welcome you in worship at 10:30am that day! Childcare is provided upon request. Please RSVP to Pastor Emma at [enickel@fpcro.org](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org) or call the church office.

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### **Men's Fellowship Group**

The Men's Group is gathering at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge) at 7:30pm on **Monday, October 7**. Join us for some wide-ranging conversation. If you can't make it at 7:30pm, come at 8pm or 8:30pm and you'll be woven into one of the conversations!

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### **Great Lakes Pilgrimage**

Participate the weekend of **October 11-13** at Echo Grove in Leonard, Michigan. The Pilgrimage offers presentations with table discussions, prayerful reflections, and inspirational music. Contact Norm Bayne for details: call 248-561-8378 or email [bay9207@gmail.com](mailto:bay9207@gmail.com).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### Lunch and Learn, “Barmen Declaration: a Status Confessionis”

**Sunday, October 13 • 11:30am-1pm**

A small minority of German Christians responded to the Nazi regime by writing a statement of faith called the Barmen Declaration, one of the historic confessions of faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A *status confessionis* describes a time when the Christian, who is faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ, may have to lay his or her own life on the line.

The Worship & Nurture Committee invites all to lunch, and then to learn why the Barmen Declaration holds importance for Christians like us today. The Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner will present. He is a retired PCUSA minister. He and his wife Sharon worship at the Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church. **Sign-up for the lunch and presentation is required by October 7.** <https://tinyurl.com/4bk8puye> If you would like to have childcare during the presentation, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.

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### Women’s Group Meets October 14

The FPCRO Women’s Group will kick-off meetings again this fall in the evening time! 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, October 14 at 7pm. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Let us know you’re coming by October 7 at <https://tinyurl.com/tndej2w5>

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### Trunk or Treat: Decorate Your Car, Volunteer, or Donate Candy

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening Friday, October 25. To help make the event a success, we need **decorated cars, volunteers to staff the event, and candy donations.** To sign up to **volunteer or display your car** at the event, <https://tinyurl.com/2jd7tuyn>. In the CE lobby you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so that we have enough for over 200 children we expect to attend. **We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 13.** If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include “trunk or treat” on your donation.

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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.*