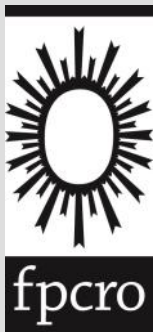


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Fifteenth 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:

- *Playground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- *Pew Pouches* with children's Bibles to help guide children who sit with their family during the worship service. Find these in the back pew.
- *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 10am 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

9:00

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

arr. Fred Bock

10:30

“In Paradisum”

Theodore Dubois

Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship¹

One: Here we are—

All: Creator & created, life-giver & life-given, maker and made!

One: Breathe deep and feel the life in your lungs! Open your eyes and see the wonders all around! Listen!

All: We are here, gathered in God’s presence, to share our praise.

♦Hymn #23

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Text: St. Francis of Assisi; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623, Public Domain

Call to Confession and *Kyrie Eleison*

One: Being human means making mistakes. Yet God chooses to forgive us and set us free to live our lives anew. Trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of all creation, you created us in and for love. Forgive us, O God, when we fail to value relationships as you do or when we hoard love as though it were a scarce commodity. Forgive us when we seek to blame others for failings that are ours. Remind us, God, that you neither blame nor shame, but love us without pause. Knowing ourselves loved and welcomed into your embrace, may we be freed from all that prevents us from building community.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the name of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon²

One: Friends, may the forgiveness of God be upon you; the peace of Christ rest upon you; and the grace of the Holy Spirit be the gift which is placed in your life today.

All: We are God’s children: citizens of God’s kingdom, siblings of the Prince of Peace. 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: As forgiven people, we can share the peace and reconciliation that Christ offers.
May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

Afterward, children will be taken to Sunday school classes and will return to the sanctuary at the end of the service.

(10:30am)

Blessing for a Departing Member

One: Sandra, in baptism our Lord Jesus Christ put his name on you and received you into the church. It has been a joy to be part of this fellowship together with you. In this community of faith, you have been nurtured as you have heard the good news of God's saving love. You have been nourished at Christ's table, just as you ensured others would be too. God has blessed you and made you a blessing in our life together.

All: You have deepened our joy and lightened our sorrow. We will miss your love and support in this place with us, yet we rejoice that our connection will remain strong.

Prayer

One: Faithful God, keep, preserve and protect Sandra all her days. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may she be salt of the earth and light for the world. Lead her to new ministries, secure in the faith that binds us forever in the body of Christ.

All: Go in the peace of Christ. Amen.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy God, your creation astonishes us with all its beauty. As we hear your word in scripture, may we also be astonished by its goodness and beauty. Lead us into a sense of awe and wonder. Let your Spirit come alive among us and speak clearly. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 8”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Rest*, #470 “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”
**“All creatures bow beneath our feet; through us their wants attend.
For life and love so freely giv’n, may we preserve the gift of heav’n:
Earth’s love that knows no end!”**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:4b-25

Pew Bible, OT pg. 2

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Dale Wood

~Chancel Choir

“For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and dale and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light; Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight; Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. For your church that evermore lifts its holy hands above, offering upon every shore its pure sacrifice of love; Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.”

©2002 Choristers Guild

Sermon

“Why We Matter”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“With Verdure Clad” (The Creation)

Joseph Haydn

~Audrey Frieberg

“And God said, let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and so it was so. With verdure clad the fields appear, delightful to the ravished sense; by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight. Here fragrant herbs their odors shed; here shoots the healing plant.”

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 A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (USA)

All: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without

ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 #388

"O God in Whom All Life Begins"

Text: Carl Daw ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: English Melody Public Domain

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

arr. Aaron Shows

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1 Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.

2 Assurance of Pardon adapted from Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*, "Liturgy with Communion for October 4, 2015, Proper 22B" <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2015/09/liturgy-w-communion-for-october-4-2015.html>

LITURGIST

Lon Kuehn

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Parish Associate: Rev. Neeta Nichols

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

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

Nursery Care Worker: Julia Carroll

FPCRO SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Brady DelVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Chris & Pete Klein in honor of our family, and a great school year for all!

Flu Shots Today from 9am until 12noon

Protect yourself this season with a flu shot from Rite Aid **today**. Have your drivers' license, insurance card, and completed form ready. Children over three years old may receive a vaccine. Deacons will be hosting a Fellowship Coffee Hour following the 10:30am service.

Bible Readings in Worship 2023-24

Starting **September 10**, passages from the *Narrative Lectionary* will be read in worship. This annual cycle of readings takes us chronologically through the Bible. From September to May, we'll journey from creation, to God's covenant; the prophets, to the incarnation of Jesus, his ministry, death, and resurrection; through stories of the early church. This will help us better understand the overall story arc of the entire Bible. Sunday morning Bible Study (9am in the Fireside Room) and children's Sunday school classes will read the same passages each week. Join us to dig deeper into God's message!

Naomi-Ruth Circle Meets Wednesday, September 13 at 10:30am

Women of FPCRO, mark your calendars and attend Naomi-Ruth Circle! The first meeting is **September 13, at 10:30am**. Circle meets at 10:30am in the Fireside Room the second Wednesday of the month September to June. We begin with fellowship and snacks, share joys and concerns, and learn of various missions, and conclude with Bible Study. This year's study is "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke through Acts*," produced by Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation is Sunday, September 17

The Annual Meeting will be held immediately after the 10:30 am worship service **September 17**. All members are encouraged to attend. Copies of the Annual Report will be available beginning Sunday, September 10 online. Hard copies available at the reception desk.

Sunburst Singers for Children begins Sunday, September 17

Join our music program for children (preschooler-early middle schooler), following worship on **September 17 until 12:15pm**. Sunburst Singers meets after worship on the **first and third Sundays of each month**. Speak to Audrey Frieberg or Joseph Jackson with questions.

CROP Walk is Sunday, September 17

The 2023 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Walk is **September 17 at 1:30pm**. Register online, make a donation, and sponsor the FPCRO team at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/ferndalemi>. Funds raised help people locally and worldwide overcome challenges of food insecurity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Rise Against Hunger Mission Event—Please Register Online

Sign up to pack meals on **Sunday, September 24**. Following lunch (between worship and the start of the event) this intergenerational event will run from 12:15-2:30pm, is high energy and open to all! We need 60 volunteers to pack food! Signup online to participate:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCRO2023>.

Grief Support Group

Starting **October 2**, FPCRO will offer an eight-week grief support group for those experiencing the loss of a loved one. Group sessions will consist of sharing, support, and resources. Sessions will be facilitated by Pat Johnson, who has served as a Commissioned Ruling Elder and chaplain, and has led similar groups for hospice families. Sign up confidentially using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/feh3w36j>. Please note: only eight participant slots are available.

Questions? Please email Pat: **pjohnson71@gmail.com**.

Forgotten Harvest Volunteer Opportunity

FPCRO had reserved 15 spots to volunteer in the Oak Park Forgotten Harvest warehouse **Saturday, October 7** from **9am-12pm**. Volunteers must be at least 10 years of age. Please sign up on the link provided: **<https://tinyurl.com/29yuzfcn>** More information will then be provided about signing up on the Forgotten Harvest website. Contact Edie Watson or the church for more information.

Trunk or Treat Candy Donations!

To ensure our Trunk or Treat event (**Friday, October 20**) is a success, we need candy donations. In the CE lobby, you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so we have enough treats for the over 200 children expected to attend. We would appreciate all candy donations be made by **Wednesday, October 11**. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead, indicate “trunk or treat” on your donation. Thank you!

Spiritual Retreat Weekend October 13-15

Take part in the Great Lakes Pilgrimage weekend at Echo Grove Camp and Conference Center in Leonard, Michigan. This renewal weekend offers introspection, discussion, laughter, and singing. Participation can be life altering. Please see Norm Bayne for details.

Organ Concert: Save the Date!

Save the date of **Friday, November 3 at 7pm** for ***Pulling Out All the Stops: An Organ Concert with Joseph Jackson***. The concert is free and open to the public. Session has approved a ticketed Wine & Cheese Reception prior to the event in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$10 for those under 21, and will be ready for purchase soon.



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.