

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 | 10:30AM

Seventeenth 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.
- 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.

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

“Variations on *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You*”

Georg Boehm
Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ **Call to Worship**¹

One: Our God flings stars into space and says, “See! You are all my children, each and every one.”

All: We come—as numerous as the stars in the sky, as diverse as the types of sand on the shore.

One: We come as God’s children.

All: We are drawn to God, drawn to love, drawn to worship.

◊ **Hymn** (*see insert*)

“To Abraham and Sarah”

Text: Judith A. Fetter ©1984 Judith A. Fetter

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: The promise of the gospel is sure and true. Therefore, we need not fear, but can trust in God’s compassion as we pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord, you keep your promises, then and now. You promise to be with us always, you promise to love us no matter what, you promise to forgive us whenever we ask. And so, holy God, we are sorry that we need to ask for your forgiveness so often, that we fail you time and again. Yet we are grateful that you forgive us and allow us to move on, wiping the slate clean each time, and offering us a fresh start. May we believe your promises, trust in you and follow you more faithfully, day by day.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In Jesus’ name we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: By the grace of Christ, we are made part of God's beloved community!

All: In this community of forgiven people, we are freed from sin and free to serve. Alleluia. Amen!

◇ 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, let us also share the peace and mercy of Christ. 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: Speak Lord, for your servants are listening. By the power of your Spirit, lead us to understanding. And then allow us to live out the message of faith that we hear. We pray in your holy name, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 62”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Tallis' Canon*, #718 “Now Let Us from This Table Rise”

**“My soul, O God, in silence waits; my hope secure without a sound;
The Lord's my refuge and my rock, in whom the joys of life abound.
I set my trust in Thee beyond the futile boasts of mortal pride;
With confidence I hold Thy prize, and cast dishonest claims aside.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 62 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Pew Bible, OT pg. 13

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Total Praise”

Richard Smallwood

~Chancel Choir

“Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You. Your peace, You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength, You are the strength of my life, I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen.”

©1996 T. Autumn Music; this arr. ©2010 T. Autumn Music (Reprint by permission of Hal Leonard Corp.)

Sermon

“Summoning Faith”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Draw Near, All Ye People”

Felix Mendelssohn

~Bryan Clinthorne

“Draw near, all ye people, come to me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; this day let it be known that Thou art God, and I am thy servant! Lord God of Abraham! O show to all this people that I have done these things according to thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; O hear me and answer me; and show this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned!

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

◊A Litany for Covenant Renewal²

One: Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices:

left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no. Some choices are simple, and some are very complex, but one choice informs all the others: Who will be our God?

Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

All: Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence?

Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way?

Who has pointed us toward the path and posted the signs we need to find our way?

One: Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth and gently curving?

Who has kept with us through hairpin turns and construction zones and potholes and detours?

Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

All: Only One. Our Holy God.

One: Will we choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

All: Count us in.

One: Will we choose this day to place our whole trust in the One who is trustworthy?

All: We trust in God alone.

One: Will we choose this day to commit our talents and resources to the One who first endowed them?

All: We gladly make the promise.

One: Will we choose this day to love the One who first loved us?

All: We love the Lord, whose love is boundless.

One: And so we pray,

All: We thank you for the covenant promises you made to humanity so long ago. Because you are our God, we will be your people.

Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love, so that we may graciously live within the bounds of your covenant.

Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings throughout our journey.

Keep us in your care. 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



SENDING

◇ Hymn #441

“Trust in the Lord”

Text and Music: Richard Tabell ©1981 Richard Tabell

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude in C Major”

Henry Smart
Public Domain

1 Today's Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, 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. 11.

2 Adapted from Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson on her blog, Freshly Squeezed Liturgy, <http://freshlysqueezedliturgy.blogspot.com/>

LITURGIST

Kevin Schnieders

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

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

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DelVecchio, *tenor*

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 Kay & Mike Aquilina in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary.

Facility Improvement Forum

After worship in the Fireside Room **today** join us as we begin discerning what upgrades and updates our church facility requires for the years ahead, and those we might also benefit from. Hear about the facility assessment and possibilities for other updates.

Sunburst Singers

Our Sunburst Singers Program will begin **today**. Children will receive a snack in Sunday school. Immediately following Sunday school, they will join Ms. Audrey upstairs until 12:15pm. Sunburst Singers will meet on the **first and third Sunday of each month**.

S.T.A.G.E. Kick-Off Party

Our Kick-Off S.T.A.G.E. party will be held **today, September 15 at 4:30pm at FPCRO**. This event is open to all 6th grade through 12th grade youth. Bring a friend! S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth ministry for middle-and high-school youth. Meetings are on select Sundays at one of our collaborating churches. Scan the QR code for more information.



SCAN ME

Rise Against Hunger—Sunday, September 22, 12pm-2pm

Join us for the 3rd annual Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event after worship on **September 22**. We'll have lunch in the Fireside Room and then proceed to Kirkman Fellowship Hall to pack 10,000 meals. We especially need a few volunteers for set-up from 9-10am and clean-up 2-2:30pm. Sign-up here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCRO2024>

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

CROP Walk is Sunday, September 22 at 2pm

The 2024 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk is **September 22 at 2pm**. Join our team! Visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/home> to learn more. Funds raised will help people in our community, and in places around the world, to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Questions? Contact Scott Rieck.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 29** in the sanctuary. 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.

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 or call the church office at (248) 541-0108.

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.

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.

Candy Donations for Trunk or Treat!

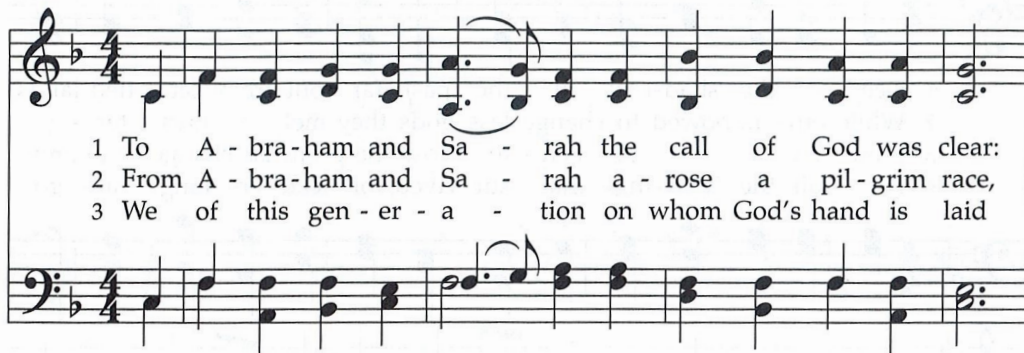
Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening Friday, October 25. To help make the event a success, we need candy donations. In the CE lobby you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so that we have enough for over 200 children we expect to attend. **We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 13** to allow time for preparation. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include "trunk or treat" on your donation.



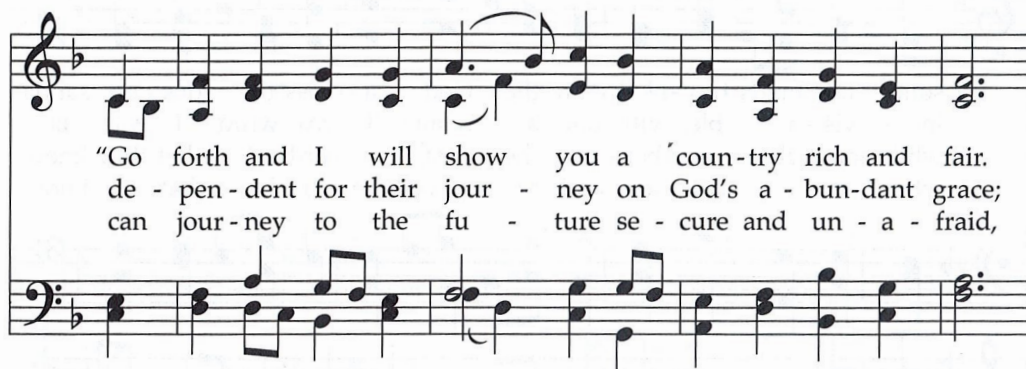
Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Contact the pastor if you are in need.

To Abraham and Sarah

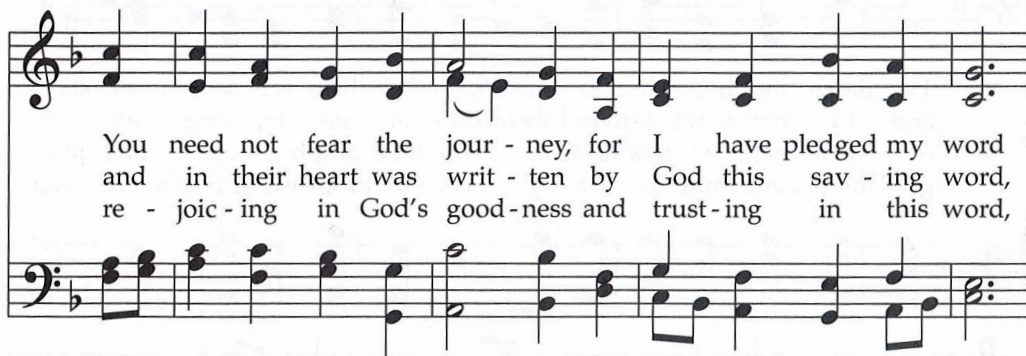
I Will Be Your God



1 To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
2 From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
3 We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid



"Go forth and I will show you a 'coun - try rich and fair.
de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,



You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,



that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."