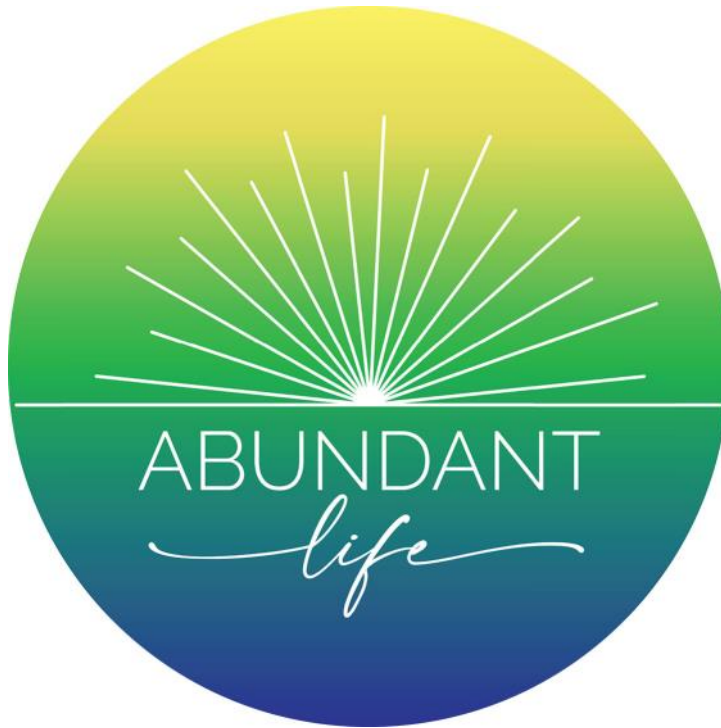


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 | 10:30AM

Transfiguration Sunday and Pledge Dedication



Justice and Love

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



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.

Throughout the service today, we will enjoy the creation of artwork in the front of the sanctuary. Lauren Schmieders will create a work of art as a gift to God and as an expression of the abundant life to which God calls us. The inspiration for her art is John 10:10, where Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," as well as today's scripture passage.

Prelude

"Air on a Theme of Beethoven"

Brian Balmages

~Emma Jarrait, cello

~Megan Kortlandt, violin

©2012 The FJH Music Company Inc.

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship

One: God of justice, God of love—

All: You demand that justice roll down like waters,

One: and that love encompass all.

All: As we witness your majesty, we remember who Christ is—God's beloved.

One: And we remember who we are—your beloved people.

All: Through our worship, make us instruments of your justice, your peace, and your love. Make our lives point to the abundant life found in you.

◊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 allow us to work for justice and to embody your love. Amen.

◊Hymn #649

"Gather Us In"

Text & Music: Marty Haugen ©1982 GIA Publications

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 Confession¹ and Kyrie Eleison

One: Sometimes we wait for God to astound us, while God silently offers us grace. God's forgiveness is sure, so let us hold nothing back in our prayers. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession²

All: God, we want our vision of you to be so clear. But the image is clouded by our own goals and hopes, which are often different than the ones you have for us. The picture is blurred by our desires for success, when you desire equity and justice. The view of you is edged out by our desire to protect our lives, when you would have us give them in service. Help to change our vision so that we can see you clearly and serve you more faithfully.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

All: By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. 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: 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.

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Words of Scripture and Presentation

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children

◇Profession of Faith

One: Friends, 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 disciples, obeying his Word and showing his love? If you so promise, please say, 'I will with God's help.'

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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Welcome

One: Flynn and Fiona 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

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Text ©1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner; Tune: 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 their baptismal anniversary.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: God of love, open our hearts to your message for us. Show us clearly the image of Christ, that we may follow and love him. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 8:27-9:8

Pew Bible, NT pg. 44

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“For Everyone Born”

arr. Tom Trenney

~Chancel Choir

“For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead. REFRAIN: And God will rejoice when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace; yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy! For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, a system that's fair. REFRAIN. For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song. The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong. REFRAIN. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free. REFRAIN.”

©Text: Shirley Murray ©1998 Hope Publishing Co; Music: Brain Mann ©2006 GBGMuick
This Arr. Tom Trenney ©2016 Birnamwood Publications

Sermon

“How the Whole Story Changes Things”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Abundant Life Reflection and Invitation to Offering and Pledge Dedication

Marilyn Sutton

Offertory

“My Song Shall Be of Mercy and Judgement”

James Kent

~Audrey Frieberg

“My song shall be of mercy and judgement, unto Thee, O Lord, will I sing. For Thy mercy is greater than the heavens, and Thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.”

©1996 Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

◊Hymn Response and Pledge Dedication

◊Hymn #687

“All Things Are Yours”

Text: Bryan Jefferey Leech ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.

As we sing the hymn, you are invited to come forward with your pledge cards and offerings. Place them in the basket in the front. If you have already returned your pledge card, we are grateful. Today's dedication includes all pledges received and those still being returned in coming weeks.

◊Litany for Dedication—Adapted from Kate Bowler²

One: Blessed are you who have tasted how good it is to bless, who have paused in wonder at the strange math where it is in giving that we receive. As we give and dedicate these gifts, we begin to see in ourselves a tiny resemblance to our God, the Giver of Life.

All: Blessed are we, who in giving, are being drawn closer. We begin to see life in relation to where God shows us we belong. We live more and more out of that inheritance we received through Jesus Christ, who gave his body. A real body, that ours might not die.

Choir: Blessed are we, drawn to the warmth that is this deep belonging.

One: So now we are beginning to understand blessing itself. The overabundance of delight that flows from the heart of God into our own. The excess of bliss that descended pure as a mountain stream to create all that is, and sustain it by love alone.

All: Blessed are we, carried along in that flow. To love and give and give again. And when we are spent, to be gathered up and restored so we can love again. Bless again. And be blessed. Because that's why we were made in the first place. Amen.

Prayer 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 #459

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

Text: Eva Lloyd ©1966 Broadman Press (admin. Genevox Music Group)
Music: arr. 1958, Ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Genevox Music Group)

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Aint-a That Good News” *Traditional Spiritual arr. Marianne Kim*
©2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

- 1 Call to Confession and Assurance of Pardon adapted from Thom Shuman, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>, February, 2006.
- 2 Kate Bowler and *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* (New York: Convergent Books, 2022), 143.



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.

LITURGIST

Julie Matthews

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Chris & Pete Klein in honor of the anniversary of their wedding on this date in 1972.

Pick Up Your Sub Sandwich today!

Our S.T.A.G.E. youth group has made tasty sub sandwiches for pickup **today, February 11**. After worship, head down to Kirkman Fellowship Hall to pick up your order. Your purchase supports students attending the 2024 summer mission trip for tornado recovery in Kentucky.

Abundant Life Art Share...Today in Kirkman Fellowship Hall!

All are encouraged to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall **today** following the service for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship to share our Abundant and Joy-filled lives. Browse our *Art Share* 'gallery,' and learn why the items on display are special!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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.

Sunday, February 25: Winter Social Event 12pm, Escape Room Zone, 31401 John R Rd., Madison Heights, MI 48071

Sunday, March 10: Regular Meeting at Cana

Sunday, March 17: Regular Meeting at FPCRO

Sunday, April 7: Regular Meeting at First Pres. Birmingham

Sunday, April 14: Service Project TBD

Sunday, April 21: Regular Meeting at Cana



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.

Ash Wednesday worship, February 14 at 7pm

Join us to begin the season of Lent on **Wednesday, February 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.

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 and read Week 1 on Dust for the meeting on February 14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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.

A Women's Group is Forming at FPCRO

If you're looking to meet more church members and make connections and friendships, we hope you'll participate! The group will meet for coffee and social time, with a short focus on a scripture or a theme for discussion. In order to nail down the best meeting time, please fill out the online poll: <http://tinyurl.com/3b5dspkn> or at the reception desk to denote the dates/times you are able to attend. Please respond by **February 29**. Meeting location is TBD. Questions? Speak to Amanda Curry.

Adventure in Worship

Plan to join us for our Adventure in Worship event on **Saturday, March 2 from 3pm-5pm**. Children of all ages are invited to attend with their grown-ups! There will be opportunities to learn about worship including baptism, communion, and organ music. Child care will be available for families with infants and toddlers.

Easter Flower Dedications

It's time to "think spring" with a flower dedication (choice of lily, daffodil and hydrangea) for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please fill out an order form at the reception desk and turn it in with a check payable to FPCRO by **March 3**. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at 248-990-8586 or CKlein8000@live.com.

Forgotten Harvest Volunteer Opportunity

FPCRO had reserved 15 spots to volunteer in the Oak Park Forgotten Harvest warehouse on **Saturday, March 16 from 9am-12pm**. Volunteers must be at least 10 years of age. Please sign up on the link provided: <http://tinyurl.com/26nf8h45> We will then provide you with more information about signing up on the Forgotten Harvest website. Please contact Edie Watson or the church for more information.
