

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 | 10:30AM

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



fpcro

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

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

arr. Clay Christiansen

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Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: Creation shouts!

All: The world listens, waits, hopes.

One: God keeps on creating and guiding.

All: The garden grows and groans.

One: God walks, loves, waits...

All: We come, we seek, we grow. We love. We worship.

◊ Hymn #27

“God of Creation, All-Powerful”

Text: Margaret Clarkson ©1987 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Harm. 1964 Abingdon Press (Admin. The Copyright Co.)

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Because God is for us, we do not need to worry about condemnation or judgment.

We can be honest in confession and look forward to the forgiveness of Christ.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Creator God, you gave us curious minds, a sense of adventure, a thirst for knowledge. You invite us to explore the world you have made, to engage all of our senses in discovering new things. But in giving us so much freedom, you also allowed us to make decisions and to choose how to live. Lord, like the people before us, we have not always made good choices. We have failed to follow your guidance and chosen to take some wrong turns. Like our forebears, we still think we know better and should do what we want. Lord, show us when we have failed. Help us to acknowledge our mistakes and to seek the forgiveness you so freely offer.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**All: Praise be to God for the mercy and grace that forgives our sins.
Alleluia. Amen!**

◇ **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.

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.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see you. Show us your Spirit and truth as we read the scriptures and hear the Word proclaimed. This we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 32”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Munich*, #670 “O Word of God Incarnate”

**“Instill in me your wisdom, instruct me in your ways;
Grant but a word of pardon and I respond with praise.
God’s steadfast love surrounds me, and doubts shall soon depart;
Redeemed, my soul rejoices, and gladness fills my heart.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 32 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17, 3:1-8

Pew Bible, OT pg. 2

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. John Ferguson

~Chancel Choir

“For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends here and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise. For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven, For

thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely given: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise."

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Sermon

"A New Creation"

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"And God Said: Let the Waters" (The Creation)

Franz Josef Haydn

~Audrey Frieberg

"And God said: let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl, that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft, and cleaves the air in swiftest flight to the blazing sun. His welcome bids to morn the merry lark; and cooing, calls the tender dove his mate, her soft, enchanting lays."

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

◇**Affirmation of Faith**—adapted from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*,
Presbyterian Church (USA), 1998

Left: We believe when Jesus spoke, he spoke with God's authority.

Right: *When Jesus acted, he acted with God's power. Jesus amazed people with his deeds of power, but he was also gentle and loving.*

Left: Even now, he cares for us in all our needs as a shepherd cares for sheep.

Right: *Jesus also called his disciples to follow him.*

Left: Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, blessed children, befriended outcasts, required people to repent, and forgave their sins.

Right: *He taught people not to fear, but to always trust in God. He preached the good news of God's love and gave everyone hope for new life.*

All: We live our lives in gratitude for the person and work of Jesus Christ. Amen

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



◇ Hymn #30

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

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◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Processional”

Grayston Ives

©1997 Oxford University Press

1 Today's Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 20, Spill the Beans Resource Team, 2016, p. 11.

LITURGIST

Marilyn Sutton

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in celebration of our FPCRO choir, soloists, director, and organist

Flu Shots Today, September 8

Get your flu shot before or after worship **today 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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.

Naomi-Ruth Circle

Women of FPCRO, you're invited to attend Naomi-Ruth Circle! The first meeting is **Wednesday, September 11, at 10:30am**. The friendship circle meets the **second Wednesday** each month from September to June at 10:30 am in the Fireside Room. Meetings begin with a time of fellowship (chatting) and snacks. Time is set aside to share joys and concerns, and to receive information of various missions—local and around the world. Circle concludes with a Bible Study. This year, the study is “Let Justice Roll Down” God's call to care for neighbors and all creation. The study is produced by Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study, and is presented by a Circle member.

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.

Sunburst Singers

Our Sunburst Singers Program will begin **Sunday, September 15**. Children will receive a healthy snack in Sunday school. Immediately following Sunday school, they will join Ms. Audrey upstairs until 12:15pm. Sunburst Singers will meet on the **first and third Sunday of each month**.

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.



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, CONTINUED

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. Signup for all the shifts here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCRO2024>

CROP Walk is September 22 at 2pm

The 2024 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk is **Sunday, September 22 at 2pm**. Join our team, whether it's a tradition for you to walk, or if it's your first time! Visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/home> to learn more. Funds raised will help people in our community, and in places around the world, to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Questions? Contact Scott Rieck.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 29** in the sanctuary. We'll receive the Annual Report, hear brief updates from the pastor and leaders, and vote on the pastor's terms of call for the coming year. Members are encouraged to attend and visitors are also welcome to be present.

Parents' Night Out

Are you looking for an opportunity to have an adult night out? On **Friday, October 4**, we are hosting a Parents' Night Out for our church families. Parents may drop off their children at the church between **6pm and 9pm**. Activities will include a movie and light snack. Nursery care will also be available for infants and toddlers. Please sign-up with Joelle Jarrait.

Great Lakes Pilgrimage

Participate the weekend of October 11-13 at Echo Grove in Leonard, Michigan. The Pilgrimage offers presentations with table discussions, prayerful reflections, and inspirational music. Contact Norm Bayne for details: call 248-561-8378 or email bay9207@gmail.com.

Candy Donations for Trunk or Treat!

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening Friday, October 25. To help make the event a success, we need candy donations. In the CE lobby you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so that we have enough for over 200 children we expect to attend. **We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 13** to allow time for preparation. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include "trunk or treat" on your donation.
