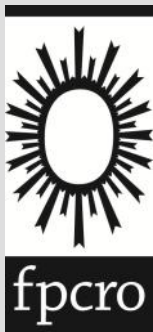


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 23, 2025 | 10:30AM

Third Sunday of Lent



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. Third graders and older are encouraged to sit with their family in the pews.
- 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



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

“Prelude on *Wondrous Love*”

Rebecca Groom Te Velde
©2015 Oxford University Press

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: We gather here just as we are:

All: we are lost, waiting to be found. We are searching, hoping to rejoice.

One: Our God is a shepherding God who knows us by name.

All: God seeks us out. God rejoices each time we are found!

◊ Hymn #257

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Public Domain

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd. So join me in the prayer of confession as we seek out God’s mercy and love. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God our Shepherd, we confess that we often lose our way. Sometimes, we follow like sheep and end up in places that we should not be. At other times, we choose our own paths and end up hitting a dead end. In these moments of quiet, we bring before you those things we have done in our straying and ask that, in your mercy, you will bring us back on track.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: May we trust and follow you,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God’s grace.
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are freed.

All: 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: In these days of Lent, we turn our lives toward the way 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. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.

Minute for Mission

Stephen Ministry



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy God, in these moments, surround us with your presence that we might feel you near. Touch us with your message that we might be changed by it. Let your word flow through our hearts and hands that we might share your love with the world. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 102”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Thomas*, #549 “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

***“Hear Thou my prayer, o Lord, my earnest cry to Thee;
That in my hour of utmost need, Thy presence sets me free.
For God in glory reigns with grace as well as fire;
To judge with pity and to save is God’s supreme desire.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 102 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-32

Pew Bible, NT pg. 80

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Lead Me, Lord”

Samuel Wesley

~Chancel Choir

“Lead me, Lord, lead me in the righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.”

©2002 Oxford University Press

Sermon

“Losing, Searching, Rejoicing”

Rev. Emma Nickel

Response

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepard”

tune Picardy

“Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!

Worthy your defeat and victory; worthy still your peace and strife.

You the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“The Heart Worships”

Gustav Holst

~Bryan Clinthorne

“Silence in Heaven, silence on earth, silence within thy hush, O Lord, o’er all the world covers the din. I do not fear to speak of thee in mortal kind and yet to all thy nameless I am not blind. Only I need and kneel again thy touch to win; silence in heaven, silence on Earth, silence within!”

©1910 Stainer & Bell, Ltd.

◇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

Reception of New Members

Presentation

◇Profession of Faith

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

All: I do.

One: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

All: I do.

One: Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

All: I will, with God’s help.

◊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.

Questions

Prayer

Welcome

One: Let us celebrate with joy our new unity in this community, where we share in the worship and mission of the church.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we delight to share in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

Response: Hymn #393

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

stanzas 1 & 3

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear;
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

C7 F C C7 E F Bb F F Bb F C7 F

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and oft - en for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: John Fawcett (1740-1817), alt.
 MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli (1773-1836); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

DENNIS
 S.M.

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 (page over)

“There Is Now a New Creation”

Text: David Gambrell ©2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“We Sit Down in Tears” from *St. Mathew Passion*

J.S. Bach arr. Gower

©2013 Oxford University Press

1 Parts of today's liturgy were inspired by prayers from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 22, Lent, Easter, Pentecost 2017, “Luke 15:1-32,” p. 24.

There Is Now a New Creation



1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!



Pastor Emma will be away on vacation March 24-30. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please contact the church office.

LITURGIST

Marilyn Sutton

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

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

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in memory of Walter and Phyllis Fales from their sons and daughters-in-law Ray and Charla, Dave and Shelly, and Peter and Mary.

Snacks & Board Games After Worship Today, March 23

Join the Worship and Nurture Committee for a fun-filled coffee hour after worship **today!** We'll enjoy snacks and coffee while everyone is invited to have a few rounds of Guess Who?, Candy Land, Taboo, Dominoes, Spades or other fun games. We'll wrap up the fun at 12:30pm.

Lenten Devotional

Pick up a paper copy of the FPCRO Lenten Devotional or download a PDF if you prefer to view it on a device. Many members of the congregation have shared their personal faith experiences as a way to guide us through the season of Lent as we explore topics that include learning, turning, wilderness, journey, struggle, and spiritual practices. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to both deepen your faith and draw closer to fellow church members.

Upcoming S.T.A.G.E. Meetings

Regular meeting at FPCB **April 13**, regular meeting at FPCRO **April 27**. S.T.A.G.E. (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about and share the love of Christ! Join our newsletter by emailing **stageyouth@gmail.com** for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade).

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Annual Flower Sale for S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Our final fundraiser of the year, the Annual Flower Sale, is ready for your orders! All orders will be made online with the Google order form using this link: **<https://forms.gle/6DTR2V7th5YwaAP39>** Orders must be made by **2pm on Sunday, April 20**, late orders cannot be accepted. Flower order pick up is on May 17 from 12-2pm at Greenfield Presbyterian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Tom & Ruth Kirkman Scholarship Fund for Higher Education

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors or older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. Most forms of higher education are eligible, and is not limited to colleges and universities. Applications are due by March 31 and are available on our church website at <https://tinyurl.com/mre9zkjx>. If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait at jjarrait@fpcro.org.

Lunch and Learn April 6 • Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia

On **Sunday, April 6**, from **11:30am-1pm**, the Deacons invite all to lunch, and then to learn the *Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia*. FPCRO member Karen Kline is a Volunteer Community Educator with the Alzheimer's Association. She'll share information for those who want to learn more about the warning signs of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and those who have noticed memory or thinking changes in themselves or others. There will be a question and answer time offered. **Sign-up by March 30** to attend at the reception desk or online at <https://bit.ly/4bkHcop>. If you would like to have childcare, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.

One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks

During Lent children are invited to collect spare change and dollar bills in their fish bank. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering collected through the Presbyterian Church (USA) which supports natural disaster relief, hunger, and help for the poor and oppressed. Learn more about this and other special PCUSA offerings at pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings. Envelopes will be available in April as we dedicate the offering on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm; Good Friday, April 18 at 7pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am (*one service only*).

Lenten Devotional Discussion

Mark your calendar for **7pm** on **Tuesday, April 22** for an evening to discuss the Lenten Devotional, after we've had a chance to enjoy all the entries. Come to share about the process of writing your entry. Come to talk about the insights you gained in reading the entries throughout the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Stewardship Update

On behalf of FPCRO, we want to extend our gratitude to everyone who has pledged support to the church ministry for the 2025-26 budget year. Many of you flew, sprung, and stretched to the next level with 70% of the pledges being either new or increased. Thank you!

We rely on pledge cards for our budgeting process and, right now, we are currently at 90% of last year's pledge amount. ***If you haven't submitted your pledge card, there is still time.*** You can go to **fpcro.org/pledge**, email Kari Peruski at **kperuski@fpcro.org**, or complete a pledge card and put it in the offering plate or send it via the mail.

Buy Nothing Free Sale in April

In partnership with local Buy Nothing groups, we're hosting an event where every item is free and will take place in our parking lot. Sign up to bring "gifts" for shoppers. (Rain date: May 3)

- **Date:** Saturday, April 26, 2025
- **Time of event for shoppers:** 10am-12pm
- **Arrival time for gifters to set-up:** 9:30am until 10am

Sign up to bring gifts: **<https://bit.ly/4b6FUgz>** We need a few volunteers to host the event. If you can help, sign up using this link: **<https://bit.ly/3QkQNIk>**

Vacation Bible School–True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World–June 23-27

Visit **<https://tinyurl.com/bdz75edh>** and register today! **Volunteer at True North VBS:** This is a wonderful week of sharing God's word with our church children and the children of our community. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Not only do we need helpers during the event, but also helpers for planning and designing sets and props. Please visit our Sign-up Genius at **<https://tinyurl.com/m55mvbt>** to join in on the fun!



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.