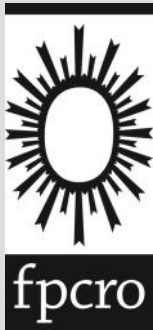


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 9, 2025 | 10:30AM

First Sunday of Lent



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 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

“Variations on a Hymn for Lent”

Dale Wood

©1970 The Sacred Music Press

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship¹

One: During this season, we can ask important questions:

All: Who is my neighbor? How can I help? What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?

One: Here in this place, we can ask meaningful questions.

All: So may we listen. May we learn. May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

One: This is our invitation to lean in.

All: Let us worship our holy God.

◊Hymn #252

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Public Domain

Call to Confession and *Kyrie Eleison*

One: Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. But that is easier said than done. Yet when we are honest before God and each other, we find mercy. And God opens the door to growth and change. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: With hope we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God loves extravagantly. God claims us as God's own. God surrounds us with grace. There is nothing we can do or leave undone that can separate us from the love of God.

All: This is the good news of the gospel. 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: In these days of Lent, we turn our lives toward the way of Christ.
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 at the conclusion of the service.*



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

**All: Gracious God, awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening.
Please make room in our spirits for your Word to land and take root, that we
might demonstrate your love to the world. Amen.**

Psalm

“Psalm 15”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Tallis’ Canon*, #715 “Now Let Us from This Table Rise”

***“A blameless life help me to live, free from contempt and selfish will;
When I through mortal frailness fail, God deigns by grace to love me still.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 15 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:51-56 and Luke 10:25-37

Pew Bible, NT pg. 72 and 73

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Reach Down, Lord”

Kyle Pederson

~Chancel Choir

“Reach down, Lord, reach your justice down, when we walk on the broken road. If we stumble into the pit, and the darkness is all we see, reach below and lift us up; reach your justice down. When we walk in the shadow of death, reach below and lift us up! Reach down Lord, reach your justice down!”

©2023 Galaxy Music Corporation, Inc.

Sermon

“An Ick Factor Turned to Love”

Rev. Emma Nickel

Response

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepard”

tune Picardy

“You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God’s side.

You, who preach a way that’s narrow, have a love that reaches wide.

You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“The Love Commandment”

W.A. Mozart

~Audrey Frieberg

“Love all that surrounds you in all your living. Love order, peacefulness and harmony. Love all people as your family. Learn to love all people as your family. Learn to love the beauty in all you see, the strong in body, the mighty in wisdom. Give each in friendship your hand of faithfulness, and to each one be truthful; give each one your love, and to each one be truthful all the days of your life.”

Text: Lloyd Pfautsch ©1961 Lawson-Gould Music Publishers, Inc.

◇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

One: “Who is our neighbor?”

All: Every child, every person. Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands.

One: We are connected—to one another, to all of God’s creation.

All: There are no strangers in God’s house. We are all family here.

One: Our relationships also stretch beyond these doors, beyond our assumptions, beyond the boundaries the world attempts to draw.

All: And so we seek to do as scripture says: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 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



SENDING

◇ Hymn #273

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Text: Tom Colvin ©1969,1997 Hope Publishing;
Music: Ghana folk song; adapt Tom Colvin; arr. Charles Webb ©1969,1989 Hope Publishing

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Fugue in d minor”

Felix Mendelssohn
Public Domain

1 Call to Worship, Confession and Pardon, Prayer for Illumination, and Affirmation of Faith adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed |
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

LITURGIST

Gretchen Hirsch

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

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

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in honor of the children and youth at FPCRO.

Lenten Devotional

Pick up a paper copy of the FPCRO Lenten Devotional or download a PDF if you prefer to view it on a device. Many members of the congregation have shared their personal faith experiences as a way to guide us through the season of Lent as we explore topics that include learning, turning, wilderness, journey, struggle, and spiritual practices. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to both deepen your faith and draw closer to fellow church members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Upcoming S.T.A.G.E. Meetings

Regular meeting at FPCRO **March 16**, regular meeting at FPCB **April 13**, regular meeting at FPCRO **April 27**. 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! Join our newsletter by emailing stageyouth@gmail.com for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade)

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Visit a New Mission Partner Today—Building Beds 4 Kids in Oak Park

After worship and a brief coffee hour today, drive the short distance to **Building Beds 4 Kids** at 14241 W. Eleven Mile Road in Oak Park for a tour which will begin at 12:15pm. (Please note: the parking and building entrance are at the rear of the building.) This local organization, run by fellow Presbyterians, is a 501(C)(3) utilizing an all-volunteer staff and workforce. At no cost to families, Building Beds 4 Kids provide beds to kids who have no bed to sleep in—often in situations of fleeing domestic violence, foster care, or other family transitions. Over the last two years, two FPCRO congregation members have been serving here weekly, sanding bed frames for assembly by other volunteers. We expect the tour to last until around 1pm. Session recently approved a financial gift to BB4K from our Mission budget. We hope you can join us!

Women's Fellowship Group

The Women's Group will meet at North End Taproom (111 S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, March 10 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation.

Upcoming Memorial Services

The congregation is reminded of memorial services for **Hans Jorgensen on Saturday, March 15 at 10am**, and for **Vera-Anne Corwin on Sunday, March 16 at 2pm** in the sanctuary.

Snacks & Board Games After Worship March 23

Join the Worship and Nurture Committee for a fun-filled coffee hour after the service on **Sunday, March 23**. Bring your favorite intergenerational board or card game to play! We'll enjoy snacks and coffee while everyone is invited to have a few rounds of Guess Who?, Candy Land, Taboo, Dominoes, Spades or other fun games. We'll wrap up the fun at 12:30pm.



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

Tom & Ruth Kirkman Scholarship Fund for Higher Education

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors or older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. Most forms of higher education are eligible, and is not limited to colleges and universities. Applications are due by March 31 and are available on our church website at <https://tinyurl.com/mre9zkjx>. If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait at jjarrait@fpcro.org.

Lunch and Learn April 6 • Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia

On **Sunday, April 6**, from **11:30am-1pm**, the Deacons invite all to lunch, and then to learn the *Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia*. FPCRO member Karen Kline is a Volunteer Community Educator with the Alzheimer's Association. She'll share information for those who want to learn more about the warning signs of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and those who have noticed memory or thinking changes in themselves or others. There will be a question and answer time offered. Sign-up to attend at the reception desk or online at <https://bit.ly/4bkHc0p>. If you would like to have childcare, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.

One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks

Today, children are receiving a One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank. During Lent they are invited to collect spare change and dollar bills for their bank. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering collected through the Presbyterian Church (USA). Money collected supports efforts to offer relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. You can learn more about this and other special offerings of the PCUSA at pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings. Envelopes will be available in April as we dedicate the offering on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm; Good Friday, April 18 at 7pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am (*one service only*).

Lenten Devotional Discussion

Mark your calendar for **7pm** on **Tuesday, April 22** for an evening to discuss the Lenten Devotional, after we've had a chance to enjoy all the entries. Come to share about the process of writing your entry. Come to talk about the insights you gained in reading the entries throughout the season.

VBS 2025—True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World—June 23-27

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdz75edh> and register today! **Volunteer at True North VBS:** This is a wonderful week of sharing God's word with our church children and the children of our community. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Not only do we need helpers during the event, but also helpers for planning and designing sets and props. Please visit our Sign-up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/m55mvbt> to join in on the fun!
