

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

AUGUST 25, 2024 | 10:30AM

Fourteenth 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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

“Contemplation”

Alec Rowley

©1949 H. W. Gray Co., Inc.

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship

One: Our hearts take courage as we wait for the Lord.

All: God preserves the faithful and offers steadfast love.

One: God’s goodness is abundant; God’s shelter is safe.

All: Let us take refuge in God, our rock, as we worship together!

◊ Hymn #48

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Public Domain

Call to Confession and *Kyrie Eleison*

One: Trusting in the graciousness of God, we can come to God in prayer with our full selves and the truth of our lives. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Surprising God, free us from our assumptions about who does and does not follow you. Allow us to see faithfulness and courage in unexpected places and from unexpected people. Remind us that our judgments of others comes from limited understanding, and sometimes, from a lack of love. Show us how to honor one another. Show us how to be grateful for each other’s gifts.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Our God deals kindly with us.

All: Through the grace of 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: As people who long for peace, we worship the Prince of Peace. And we seek to share the peace he offers. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you.

Back to School Blessing

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: God, as we come to hear your message, nudge open our closed hearts. Whisper your mighty and merciful words amid the noise of our lives. Let our eyes squint because of the brightness of your love. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 136”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Dix*, #40 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

“More than our imagined grace are the mercies of our God;

Hope is ours, if we but place our reliance in God’s word.

For God’s steadfast love is sure, and forever shall endure!”

Paraphrase of Psalm 136 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Joshua 2:1-21a

Pew Bible, OT pg. 214

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Faith and Courage”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Response (vs. 1 only)

“For All the Faithful Women”

page over

For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Brenda Portman

~Peter Gibbs

“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.”

©2014 Brenda Portman

◇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

◇**Affirmation of Faith**—Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*, 9.32-33

All: The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

One: His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

All: His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.

One: In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

All: The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

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 #409

“God of Our Life”

Text: Hugh Kerr ©1958 Service Book & Hymnal (Admin. Augsburg Fortress); Music: Arr. John Weaver ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.

◇Benediction

Postlude

“Festival Voluntary”

Flor Peeters

©1958 & 1997 Oxford University Press



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

Ted DeVantier

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director: Jessica Gibbs

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

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 Ken and Linda Noble. Prayers for those starting a new school year!

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).

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. Sign-up online or at the reception desk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will re-convene on **Monday, September 9 at 7:30pm at Bagger Dave's** in Berkley (2972 Coolidge). This is a change from our usual first Monday of the month due to the Labor Day holiday. Please join us, whether you are a newcomer or a regular, for some wide-ranging conversation. Contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel for more details.

Facility Improvement Forum

After worship in the Fireside Room on **Sunday, September 15**, join us as we begin discerning what upgrades and updates our church facility requires for the years ahead, and those we might also benefit from. Hear about the facility assessment that has been completed and possibilities for updates in the sanctuary and/or other areas which would improve the spaces' function and hospitality. Childcare will be available in the nursery for young children.

S.T.A.G.E. Kick-Off Party

Our Kick-Off S.T.A.G.E. party will be held on **September 15 at 4:30pm at FPCRO**. This event is open to all 6th grade through 12th grade youth. Bring a friend! S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth ministry for middle-and high-school youth. Meetings are on select Sundays at one of our collaborating churches. Scan the QR code for more information.

Rise Against Hunger—Sunday, September 22, 12pm-2pm

Join us for the 3rd annual Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event after worship on **Sunday, September 22**. We'll have lunch in the Fireside Room and then proceed to Kirkman Fellowship Hall to pack 10,000 meals. This event has opportunities for all ages—kids through seniors! We especially need a few volunteers for set-up from 9am-10am and clean-up 2-2:30pm. The main event requires 50 volunteers and runs about 12pm-2pm. Sign up for all the shifts here: **<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCRO2024>**
