

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 | 10:30AM**

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16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



## Giving

Giving online is fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://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

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At the ♦ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

### Prelude

“Trio in F Major”

*Johann Ludwig Krebs*  
Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ♦ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: God sees us as we are

**All: and God knows all our struggle and our success.**

One: But sometimes we feel like asking God: are you paying attention?

**All: And God asks us too: are we paying attention?**

One: We are here to listen as God calls us by name,

**All: and to learn to answer as God does: here I am.**

#### ♦ Hymn #559

“Here I Am, Lord”

Text: Daniel L. Schutte; Music: Daniel Schutte; harm. Alfred Fedak ©1981, 2000 OCP

### Call to Confession

One: Because we trust in the grace of Christ, we can boldly come before God with honesty and truth. Let us confess our sin before God and our neighbors as we ask for forgiveness. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Prayer of Confession<sup>2</sup>

**All: Loving God, we are not always ready to see you in our midst. We are rarely ready to do the tasks you call us to do. Forgive us our conflicted hearts, our confused minds, and our desires that pull us one way or another. Show us who you have made us to be. Astonish us with your presence. Grant us a sure sense of your presence in our lives and give us the power to walk in your way. We ask in the name of the one who walked among us, bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth, Jesus the Christ.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: In his name, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon<sup>3</sup>

One: God overrules every objection to grace with the truth: "I have called you by name. I will be with you. I will give you everything you need to fulfil my purpose."

**All: We celebrate the gift of God's grace and forgiveness!**

## ◊ 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 forgiven people, we can share the peace we find in Christ. So 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. Classes will extend during the annual meeting for caregivers who wish to attend. Others may pick up children at their classrooms in the hallway at the top of the stairs at the conclusion of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Holy God, we come before you hoping to sense your holiness and to be moved by your word. Like the burning bush astonished Moses, come before us today with power and awe so that we may recognize your presence and fulfill your calling. Amen.**

### Psalm

"Psalm 105"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Anne*, #84 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

***"How to the stalwart in their faith God's blessings are displayed;  
They sing with joy, the chosen ones, whose hope in God is stayed."***

Paraphrase of Psalm 105 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

## Scripture Reading

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Pew Bible, OT pg. 54,55, 56

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

“Speak, Lord”

Tom Trenney

~Chancel Choir

*“You are the way, the truth, and the life. You are our hope, our victory o’er the strife. You are our peace, our calm upon the sea. Bringing good news to the oppressed, you call us to set the captive free! **Refrain: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening. Speak, Lord, how we need to hear from you. Give us courage to speak, Lord, till injustice is silent. Speak your words of love in all we say and do.** You come to heal our broken heart, to comfort as we mourn, just mercy to impart. You call us to preach the Gospel, dream the dream till justice rolls down like water, righteousness like a mighty stream. **Refrain.** Give us sight to see the world through the eyes of a stranger. Help us hear the beauty of a language not our own. Set our hearts to beat with compassion for our neighbor. When we love each, you are seen and known. **Refrain.**”*

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## Sermon

“I Don’t Wanna”

Rev. Emma Nickel



## THANKSGIVING

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### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Devotion”

Georg Vollerthun

~Olivia Donnell

*“Come, blessed Spirit, when all is still, here God illumines his holy will. Let understanding enter my heart, fill with thy being, thy will impart! Now let thy blessed power descend, work through the silence, true wisdom send.”*

©1964 Bote & Bock (Associated Music Publishers)

### ◊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

#### ◊ Litany<sup>4</sup>

One: For those of us who are having burning bush moments, Lord hear our prayer.

**All: For those struggling to believe it's actually You speaking to us,  
Lord hear our prayer.**

One: For those who receive callings that will require courage and sacrifice,  
For those who will lose friends, family, or reputation as a cost of obedience,  
For those for whom silence would be a great sin,  
Lord hear our prayer.

**All: For those whose feet burn from standing on holy ground,  
For those who, like Moses, think our insecurities or inadequacies disqualify  
us from your call,  
For those who think God might have called the wrong number,  
Lord hear our prayer.**

One: For those who have been doing one thing, one way for so long that we can't imagine  
doing another,  
For those whose callings will expose every hidden thing inside our hearts,  
For those who might fail,  
Lord hear our prayer.

**All: For those who are willing, however reluctantly, to go to the wilderness,  
For those who wish for You to prove your faithfulness and love over and  
over again,  
For those whose shame and fear keeps them from the Promised Land,  
Lord hear our prayer.**

One: For those who are so angry and frustrated with the way things are that we can hardly  
contain it.  
Lord hear our prayer.

**All: For those to whom you speak face to face, as to a friend,  
Lord hear our prayer.**

#### 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

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## ◇Hymn #618

“Go Down, Moses”

Public Domain

## ◇Benediction

## Postlude

“Go Down, Moses”

*Fela Sowande*

©1955 Chappell & Co Ltd.

1 Teri Peterson for Bible Worm, Sept 28, 2025, Narrative Lectionary, 4-04.

2 Prayer of Confession adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 24, 2017, p.33.

3 Teri Peterson, Bible Worm.

4 Adapted from Fran Pratt, ©Fran Pratt [franpratt.com](http://franpratt.com) Used with permission.

## LITURGIST

Tamara Shepard

## 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

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Phil and Gail Meengs in honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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### Annual Meeting Today after Worship

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of First Presbyterian Church will take place immediately following worship **today at 11:30am** in the sanctuary. Printed copies of the annual reports are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby. Members are encouraged to attend and to vote; visitors are welcome to be present.

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### Vision Event and Coffee Hour Next Sunday

FPCRO is called to be a beacon of hope and constancy in an uncertain world. To fulfill our vision, over the next three years we are **Building Hope** through a capital campaign. On **Sunday, October 5**, join us after worship in Kirkman Fellowship Hall to learn more about the vision and the campaign. Children and families are encouraged to attend, along with members of all ages!

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### Men's Fellowship Group

We'll gather **Monday, October 6 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge) as we return to our first Monday of the month schedule. Hopefully your schedule aligns and you can join us this month for some wide-ranging conversations.

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### Teen Clean Closet

After worship on **Sunday, October 12**, please join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall where we will assemble Hygiene Kits for the Teen Clean Closet. Their mission is to supply free new toiletry and hygiene items to young people and adults in the community who are in need. Royal Oak schools, YMCA, Youth Club, Mahany/Meininger Senior Center, have mini closets in their facilities. They also supply nearby cities. Come and help support their mission. Thank you!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### 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 (8, 15, 22, 29)** to discuss portions of the book each week. Read Introduction and Section 1 for October 8.
  - 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 **Mondays, October 13, 20, 27 at 7:30pm** in the Fireside Room. Participants are encouraged to sign-up online using Sign-Up Genius: <http://bit.ly/4nkUCp4>

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### New Member Classes on October 12, 19, and 26

For those interested in learning more about the church or who are ready to join, our classes meet Sundays from **9-10am in the Fireside Room** and conclude October 26 with breakfast and a brief Session meeting to receive new members. We'll welcome you in worship at 10:30am that day! Childcare is provided upon request. Please RSVP to Pastor Emma at [enickel@fpcro.org](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org) or call the church office at (248) 541-0108.

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### 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](mailto: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.

- Care Packages Service Project at Greenfield Presbyterian Church **October 12**
  - Regular meeting at FPCRO on **October 26**
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### 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](mailto: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

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### 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.

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### Candy Donations for Trunk or Treat!

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is **Friday, October 24**. To make the event a success, we need candy donations. In the CE lobby there's a kiddie pool for candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so we have enough for over 250 children we expect to attend. We would appreciate all candy donations by **Sunday, October 12** to allow time for preparation. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include "trunk or treat" on your donation.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### 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!

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:sgilreath@fpcro.org) for one to be emailed to you.

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### 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).

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*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.*