

From the Pastor's Desk...

Friends,

The elders and leaders of the church often feel God calling us in particular directions. But they themselves are not always the specific people equipped to take us there. And very often, people sitting in the pews have the gifts and interest to do things the leadership never expected.

I want to invite more dialogue among leaders, church members, and friends about this dynamic.

- Do you have an idea or passion for ministry that you are dreaming about?
- Do you want to do more to serve God, but aren't quite sure where your gifts fit in this place?
- Are you ready to take on a specific, short-term project at church, even though you aren't ready for a long-term commitment to serve as an Elder or Deacon?

If your answer is YES (or even maybe!) to any of these questions, please be in touch with me, or with a member of Session (their pictures are all on the board outside the reception office.)

The leadership also has several ministries that we feel our congregation is called to, but we're not sure who God is calling to lead them. And we know we cannot do those projects unless they have a leader, a champion, someone to get things going! If you have an interest, skill, or excitement about any of the following, I would love to hear from you so we could think about the next steps.

- Our church would love to have a presence at a local street festival (which doesn't have to be Arts, Beats, and Eats—probably better to start small!). Our vision is to create a quiet, shaded space that can offer a little rest stop, especially for parents with young children. We're looking for someone who could coordinate the logistics of this outreach from securing a spot, gathering supplies/equipment (church funding would be available), being present to set-up, and organizing volunteers to help.
- We are always looking to plug more deeply into South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless, which includes the Welcome Inn, housed at Starr Presbyterian Church (at 13 Mile Road and Crooks in Royal Oak). There are opportunities for our church to host meals throughout the season at their shelter, and having a point person to regularly coordinate those meals would be a gift to the program's guests, and to our church.
- Our children's ministry is growing, which is such a celebration! To abide by our safety policies and to ensure a nurturing environment for all the kids, we are seeking a few more folks who can minister to children roughly once a month either in the nursery, the preschool, or the elementary Sunday school class. Or even teaching our twice-a-month middle school discussion class. If this is you, contact me or Joelle Jarrait.

We'd love to match more congregation members' gifts with the church's ministries. And I also would love to be surprised about other ideas you have for possible ministries and outreach.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Emma



Church Bell



fpcro

In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship:
9 am in Evans Chapel,
and 10:30 am in
the sanctuary.
(Masks are welcome,
but not required.)

Livestream Worship

Sundays at 10:30 am
watch the livestream
of the worship service
on Vimeo, Facebook or
YouTube. (Or anytime
later in the day/week.)

Sunday school
for children pre-
kindergarten through
5th grade begins after
the Time with Children
in worship at 10:30.

The nursery is open for
infant-toddler care.

our staff

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newsletter editor **Gretchen Hirsch**
baritone **Brian Clinthorne**
tenor **Brady DelVecchio**
soprano **Olivia Donnel**
soprano **Audrey Frieberg**

our soloists



First Presbyterian Church
of Royal Oak

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Deadline is the 15th of each month.

IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please let Sally Gilreath (sgilreath@fpcro.org) know of changes to your contact information so we can maintain current and up-to-date records of your member information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

FPCRO is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



OF NOTE:

Deaths:

Margaret Roberts, October 7, 2023



How has your star word inspired thankfulness in you this year?

THE PRESBY BAKING SHOWCASE

There are many people who like to bake. There are many people who like to eat baked goods. And there is a great opportunity to bring these people together. **You** are these people!



On **November 12**, the Generosity and Resources Committee will be hosting **The Presby Baking Showcase**. This is a fun opportunity to gather our church family together in fellowship to learn more about each other and share some yummy treats.

Sign up on the clipboard at the Reception Desk, or use the online sign-up: <https://tinyurl.com/2ec3fsjp>. Bake a favorite recipe, your specialty, or a family tradition. Include a copy of your recipe, and be prepared to share the story of your baked good with our church family. Please provide small servings for at least 28.

All our church family is invited to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30am service to enjoy a sampling of what our bakers have provided. Fellowship and storytelling over baked treats will be a treat for us all.

SHINING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE FUTURE...

Sunburst Stewards honors members who have included the church in their estate plans with a gift to the endowment. Knowledge of future gifts offers the church an opportunity to thank donors and allows church leadership to plan for the future. The ultimate benefit comes from knowing that we have recognized the importance of God in our lives and have made a powerful witness of that love through a gift to the church.

For more information about Sunburst Stewards, please contact Rev. Emma Nickel or the chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee. All information given will remain confidential.

FALL GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

The House and Grounds committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 4, from 9am-12noon** for the annual Fall Grounds Clean-Up. All are welcome! Bring work gloves and gardening gear as we rake leaves and prepare the church grounds for the coming winter.



UPCOMING S.T.A.G.E. YOUTH MINISTRY DATES

Meetings are 4:30-6:30pm, unless otherwise specified.

- Nov 5:** Regular Meeting at Cana Lutheran
- Nov 12:** Soup & Salad Fundraiser at Cana Lutheran, 6pm
- Nov 19:** Regular Meeting at First Pres. Birmingham

ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Yes, I wish to order # _____ poinsettia plant(s) to be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Choose Color(s): Red # _____ White # _____

Please print:

In Loving **Memory** Of: _____

In **Honor** Of: _____

Donor's name: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Each plant is **\$14**. Please make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak**. Leave your check and order form in the basket at the reception desk.

Orders are due Sunday, December 3, 2023.

COLUMBARIUM

Contact the church office for an information packet

Worship and Nurture

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

As the holiday season draws near, many people find it to be a time of sadness and struggle. On **Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm** our Stephen Ministers will lead a Service of Healing and Wholeness. We invite you to come as we seek God's comfort and healing during these times.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

After worship on **Sunday, November 19**, stick around and help with the annual Hanging of the Greens. Many hands make light work!



ADVENT 2023— A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

The church calendar is a little wonky this year. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is supposed to fall on December 24 which is obviously also Christmas Eve. That felt like too much to pack into one Sunday. So, our Session has decided to stretch out the Advent season to enrich our preparation for the birth of Christ. Advent will begin on **Sunday, November 26**. Throughout the season, we're pausing our journey in the Narrative Lectionary to move through the gospel of Luke. Our theme **A Weary World Rejoices**, comes from the carol "O Holy Night." This Advent, we'll acknowledge the weariness of our world, while also seeking real and daily moments of joy.



ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school advent season begins **November 26**. Lessons will continue to follow the same scriptures as the worship service.



FAMILY WORSHIP DECEMBER 24

During worship at 10:30am on **December 24**, children will participate as part of the Christmas pageant. Children of all ages are invited to take part as we share the story of Jesus' birth for all to hear. During November, Ms. Joelle will talk with children and parents to determine a part for everyone.

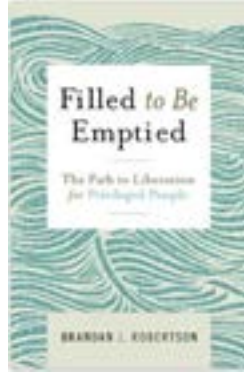
SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED

We give thanks to God for the many children who are part of our Sunday school program and all of our wonderful families who participate. As our classes continue to grow, we need extra volunteers to help teach or assist with our teachers. If you feel God calling you to work with the children, please visit our sign up link at <https://tinyurl.com/yzrtb2wf>. You may also speak to Joelle Jarrait. We are grateful to those who serve our youngest disciples.



FALL BOOK DISCUSSION

On **November 8 at 7pm**, we'll meet in the Fireside Room to talk about *Filled to be Emptied: The Path to Liberation for Privileged People* by Brandan J. Robertson. Buy a copy of the paperback book, or read it on your Kindle. This book is part Bible study, part invitation to self-reflection, and part theological work. Robertson traces the Kenosis Hymn—a short passage in the book of Philippians 2:5-11—which describes the way Christ emptied himself of power to become humble in service to God. Readers are invited to consider how we can choose humility by thinking differently about the various privileges we carry. The book touches on race and poverty, among other issues, and is an invitation to people across the spectrum to faithfully consider our own lives in relation to our wider community. It is highly readable and offers a fresh perspective. If you would like to read a copy, but purchasing one is hard for you, simply contact Pastor Emma.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We had a great turnout in October for FPCRO's new Men's Fellowship Group. Thanks to all who came to check it out. Many topics were covered; from faith journeys, to job changes, to presidential history—thank you, Warren G. Harding for coming up in conversation!



We will gather again **Monday, November 13 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. Participants in this is a brand-new group will have the ability to shape the character and activity of the group, and even name it! While the group is for men of FPCRO, it is open and welcome to men who relate to the church community, even if not members. For more information please contact Matthew Nickel or Derek Helenberger. See you November 13!

Sunflowers Christian Preschool



November brings a month of happily giving thanks! Our preschoolers have settled into new routines, are developing new friendships, and working hard. For all these things, and all of our dear students and their families, we are truly thankful! We are so thankful we have all remained healthy and safe!

Brown is the color of the month. Colorful feathered brown birds will be hanging around our room and hallways. All classes will also decorate a large turkey with feathers telling about the things for which we are thankful. From the Bible, our study of Moses and the Ten Commandments will help us to know how God wants us to live.

All classes will celebrate Thanksgiving later this month, followed by no school on November 22-24 as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. A very blessed Thanksgiving to our church family, as well!

Our Monthly Mission project will start this month! It is fun to learn about and help those in need. We will help with a food drive in the month of November to help stock our little food pantry.

Mrs. Heitchue, and Mrs. Gibson

Organ Concert & Pre-Concert Reception

Pulling Out All the Stops

ORGAN CONCERT with JOSEPH JACKSON



7 PM • NOV 3, 2023

First Presbyterian
Church of Royal Oak

529 Hendrie Blvd.

Free concert admission.



TICKETED Pre-Concert
Wine & Cheese Reception

Ticket Pricing & More Info Available Online:

www.fpcro.org/calendar-events

On **Friday, November 3 at 7pm** attend *Pulling Out All the Stops: An Organ Concert with Joseph Jackson*. The concert is **free** and open to the public. Session has approved a ticketed Wine & Cheese Reception prior to the event in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Tickets **must be purchased in advance** and are \$20 per person, or \$10 for those under 21. Purchase online here: <https://tinyurl.com/44jefh2s>



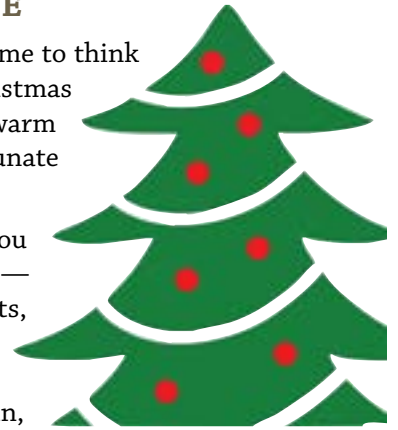
FLEECE & THANK YOU BLANKETS NOVEMBER 26

Join the Mission in Service committee for coffee hour after the 10:30am worship service on **Sunday, November 26**. We'll enjoy treats and coffee, and join together to complete six blankets for children who are hospitalized. Fleece & Thank You blankets provide kids facing hospital treatment with a colorful, comfortable fleece blanket and a video message of support from the makers. This organization is dedicated to providing connection, comfort, and hope to children and their families. Join us for a fun, intergenerational project for adults of all ages, and any kid who can tie a knot!

THE MITTEN TREE

Hard to believe, but it's time to think about Advent and the Christmas tree we use to gather warm things for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please think about what you might hang on the tree—warm gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, warm socks, etc. Our gifts will go to adults at the Welcome Inn, Second Mile Center, and on the streets of Detroit, as well as children at Second Mile Center and at local schools in Royal Oak. The need is great! Thank you in advance. Questions? Contact Julie Matthews.



Returning Outside Group Rental

Sportsman's Dog Training Club was founded in 1942 and is proud to be Michigan's Oldest Dog Training Club. They help train dogs to be a well-mannered companion, compete in obedience or rally, strut in the confirmation ring, or fly through an agility course. They will be hosting an American Kennel Club Scent Work Trial at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak on **November 17, 18 and 19**.

Sportsman's will be using our entire building for scent trials on Saturday and Sunday except the worship wing starting at the reception desk. The sanctuary, chapel, and nursery remain open for those attending worship.

During their rental on November 17, 18 and 19, we are asking that you please:

- Enter the building through the Chapel or Hendrie doors. We will have the sandwich board signs out as reminders.
- Remain in this section of the building as much as possible. The rest rooms will be open. If you are able, please use the ones at the top of the stairs in the CE Lobby.
- The dogs are being timed, please don't interact with them in any way.



**Worship with us at 9 & 10:30 am,
or online anytime at www.fpcro.org**

www.fpcro.org • [facebook.com/fpcro](https://www.facebook.com/fpcro)

instagram: [fpcro1914](https://www.instagram.com/fpcro1914)

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find us on:



November Events at FPCRO

Nov 3 • “Pulling Out All the Stops” Organ Concert & Pre-Reception

Nov 5 • Daylight Saving Time Ends; New Member Class; Sunburst Singers

Nov 12 • New Member Class; Presby Baking Showcase

Nov 12 • S.T.A.G.E. Soup & Salad Dinner at Cana Lutheran, 6pm

Nov 15 • Service of Healing & Wholeness, 7pm

Nov 19 • Sunburst Singers; Hanging of the Greens; Sportsmen Dog Training

Nov 23 • Thanksgiving Day, *Church office closed Nov 23 & 24*

Nov 26 • First Sunday of Advent