

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 28, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



*Community*

*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](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

9:00

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

*arr. Fred Bock*

10:30

“Andante”

*Felix Mendelssohn*

Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: God of grace, in the beginning, you gathered us into community

**All: For as you said, “It is not good that the human being should be alone!”**

One: God of freedom, in the exodus, you gathered us into community

**All: For you heard the cry of our groaning, our desire for liberation, for new life!**

One: God of love, at Pentecost, you gathered us in with your Spirit

**All: For you drew your people together as the church!**

One: And this morning, we give thanks that you gather us into community

**All: A community of abundant life: of grace, of freedom, and of love. Let us worship God together!**

#### ◊Seasonal Response

“God, We Honor You”

*next page over*

© 2008 James E. Clemens

#### ◊Opening Prayer

**All: Loving God, Jesus said he came that we may have life. But not just any life: abundant life. Help us to understand the abundance of your love and the outpouring of your grace. Help us to celebrate those gifts, which make our lives meaningful and whole. Help us to share those gifts, which draw us together into community and help your community grow. Amen.**

#### ◊Hymn #93

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Text: Rusty Edwards ©1987 Hope Publishing Co.

# God, We Honor You

D G A7 D

God, we hon - or you. God, we trust in you.

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

God, we wor - ship and a - dore you.

D G A7 D

Take what we bring, of - fered to you.

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

Teach us to show your a - bun - dant bless - ings.

D G A7 D

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

## **Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison**

One: No matter how far we stray, God seeks us out and draws us back in. Trusting in the goodness of God, we can be honest in our confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

## **Prayer of Confession**

**All: God, you are always calling to those who seem to be on the outside. Forgive us for putting ourselves on the outs, when your inclusion of everyone is so clear. Forgive us for trying to put others outside the boundaries of your love, since your love has no limits. Where the relationships in our communities are broken, forgive us when we back off from helping, or when we make a donation and consider our work done. Give us an extra measure of courage and strength, along with your forgiving love, that we may draw all our neighbors inside the circle of your grace.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone and a new life has begun.

**All: Let us celebrate Christ's forgiveness and live in peace!**

## **◇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: Jesus promised abundant life. That doesn't mean riches or fame, but it does mean that our lives have meaning and that we are called to live in a deep kind of peace. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**(10:30am)**

## **Time with the Children**

*After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers and will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*

**(10:30am)**

## **Abundant Life Reflection**

*Rick and Victoria Dusenbury*



## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

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### **Prayer for Illumination**

**All: God, you come to us in story and song. As we read your ancient, holy story today, let us be moved to see your Spirit in it. Let our hearts receive your message for us and for this community. Let our minds, hands, and feet, go out to live it. Amen.**

### **Psalm**

“Psalm 89”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Austrian Hymn*, #598 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

***“We will ever sing Your mercy, tell abroad Your faithfulness;***

***Who throughout all generations keeps the covenant to bless.***

***Sun and stars shall praise Your wonders, all the earth, such glories share;***

***None in heav’n can match Your greatness; none below with you compare.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 89 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### **Scripture Reading**

Mark 5:1-20

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 39*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**(10:30am)**

### **Anthem**

“We Are Servants of God”

*John Christian Rommereim*

*~Chancel Choir*

*“We are servants of God and one another, on a creative journey of faith. We will respond to the call of Christ and the Holy Spirit. We are one family, open to all. We will strive for peace and justice.*

*We are servants of God, and one another, on a creative journey, a journey of faith.”*

Text: Mission statement of the Grinnell, Iowa, United Church of Christ-Congregational ©GUCC-C;

Music: ©2003, Oxford University Press, Inc.

### **Sermon**

“The Abundance of Community”

*Rev. Emma Nickel*



# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Let the Life I’ve Lived Speak for Me”

Gwyneth Walker

~Brady DeVecchio

*“Let the life I’ve lived speak for me. When I come to the end of the road, and I lay down my heavy load, let the life I’ve lived speak for me. Let the friends I’ve made speak for me. When I come to the end of the road, and I lay down my heavy load, let the friends I’ve made speak for me. Lay down your burden, and rest with the setting sun. All the beauty of your life will shine when your day is done. Let the love I’ve shared speak for me. Let the love that I’ve tried to share, and the burden I’ve struggled to bear, all this life of joy and care speak for me. Let the life I’ve lived speak for me.”*

©2022 E. C. Schirmer Music Company

### ◇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

### ◇Litany for Community—By Kate Bowler, “For friends who hold us up”<sup>2</sup>

Left: God, you called me to love but people are inherently risky.  
Telling my story, being known, asking for help, complaining again about the thing I worry might sound cliché by now.  
*Should I be over it already?*  
But something is happening when I am known. I am becoming stronger somehow.

Right: *I am reminded of the pillars I’ve seen holding up cathedrals.  
Flying buttresses, engineered to provide support for a fragile wall, allowing them to be built taller, more stunning, more covered with ornaments or filled with stained glass, letting all the colorful light dance in.  
The walls would collapse without them there, but strengthened, they create something beautiful.*

Left: God, when I am no longer quite so tall and strong, give me those who hold me up and remind me of who I am and that I’m loved.  
Yes, I’ll get back up again today.  
Yes, I’ll get those kids cereal and help my parents with an errand.  
Yes, I’ll go to work or come up with something better to do with retirement hours.

*Right: I will try again.  
I know I will, because someone else's absurd faith in me is fortifying.*

**All: So, blessed are our flying buttresses.  
For they hold us up when everything seems ready to come apart, allowing us to face today—not because we're doing it alone—but precisely because we aren't.**

### **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 #595**

**“They’ll Know We Are Christians”**

*Text & Music: Peter Scholtes ©1966,1967 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Co.*

### **◇ Benediction**

**(10:30am)**

**Postlude**

**“March in D Major”**

*G.F. Handel*  
Public Domain

1 Used by permission from SALT Project, saltproject.org

2 Kate Bowler and Jessica Ritchie, *The Lives We Actually Have, 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* (New York: Convergent Books, 2023), 60.



## **LITURGIST**

Benny Rediers

## **FPCRO STAFF**

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*Parish Associate:* Rev. Neeta Nichols

*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

*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.*



*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

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in memory of Walter & Phyllis Fales, by their sons Raymond, David and Peter Fales.

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### Digging into Mark, a Bible Study

**Wednesday's at 7pm**, through February 7, join Pastor Neeta for a Bible Study as we move into the Gospel of Mark in the new year during worship. The Narrative Lectionary scripture readings invite us to dig deeper into the story of Jesus in this gospel, which is the earliest and shortest of the four gospel accounts.

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### S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Middle and high schoolers and friends are invited to our collaborative S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) youth ministry. Meetings, on select Sundays, are from 4:30-6:30pm, unless otherwise specified. Questions? Contact Director, Jessica Gibbs, at **stageyouth@gmail.com**. Scan the QR code for more information.

**January 28: Regular Meeting at First Pres. Birmingham from 4-6pm**

**February 4: Regular Meeting at Cana**

**February 10: Subs for Super Bowl Prep at FPCRO**

**February 11: Subs for Super Bowl Fundraiser at FPCRO**



### Taste of Pilgrimage

The Great Lakes Pilgrimage will be hosting an event called a "Taste of Pilgrimage" at St. Thomas Community Presbyterian Church in Shelby Township (55355 Mound Road) on **Saturday, February 10**, from **11:30am to 1:30pm**. A Taste of Pilgrimage will provide an overview of the spiritual renewal weekend called Pilgrimage that helps you grow in your Christian life. It will include music, worship, a short talk on Christian priorities and a group discussion. Afterwards there will be a potluck lunch and fellowship. Questions? Contact FPCRO member Norm Bayne.

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### Pledge Dedication on February 11

We will dedicate our pledges to God and the church in one worship service at **10:30am on Sunday, February 11**. Join us for special music, a live artist creating in the sanctuary during our service, and the special Abundant Life Art Share following worship. Bring your pledge card anytime now through February 11. Thank you for responding to God in faith!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### **Abundant Life Art Share...Coming Feb 11 to Kirkman Fellowship Hall!**

Join our church family in sharing what brings us joy at the *Abundant Life Art Share*. To our *Art Share*, bring one picture, drawing, piece of art, photograph, or similar item that makes your life more abundant. Display your item in our 'gallery,' and be ready to tell others why this is a special part of your life. Look for the clipboard in the Narthex or sign up online: <http://tinyurl.com/5t4b5zbj>. All are encouraged to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall on **February 11** following the 10:30 service for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship to share our Abundant and Joy-filled lives.

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

The Men's Group will meet on **Monday, February 12** at 7:30pm at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. This is a return to our second Monday of the month. If you have any questions, please contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel.

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### **Ash Wednesday worship, February 14 at 7pm**

Join us to begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, Feb 14 in the sanctuary at 7pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes and will be livestreamed. If you cannot attend the service, you are welcome to visit the church between 9am and 3pm on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes.

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### **Lent in Plain Sight Discussion Group**

When Lent begins on **February 14**, join Pastor Emma in reading *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. Read one devotion per day and gather at the church for discussion of each week's readings on **Wednesdays from 1-2pm, February 14 through March 27**. God is often at work through ordinary people and objects. These devotions highlight ordinary objects Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem. Order your book now so you'll be ready for Lent.

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### **Snack Pax Bags**

After the 10:30am worship service on **February 25**, join us to pack 400 more snack bags for children in the area who might not be getting enough to eat at home. This is a great intergenerational event for all abilities. Please **pick up some bags from the Christian Education lobby this month to decorate** ahead of the event; they're **due February 18**. The snacks will be packed in the decorated bags on February 25.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### Order your Super Bowl Subs today

Our S.T.A.G.E. youth group is offering tasty sub sandwiches for pickup on Super Bowl **Sunday, February 11**. Pick up an order form at the reception desk and return it with payment by **Sunday, February 4**. Download from the FORMS tab of our website, or purchase online <https://forms.gle/mfkuap4AM7xMGeZi7>. Your purchase supports students attending the 2024 summer mission trip for tornado recovery in Kentucky.

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# SUPERBOWL SUB SUNDAY!

BUY A SUB FOR THE BIG GAME!

S.T.A.G.E. YOUTH WILL BE MAKING  
DELICIOUS, FRESH SUBS ON FEBRUARY 11

**\$10 for a 8-inch Italian or Turkey**

**\$12 for a 8-inch Three-Meat**

Add a bag of chips for just \$1

PRE-ORDER NOW THROUGH  
FEBRUARY 4



SCAN HERE  
TO ORDER ONLINE

Subs will be delivered to your congregation in the morning Feb 11 for pick-up