

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 26, 2025 | 10:30AM

20th Sunday after Pentecost



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 fast and easy! Click GIVE at www.fpcro.org to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may be 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

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” BWV 720

J.S. Bach
Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship¹

One: God is here, in this place—

All: the glory of the Lord is all around and fills this house!

One: Our Living God dwells here among the people—

All: forever and ever, God is with us!

One: Come, let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

♦Hymn #507

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Public Domain

Call to Confession

One: When we think that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
But when we are honest about our lives, God is already there to love us back into
wholeness. So we can trust God with our confessions. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession²

All: God of grace and glory, you fill your holy places and your holy people with your presence. We confess that we have tried to confine you to certain places and certain kinds of people. We like that sense of control even though it is an illusion. And we confess that we sometimes misplace our trust in buildings and the establishments they represent. Forgive us, O God. Help us remember that you are the one who saves, you are the one who is ever present, and you are the one who does new things. Save us from mixing up place and purpose, that we might be always ready to join your kingdom work wherever you go.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God's grace is so big—grand, expansive, beyond imagining—that it cannot be contained or thwarted. And that grace is for each of us!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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: We have received the forgiveness God offers and we get to participate in the joy of sharing it. So may the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time with the Children

Kids are encouraged to stay in the front to welcome the new members. After the Reception of New Members, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.

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.

◊ **Affirmation of Faith** — 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

One: You have publicly professed your faith. Now I ask, will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? If you so promise, please say, "I will with God's help."

New Members: I will, with God's help.

One: Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, joyfully welcome these new members into the common life of our church? Do we promise them our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

Introductions

Prayer

Welcome

One: Let us celebrate 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.

Hymn Response #606 "As Your Family, Lord, Meet Us Here"
verse 1, 3 and 4

Public Domain



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy God, help us let go of the things that prevent us from hearing you clearly. Allow us to trust you with our burdens, so that we have space and time to simply dwell in your word. May your Spirit guide us as we discern your message. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

Psalm

"Psalm 84"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Peter*, #603 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

***"How blest are they who in Thy house live out their faithful days;
Their hearts with springs of joy are filled, their lips with songs of praise!"***

Paraphrase of Psalm 84 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Pew Bible, OT pg. 342, 346

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Come Dwell in Solomon’s Walls”

Z. Randall Stroope

~Chancel Choir

*“When the final timber lay ‘gainst the measured stones, with the doorposts in their place overlaid with gold. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house, also so the temple of the ark of God, pure and whole. Come and dwell in Solomon’s walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength, for the Lord dwells within and heals their land. **Refrain: Come and dwell in Solomon’s walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord, where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness, join at the feet of God.** When the people of this house kneel and humbly pray, when they turn from dark to light and your will obey. O Lord of Heaven and Lord of earth, show favor on this house, and heal, restore, forgive, and bless, Lord, we pray. **Refrain.**”*

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Sermon

“A Cloudy God”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place”

John Carter

~Olivia Donnel

“How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yea faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O Lord, of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Thy house, ever singing Thy praise.”

©1987 Hope Publishing Co.

◇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

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 #548

“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

Text: Mary Jackson Cathey ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Cyril Taylor ©1942, Ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

◇Benediction

Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Helmut Walcha

©1954 Henry Litolf's Verlag (C.F. Peters Corp.)

1 Call to Worship by Rev. Teri Peterson, “Bible Worm Liturgy, Oct 26, 2025” Narrative Lectionary 4-08.

2 Prayer of Confession adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, “Bible Worm Liturgy, Oct 26, 2025” Narrative Lectionary 4-08.

LITURGIST

Sara Campbell

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 Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi, *tenor*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Linda and Ken Noble with grateful hearts as we enjoy glorious fall colors.

Fellowship Coffee Hour Today

After worship today, join us for Fellowship Coffee Hour with thanks to the Deacons for hosting!

Per Capita Offering

This offering keeps us connected to our family in the Presbyterian Church (USA), both locally and around the world. This gift is \$38 per confirmed/adult member for 2025 and we invite you to donate the gift for you/your family. You may mark your check or envelope "per capita." Or, make a gift online (<http://bit.ly/46u3h3b>) noting "Per Capita." Electronic givers who authorized their per capita gift on their pledge card had payments processed in September.

Building Hope Book Study

This fall our congregation will consider how God is building hope among us and how we can join God in that work. We'll read *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana during October and talk about where we see hope, how we understand it, and how our faith helps us live into it. Visit the reception desk to buy a signed book for \$16. Or, order a copy/Kindle version online. (Audio version also available.) Join the book discussion in one of two ways:

- Meet at church **Wednesday, October 29 at 1pm** to discuss Section 6 of the book.
 - Or, come for a one-time discussion of the whole book **Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30pm**.
- All events will take place in the Fireside Room.
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Men's Contemplative Group

This October, Rev. Matt Nickel will offer guided practices to increase mindful awareness of self, body, and connection to others. The practices will engage contemplative spirituality, breath work, mind-fullness, and nervous system regulation. No previous experience is required. Men of FPCRO and friends from the community are invited to participate on **Monday, October 27 at 7:30pm** in the Fireside Room. Participants are encouraged to use the Sign-Up Genius: <http://bit.ly/4nkUCp4>

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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

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! Email **stageyouth@gmail.com** for our newsletter to learn details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are from **6-8pm** (unless otherwise specified) and are open to all 6th through 12th graders.

- Regular meeting at FPCRO on **October 26**
- Regular meeting at First Presbyterian Church Birmingham on **November 16**
- Service Project at FPCRO on **November 23**

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Weekend Opportunity to Volunteer at Forgotten Harvest

The Mission in Service committee volunteer spots open at Forgotten Harvest (15000 W Eight Mile, Oak Park) on **Saturday, November 1, from 9am-12 noon**, where 25 volunteers are needed in the Warehouse. Volunteers 10 and up must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Sign up online at **<http://bit.ly/4mRLmcj>**. You will then receive an email from Dave Keener inviting you to pre-register on the Forgotten Harvest website. Sign up online, or on the Mission in Service bulletin board. Volunteer slots may be added if necessary. Questions? Contact: Dave Keener 248-660-7897 or Denise Huebner 248-821-2419

All Saints' Special Service

The congregation and wider community are invited to join us on **Wednesday, October 29 at 7pm**, in-person and online, to celebrate All Saints.' We will give thanks for members of the congregation who have died and joined the church triumphant in the past year. There will also be an opportunity for all those in attendance to submit names of loved ones who have died to be read aloud in the worship service. Come for candle-lighting, blessings, scripture, and music in this service of remembrance and hope, offered by the Music Department and Stephen Ministers.

Building Hope Launch on November 2

Building Hope is FPCRO's campaign seeking your financial gifts to support necessary repairs and improvements within the church, but it is also much more. Don't miss the kick-off to our Building Hope campaign on **Sunday, November 2**. In worship, hear how **hope is what we do!** After worship, join us for a light lunch and short presentation to build our hopeful future on the strong foundation of Christ. Worshippers will receive a building block in worship to take to Kirkman Fellowship Hall where we will all build a new creation together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Fall Grounds Clean Up

The House & Grounds committee invites you to join us **Saturday, November 8, from 9am-12pm** to help put the grounds and the garden beds of the church into good shape in preparation for the winter. Bring your gloves, rakes, pruning and other tools and we'll provide the leaves and bags to hold them. See you there!

Opportunity to Usher on Sunday Mornings

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the worship service to greet folks and hand out worship bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed friendship pad forms from the pew racks. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Gail Meengs.

Chancel Flower Dedications

A flower dedication is a special opportunity to celebrate, remember, or honor a member of our church or your family. Please consider signing up for a dedication in the coming year, plenty of dates are open! Contact Chris Klein if you have any questions.

Church Directory

Need an updated Church Directory? Printed copies are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby. If you would prefer a PDF version, contact Sally Gilreath at **sgilreath@fpcro.org** for one to be emailed to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may be running short on funds. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the "Little Free Pantry" on the check or note. **Pull-Tab Cans:** stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. **Non-perishables:** granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).



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.

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