

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

AUGUST 17, 2025 | 10:30AM

Tenth 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. 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

Prelude on “*Immortal, Invisible*”

Mathew H. Corl

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Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship¹

One: In a fractious and fractured world,

All: we come to the well-spring of grace.

One: In this hour of worship and rest, O Lord,

All: quiet our minds and restore our souls

One: that we might worship you with our whole hearts

All: and reflect your grace with our whole lives.

♦Hymn #48

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Public Domain

Call to Confession

One: Come to me, all who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.

Trusting in the grace of Christ, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession²

All: Merciful Savior, we confess that we are not as gracious as we wish to be.

We are testy and self-righteous. We are quick to push others away or demand they conform to our desires; quick to consider ourselves and slow to consider others. Slow us down, Lord, and teach us to follow in your paths, loving without condition, forgiving with abundance, and welcoming others as they are.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the hope of your holy name we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Because we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

All: Our sins 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: When the storms of life are all around us, we need a peace that passes understanding.
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. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

**All: Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace
that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm

“Psalm 103”

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

***“Merciful, with grace endued, God will judge with righteousness;
Slow to anger or to chide, swift to pardon and to bless.
Though our sin deserves the rod, more than sparing is our God.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 103 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Exodus 33:12-23

Pew Bible, OT pg. 88

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 4:8-11

Pew Bible, NT pg. 253

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

All: Thanks be to God.



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

~Gracie Ross

“Here I Am, Lord”

Daniel Schutte

Text & Music: ©1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

◇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 *A Declaration of Faith*

Left: We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life, the Renewer and Perfecter of God's people, the One who makes real in us what God has done for us.

Right: *The Spirit came with power to the followers of Jesus. Led by the apostles they began to proclaim with boldness the new thing God had done in Christ.*

Left: They began to experience in their fellowship a new quality of common life. We believe that by the power of the same Spirit the church can be set on its way again, even when it seems beyond hope of renewal.

Right: *We are grateful heirs of reformations and awakenings. We are faithful to the reformers of the past when we hold ourselves open in the present to the reforming and renewing work of the Spirit.*

All: **The Spirit brings us out of death into life, out of separation into fellowship. We believe with the church through the centuries that God is the Creator and Sustainer, the Savior and Lord, the Giver of life within, among, and beyond us.**

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 #68

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Public Domain

◊ Benediction

Postlude

“O Day Full of Grace”

F. Melius Christianson, arr. Bryan King

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- 1 Call to Worship by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett
- 2 Prayer of Confession by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett.

LITURGIST

Haley DeFeyter

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*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Bill and Barb Hayes in memory of their parents Tom and Dorothy Fraser and Hugh and Wanda Hayes, and their son Eric.

Sunflowers Preschool Registration

There are still a few spots left for the 2025-26 school year in the 3- and 4-year-old classes at Sunflowers Christian Preschool. We are looking forward to a great year and would be honored to have your child, or the children of someone you know, join us for learning and fun. To learn more, call the preschool at (248) 541-0108 or email preschool@fpcro.org

School Supply Drive

Through tomorrow, **August 18**, we are collecting school supplies for neighbors at Oakland Elementary School in Royal Oak. Oakland Elementary serves grades K-5 and has a population of 208 students, 42% of whom are economically disadvantaged. The school and students are very appreciative of our donations! The following items are in most needed for school supplies drive: glue sticks, markers 10-pack, dry erase markers, plastic folders with prongs, pencil sharpeners, Crayola crayons 24-pack, kleenex, and Play-doh.

Back to School Blessing

Join us in worship on **August 24** for a Back to School Blessing! Whether you are a student of any age or you work in schools or higher education, we invite you to come and receive God's blessing for this important moment in the year. Outdoor games and an Ice Cream Social will follow the worship service.

Outdoor Games and Ice Cream Social

After the worship service on **August 24**, plan to join us outside on the lawn for cornhole, giant Jenga, and sidewalk chalk. Ray's Ice Cream will be here so everyone can get a scoop of a favorite flavor. Plan to connect with friends new and old! If you could help with set-up or clean-up for the event, contact Amanda Curry.

Flu Shots on September 7

Mark you calendar to get your flu shot at FPCRO on **Sunday, September 7 between 9am and 12 noon**. West Meds Pharmacy will be offering flu shots and our friend Alvin Ng from the former Rite Aid pharmacy will once again be on site to administer shots. Look for forms in the coming weeks to fill out ahead of time. Bring your insurance and pharmacy cards and your ID.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Sign Up Today for CROP Walk

Support walkers by visiting the sign-up table in the CE Lobby, or visit: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks> to make an on-line donation. FPCRO's team name is Fpcro25. This year, the CROP Walk is **Sunday, September 21**, starting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ferndale, located at 540 W. Lewiston Ave. Walkers should arrive at 1:45pm for the 2pm start. Last year, the five participating churches raised \$11,007 in donations. FPCRO raised \$2,000 and donations were equal between on-line and in-person donations. This year, your donations are even more urgent with USAID in disarray. CROP Walk is another way in which to demonstrate FPCRO's commitment to being a Mathew 25 church. Thank you for your continued support of this very important mission.

Save the Date: Presbytery of Detroit Event at FPCRO

This September, the Presbytery of Detroit will host a visit from Co-Moderator of the PC(USA), the Rev. Cece Armstrong, who was raised in Detroit. On **Saturday, September 27, from 10am until 1pm**, FPCRO is honored to be hosting Rev. Armstrong at a Presbytery-wide event, with lunch included, in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend! A few volunteers from FPCRO will be needed during the event to greet guests and help with the boxed lunch. Questions? Contact Suzanne Lewand.

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 late July or early August. Contact Chris Klein if you have any questions.

Opportunity to Usher on Sunday Mornings

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the 10:30am service to greet folks and hand out bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed pew rack Friendship pad forms. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Gail Meengs.
