

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

AUGUST 11, 2024 | 10:30AM

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



(S)HEROes

Photo by [Anh Henry Nguyen](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*The Stories of 3 Courageous
People in the Bible*

fpcro
First Presbyterian Church
of Royal Oak



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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.

Prelude

“Adagio”

Camille Saint-Saëns arr. Bernard
©2007 Dover Publications

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship

One: We lift our eyes to the Lord.

All: God created the heavens and the earth.

One: We raise our voices in song and speech, prayer and praise.

All: From the holy one, we seek sustenance for our journey.

One: When God goes with us, we will surely thrive.

All: With God beside us, we can meet every surprise.

◊ Hymn #6

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Public Domain

Call to Confession

One: Through Christ, God promises freedom from all that binds us. Trusting in the God who seeks to set us free, we open our hearts in prayer.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord of all, in all that we are facing, forgive us for assuming that we have to go it alone. We forget that your presence and the presence of your community attends us. Forgive us for seeking our own glory as we go about our lives. Show us how to give the glory and gratitude to you. Forgive us also for our reluctance to trust in your protection. It's easier to think that our own forethought and skill will be enough to keep us safe from all that seeks to harm. Give us the vulnerability and the courage to trust in you.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In Christ's name, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Let us sing and make melody to the Lord—the one who saves us from sin and invites us into new life!

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: With God's forgiveness sustaining us, we can greet one another in peace and in love. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time with the Children

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

Blessing for Departing Members

Paul and Susan Bakker

One: Susan and Paul, in baptism our Lord Jesus Christ put his name on you and received you into the church. It has been a joy to be part of this fellowship together with you. In this community of faith, you have been nurtured as you have heard the good news of God's saving love. You have been nourished at Christ's table. God has blessed you and made you a blessing in our life together.

All: You have deepened our joy and lightened our sorrow. We will miss your love and support in this place with us, yet we rejoice in our enduring connection.

Prayer

One: Faithful God, keep, preserve and protect Paul and Susan all their days. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may they be salt of the earth and light for the world. Lead them to new ministries, secure in the faith that binds us forever in the body of Christ.

All: Go in the peace of Christ. Amen.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination¹

All: God of words and stories, people and promises, open our hearts and minds to the presence and power of your Spirit. Help us to hear a word of encouragement, a word of challenge, and a word of good news to sustain us in faith and guide us in discipleship. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 123”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Azmon*, #96 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
**“Your boundless mercies, Lord, outweigh the scorn we must endure;
while foes shall fade in their contempt, Your love will long endure.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 123 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Judges 4:4-11; 5:1-9

Pew Bible, OT pg. 243

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Web of Heroes”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Modéré and Allegretto vivo” (Sonate I)

Phillipe Gaubert

~Jennifer Muse, flute

Public Domain

◇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

Sacrament of Baptism

Words of Scripture and Presentation

Questions to the Baptizands and Congregation

◇ Profession of Faith

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Welcome

One: Landon and Amelia 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!

Baptismal Response

Hymn #679, verse 3

"Baptized in Water"

Text: Michael Saward ©1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

Music: Irish Folk tune Harm. ©1927 Oxford University Press

During the song, the elder will light the baptismal candles on the table signifying the light of Christ in each young person's life. Amelia and Landon will take the candles home and are invited to light them each year on their baptismal anniversary.

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 #56

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

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◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude on *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*”

Clay Christiansen

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1 From *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Vol 2*, Ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015).

LITURGIST

Rick Dusenbury

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

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

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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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

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Bill and Barb Hayes in memory of our parents Hugh and Wanda Hayes, and Tom and Dorothy Fraser.

School Supplies Collection

During the month of **August**, we are collecting school supplies for Oakland Elementary school in Royal Oak. Teacher requested items include: crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, composition notebooks, primary journals (composition notebook, but with a spot to draw a picture for K-2 classes), plastic folders with prongs, colored dry erase markers, pencils (pre-sharpened), Play-Doh, bingo daubers, socks (for feet and white board erasers).

Back to School Blessing

Join us in worship on **August 25** for a Back to School Blessing! Whether you are a student of any age or you work in schools or higher education, we invite you to come and receive God's blessing for this important moment in the year.

Recommendation Station with Dessert Potluck

What's a great book you've read recently that others might enjoy? Is there a movie, documentary, or podcast that has really opened your eyes or made you think? Come share your recommendations and hear ideas from friends on **Thursday, August 29 at 7pm**. Your recommendations might be faith-based, but that is not required. Beach reads, true crime, powerful cinema, and good laughs are all equally welcome! Bring a dessert to share. We'll enjoy sweets as we share our favorite recommendations and get ideas for what read, watch, and listen to this fall. If you need childcare, let Pastor Emma know by August 15. Sign-up online or at the reception desk.

Flu Shots on September 8

Get your flu shot before or after worship on **Sunday, September 8 from 9am-12pm**. This year, Kroger pharmacy will offer the shots for ages 3 and up. Bring your ID and insurance card. The flu shot for age 65+ will be available. The pharmacist will also be able to offer vaccines for RSV, pneumonia, COVID-19, and shingles for those who are eligible. Thanks to the Deacons for sponsoring this annual event! A registration form to fill out ahead of time will be available soon.

Flower Dedications

The Flower Dedication Chart has openings in September and October—sign up soon! Honor, celebrate, remember, or recognize a person or group. Flower dedications are \$45, and add nature and beauty to the sanctuary. Sign up on the chart in the hall and fill out a dedication card at the reception desk. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at **CKlein8000@live.com**.
