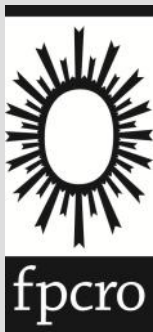


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | 10:30AM

19th 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

“In Memoriam” *for Organ Duet*

Nicholas White

~Mr. Etsell & Mr. Jackson

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Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship¹

One: When the world feels like chaos,

All: God invites us to think outside the box.

One: When change is coming,

All: God calls us to empower the next generation.

One: When everything needs our attention all at once,

All: God invites us into prayer and community to ground our hearts in divine vision.

♦Hymn (*page over*)

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle ©2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: Polish Carol; music harm. Wilbur Lee ©1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

Call to Confession

One: From all our sins and missteps, God can put a new and right spirit within us.

Trusting in that grace, let us turn to God with our confessions. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, you know the truth of our hearts. We confess that our hearts are cluttered with many things: resentment, over-commitment, worry, and score-keeping. Sometimes, all of that tries to edge out your Spirit. So forgive us for filling our hearts and lives with things that tear down our spirits rather than nurturing them in your ways. Help to unclutter our hearts and lives, so that we can be openhearted to your presence and ready to discern your callings. You are the God who sees our inmost truth, and we pray you would help us see our inmost truth, too, that we may live more honestly and more fully as your holy people in the world.

[silence for individual prayer]

God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!



One: Trusting in Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God sees our hearts and knows us more fully than we know ourselves. God looks on us with love.

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 and Presentation of Third Grade Bibles

Afterward, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers. Those attending Sunburst Singers will be taken to rehearsal afterward. Other will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Lord of our lives, we often think that we don't have time to turn to you. Let these moments give us time to dwell with you and within your timeless message of hope and good news. Let your words speak to our hearts. We pray this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 51:10-14

Pew Bible, OT pg. 575

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Pew Bible, OT pg. 288

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Create in Me”

Ralph C. Schultz

~Chancel Choir

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of salvation. Uphold me with your free Spirit.”

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Sermon

“An Uncluttered Heart, An Unexpected Call”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“The Heart Worships”

Gustav Holst

~Bryan Clinthorne

“Silence in heaven, silence on earth, silence within Thy hush, O Lord, o’er all the world covers the din. I do not fear to speak of Thee in mortal kind and yet to all Thy namelessness I am not blind. Only I need and kneel again Thy touch to win; silence in heaven, silence on earth, silence within!”

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** - From the *New Creed* of 1968 of the United Church in Canada

All: We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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 (*page over*)

“Come! Live in the Light!”

Text & Music: David Haas ©1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

◊ Benediction

Postlude

“Prelude in a minor,” BWV 543

J. S. Bach
Public Domain

1 Call to Worship by Rev. Teri Peterson, “Bible Worm Liturgy, Oct 19, 2025” Narrative Lectionary 4-07.

MUSIC NOTES:

The Prelude today comes from the pen of Nicholas White, a native of London, who came to the United States in 1989 and is the Director of Chapel Music and Organist at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire.

“In Memoriam” was commissioned as an organ duet by Ray and Beth Chenault for the 2024 American Guild of Organists Gala, honoring the Chenault Duo. The work is dedicated to the memories of American Organist/Composer Charles Callahan and Canadian Organist/Composer Rachel Laurin, both of whom died in 2024. The work is based on musical themes from White's previous song cycle, “Songs of Innocence,” based on William Blake's poetry. “In Memoriam” received its first performance at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta in April of 2024.

In addition to joining Mr. Jackson for the Prelude, Mr. Etsell will be playing the Hymns, Anthem, and Responses in our service today.



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.

Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
vio - lence will be no more.
broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

LITURGIST

Brian Curry

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*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Audrey Freiberg in honor of the third-graders receiving their Bibles and this special milestone.

Fellowship Coffee Hour Today

After worship today, join us for Fellowship Coffee Hour with thanks to Norm and Janet Dell 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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 weekly at church **1pm Wednesdays in October (22, 29)** to discuss portions of the book each week. Read Sections 4 for October 22.
 - 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.
-

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 **Mondays, October 20 and 27 at 7:30pm** in the Fireside Room. Participants are encouraged to sign-up online using Sign-Up Genius: <http://bit.ly/4nkUCp4>

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Volunteer at Forgotten Harvest—Weekday and Weekend Opportunities

The Mission in Service committee is offering two ways to volunteer at Forgotten Harvest (15000 W Eight Mile, Oak Park). FH collects and delivers surplus food to end food waste and provide nutritious food to those facing food insecurity. The Warehouse is where we pack rescued food. The Client Choice Mobile Pantry is a small venue where we help guests make food selections, much like shopping in a grocery store!

- **Weekday:** Six volunteers needed in the Client Choice Pantry **Thursday, October 23 from 8:45am-12pm**. Volunteers must be 18 years and up. To signup, please contact Dave Keener at dakeener00@gmail.com.
- **Weekend:** 25 volunteers needed in the Warehouse **Saturday, November 1, from 9am-12 noon**. Volunteers 10 years 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

Trunk or Treat Volunteer Opportunities

Our Trunk or Treat is a great time to be with children in our community. To make the event a success, we need volunteers to help with activities as well as decorated cars. Choose a fun theme for your car and join us! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/4upv454h> or call the church office. The event is **Friday, October 24 at 5pm**. Your theme can be as simple as you'd like it.

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.

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).
