

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 5, 2025 | 10:30AM

17th 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

“Lamento” (Suite pour Orgue)

Denis Bédard

©1994 Editions Cheldar (Royal School of Church Music)

Welcome & Announcements

♦ Call to Worship¹

One: Come, you who hunger to taste the bread of life!

All: Come, all who thirst for living water!

One: Come, you who hunger for justice and peace, and you who thirst for God's realm to drop like rain upon the world.

All: Come, let us journey together as a community of faith. Come, let us worship God!

♦ Hymn #501

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Public Domain

Call to Confession

One: God's giving is unending. And God's gift of grace and forgiveness is already poured out for us. So we can respond with our honest prayers of confession.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession²

All: You are the Lord our God, and we encounter your gifts of mercy new every morning. We admit that we have a tendency to hold on and save up, worried there won't be enough for tomorrow. We confess that we are a people prone to mistrust, certain our neighbors are getting things at our expense, quick to complain that things have gone downhill, always believing we just need a little more than we have. When we misuse your gifts, so that there is not enough to go around, forgive us. When we see only scarcity and teach others to see it too, forgive us. With you there is always enough, even when we do not know how to name it. Restore us to the joy of your provision, and help us to practice your abundance, that we may be good stewards of your ordinary miracles each day.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Trusting in Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, this news is trustworthy and true: God is here for us. God does not leave us to the old ways but is always leading us into new life.

All: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We turn toward the future God has in mind. 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: With the gift of reconciliation, Christ offers us deep peace. 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. They will return to the sanctuary to participate in Communion.

Invitation to Building Hope Vision Event

Benny Rediers



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy God, as we read your word, may your Spirit speak through it that it may be for us the word of life. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 78”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Brother James’ Air*, #73 “The Lord’s My Shepherd Guards Me Well”

***“How marvelous the Lord preserved our kindred in distress;
The sea a path did yield, and springs did feed the wilderness.
No less are we today the heirs of truth and righteousness.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 78 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:1-18

Pew Bible, OT pg. 69

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“The Lord Is My Keeper”

Anna Laura Page

~Chancel Choir

“The Lord is my keeper, he protects me with his arms; his love and his faithfulness will shield me from harm. The Lord is my keeper who holds me with his wing; my soul he’ll keep forever and to his arms I’ll cling. The Lord is my maker, who lifts the mountains high; he cares for the eagle that soars through lofty skies, he fills the heavens with clouds, and feeds the earth with rain; he makes the grass to grow on the mountains and the plain. He who dwells in the shelter of the Lord most high abides with the Almighty whose name he glorifies. The Lord is my keeper who holds me with his wing, my soul he’ll keep forever, and to his arms I’ll cling.”

©2000 Birnamwood Publications (MorningStar Music Publishers)

Sermon

“When We Hunger”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

arr. Gwyneth Walker

~Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi

“Let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. Let us love one another on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me. Let us rise up together all as one. When I rise from my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy and bring us peace.”

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◇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

Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer³

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

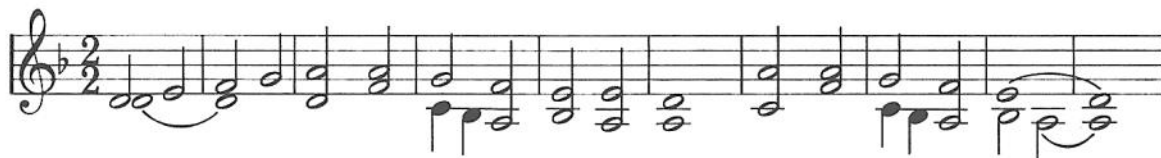
All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise.. who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na



in the high - est.

Bless - ed

is

he

who comes in the



name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na

in the

high - est.

One: We give you thanks for Jesus...remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying:
Come, Lord Jesus!:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup...We make our prayer using the words of Jesus:

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

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation. Communion is offered by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to the servers at the front of the church. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Gently dip your bread into the cup of juice, then eat it all together. Then return to your seat by the side aisles.

A gluten free station is in front of the lectern on the right side of the sanctuary for any who prefer to use it. At this station, individual cups of juice are available instead of the dipping option. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby.

If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.

Prayer After Communion

All: God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the heavenly realm of justice and peace. Strengthen us with this food from your table as we seek to serve you. Bind us together with disciples from around your world as we seek to serve you in hope. Lead us in lives of purpose and joy as we await the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.



SENDING

◇Hymn #598

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Public Domain

◇Benediction

Postlude

Carillon on the Hymn-tune “Austria”

Alan Bullard

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1 Spill the Beans, Issue 24, *Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 24, 2017, p.40.

2 Adapted from a Prayer by Teri Peterson, for BibleWorm. ©2025 Teri Peterson. t

3 Communion liturgy adapted from Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiley III, “Worship Resource, World Communion Sunday,” Peace and Global Witness Special Offering, PC(USA).

MUSIC NOTES:

For the Prelude, Mr. Etsell will play “*Lamento*”, the middle movement from *Suite for Organ* (1994) by French Canadian organist, harpsichordist and composer Denis Bédard (1950).

During Communion, Mr. Jackson will play two compositions by the noted French Organist /Composer Jean Langlais (1907-1991); Prelude on a Kyrie from 1952 and Song of Peace from 1945.

LITURGIST

Douglas Ryan

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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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 Norm and Janet Dell to praise the Lord for 45 years of marriage.

Vision Event and Coffee Hour Today

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!

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.

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.

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!

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 (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.
-

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>

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 or call the church office at (248) 541-0108.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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.

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



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

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.

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!

CROP Walk Coordinator Opportunity

Thanks to the generosity of our church community, \$3,512 was received for this year's CROP Walk! For 2026, we are seeking a new CROP Walk coordinator. To learn more about this exciting opportunity, please contact Scott Reick.

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.

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.

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).
