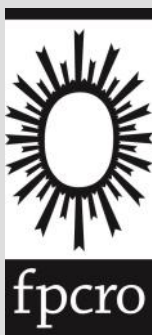


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**AUGUST 27, 2023 | 10:00AM**

Thirteenth 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 10am 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)



### 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

“Prelude on *Let All Things Now Living*”

Frank Stoldt

©1988 MorningStar Music Publishers

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Come sons and daughters and children; parents and mothers and fathers; siblings and cousins.

**All: Come grandmas and grandpas and godparents; uncles and aunts.**

One: Come neighbors and friends.

**All: Christ calls us together as parts of one body for worship, service, and praise. Let's worship God together.**

#### ◊Hymn

“God of Great and God of Small”

Text & Music: ©1973 Carl Fischer, Inc.

### Call to Confession and *Kyrie Eleison*

One: With hope in the mercies of God, we confess our sins before God and one another.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our minds to the ways of the world and not to the ways of your kingdom. We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly. We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony. Forgive and transform us, that we may be discerning and do your will.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ends!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and helped to live in grace! 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 can share the peace and reconciliation that Christ offers. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Back to School Blessing for Students, Teachers, and Staff

### Sacrament of Baptism

## Words of Scripture and Presentation

## Questions to the Parents, Congregation and Godparents, and Children

## ◇Profession 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.**

## Thanksgiving Over the Water

## Baptism of Jett Slusser and Collins Slusser

## Prayer of Blessing

## Welcome

One: Jett and Collins have been received into the universal church and into God's family through baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they have become members of the household of faith, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into the body of Christ!**

## Choral Response

“Jesus Loves Me!”

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.*

*Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."*

*[Refrain]*

Public Domain

*During the song, the elder will light the baptismal candles on the table signifying the light of Christ in the children's lives. The family will take the candles home and light them each year on the baptismal anniversary.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Lord our God, you are exalted above everything else. We are listening for your message; we are looking for your light. By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our minds and hearts so we may discern your will and respond in faith. Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 138”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>*, #342 “Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

*“O Lord, my heart will sing, I give Thee thanks and praise,  
And in Thy holy temple bow throughout my days.  
Thy steadfast love in faithfulness, O God, let shower from above.”*

Paraphrase of Psalm 138 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-8

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 168*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

“A Body of Work, Given to God”

*Rev. Emma Nickel*



# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Jesus Remembered Me”

Hank Williams

~Megan & James Hanks

*“I was all alone and drifting on a lonely sea on sin. Nothing but darkness no sunshine within. I lifted my eyes to the Lord in the skies. And glory to God, he remembered me. **Refrain: Jesus remembered me. And so He set me free. Once I was blinded but now I can see. Glory to God, He remembered me.** Now the dawn is shining, I’m happy and free. No more sorrows no troubles to see. I’m going home to glory my savior to see. Glory to God, He remembered me. **Refrain.** When He talked to His disciples at the Sea of Galilee. He said He’d remember a mortal like me. I asked for His blessing down on my knee. And glory to God, He Remembered me. **Refrain.**”*

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### ◇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

### 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

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### ◇Hymn #455

“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

Public Domain

### ◇Benediction

### Postlude

“Toccata in F Major”

Josep Seger  
Public Domain

1 Portions of today’s liturgy were adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol 2* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014).

## **LITURGIST**

Pat Johnson

## **FPCRO STAFF**

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*Parish Associate:* Rev. Neeta Nichols

*Director of Christian Education:* Joelle Jarrait

*Director of Music Ministries/Organist:* Joseph Jackson

*Chancel Choir Director:* Kent Wattleworth

*Sunburst Singers Director:* Audrey Frieberg

*Church Administrator:* Kari Peruski

*Facility Manager:* Alan Glasel

*Administrative Assistant:* Sally Gilreath

*Sunday/Evening Reception:* Todd Crawford

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

*Nursery Care Worker:* Julia Carroll

## **SOLOISTS**

Bryan Clinthome, *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**

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### **Chancel Flowers**

Today's flowers are given by The Ryan Family in honor of all active duty soldiers in the U.S. Army and Michigan National Guard who serve honorably and faithfully for our freedom.

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Join us for Fellowship Coffee Hour after worship today in Kirkman Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Deacons.

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### **Kick Off Sunday & Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 10**

On **Sunday, September 10**, our program year worship schedule returns. Join us at **9am in Evans Chapel** and at **10:30am in the Sanctuary**. Sunday School for children returns during the 10:30am service.

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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.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED**

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### **Flu Shots September 10 from 9am until 12noon**

Protect yourself this season and get your flu shot from Rite Aid on **Sunday, September 10**. Bring your drivers' license and insurance card and fill out your form ahead of time, available online or at the reception desk. Children over three years old may receive a vaccine. Deacons will be hosting a Fellowship Coffee Hour following the 10:30am service.

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### **Naomi-Ruth Circle Meets Wednesday, September 13 at 10:30am**

Women of FPCRO, mark your calendars and attend Naomi-Ruth Circle! The first meeting is **Wednesday, September 13, at 10:30am**. Circle meets at 10:30am in the Fireside Room the second Wednesday of the month from September to June. Meetings begin with fellowship and snacks. We share joys and concerns and learn of various local and worldwide missions. Circle concludes with Bible Study. This year the study, presented by a circle member, is "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke through Acts" which is produced by Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study.

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### **Sunburst Singers for Children begins September 17**

Join our music program for children (preschoolers through early middle schoolers), following worship on **Sunday, September 17 until 12:15pm**. Sunburst Singers meets after worship on the **first and third Sundays of each month**. Speak to Audrey Frieberg or Joseph Jackson with questions.

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### **CROP Walk is September 17**

The 2023 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk is **Sunday, September 17**. Online registration is open and you can make donations to sponsor the FPCRO team at any time. Register to walk or give at: **<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/ferndalemi>**. Funds raised will help people in our community and in places around the world to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Please join our team whether it's a tradition for you to walk or if it's your first time!

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### **Rise Against Hunger Mission Event**

Sign up to pack meals to send around the world on **Sunday, September 24**. Following lunch together, this intergenerational event will run from 12:15pm to 2:30pm and is high energy and open to all. Signup online to participate: **<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/>** **FPCRO2023**. Lunch will be provided between worship and the start of the event.

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