

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MAY 11, 2025 | 10:30AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter



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

“Andante Espresso”

Ernest Tomlinson

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Welcome & Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

One: Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us and we are his;

All: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

**All: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

♦ Hymn #72

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Text & Music ©1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.
Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have
not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may
delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.**

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

All: 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: Filled with the Spirit of Love, we exchange signs of peace.
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 and will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Living God, help us to hear your holy Word with open hearts so that we may truly understand; and, understanding, that we may believe; and, believing, that we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:23-32

Pew Bible, OT pg. 944

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Mark 5:20-43

Pew Bible, NT pg. 40

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"I Will Rise"

Tomlin arr. Courtney & Hasseler

~Chancel Choir

"There's a peace I've come to know though my heart and flesh may fail. There's an anchor for my soul. I can say, 'It is Well.' Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won, He is risen from the dead. Refrain: And I will rise when He calls my name, no more sorrow,

no more pain, I will rise in eagle's wings. Before my God fall on my knees and rise. I will rise. *There's a day that's drawing near when this darkness breaks to light. And the shadows disappear and my faith shall be my eyes. Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won, He is risen from the dead.* **Refrain.** *And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "worthy is the Lamb!" and I hear the cry of every longing heart, "worthy is the Lamb!"* **Refrain.**

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Sermon

"Only Believe"

Rev. Bileen Jewell



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"I Know that My Redeemer Liveth"

G.F. Handel

~Olivia Donnel

"I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the later day upon the earth. And though worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep."

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 — Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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



◊ Hymn #59

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

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◊ Benediction

Postlude

“Hymn to Joy”

arr. Kristina Langlois
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Rev. Eileen Jewell is a Presbyterian pastor and retired hospital chaplain from Tampa General Hospital. She lives in Pinckney, Michigan and Crystal River, Florida where she spends time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

LITURGIST

Gary Moultrup

EPCRO 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Ron and Shirley Gillham in memory of and in honor of all our wonderful mothers.

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

Flower Sale **Pickup from 12-2pm on May 17 at Greenfield Presbyterian Church.**

Volunteers needed from 8:30am-2pm. There will be a small selection of flowers available for purchase the day of pick-up. They will be sold on a first come first serve basis. **Flats:** *Begonia (assorted colors), Coleus, Blue Salvia, Mixed Impatiens, Lobelia, Mixed Pansies, Marigold (assorted types), Moss Rose, Dwarf Dahlia, Sunpatiens (assorted colors), Wave Petunia.* **Hanging Baskets:** *Red Geraniums, Pink Geraniums, Moss Rose, Fuchsia, Million Bells, Sunpatiens, Combination Hanging Basket.* **Others:** *Potted Geraniums (assorted colors), Cherry Tomato Plant.* Payment by cash or check only.

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** to join our newsletter for details on our meetings, 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



Celebrating a Graduate?

Graduation season is upon us! If your family is celebrating a graduate associated with FPCRO, we would love to share about them in the June issue of the *Church Bell* newsletter. Please send the student's name, a photo, school, program from which they are graduating, and any special interests, accolades, or future plans to Sally Gilreath (**sgilreath@fpcro.org**) by **May 15**.

Mission in Service Hands-On Event

On **Sunday, May 18** please join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall after worship to assemble Hygiene Kits. As part of our support of the Here to Help organization, we will assemble hygiene kits for them to give to their clients.



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

Sunday Serenade

On the afternoon of **Sunday, June 8 at 2pm**, our talented section leaders/soloists Bryan Clinthorne, Brady DelVecchio, Olivia Donnel, and Audrey Frieberg will be sharing their gifts with us in an afternoon of song. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful quartet of soloists here at FPCRO, and this concert will feature them in ways that go beyond what we hear on a Sunday morning. Their program will include solos, duets, trios and quartets from classical Art Song, Opera and Musical Theater. Within this huge variety of pieces there will be something for everyone to enjoy. This year, the singers will be accompanied by our Organ Scholar, John Etsell at the piano. John is the principal pianist for Detroit Opera and holds a DMA in collaborative piano from the University of Michigan. Join us in support of our talented singers for a beautiful concert which will showcase the versatility of their gifts. The concert will be free and open to the public.

Choir Season Celebration

Sunday, June 15 will be the conclusion of the choir season at FPCRO. During the summer months our choirs take a deserved break and we get to feature some of our members in special Offertory's or Preludes. Several years ago, we began a new tradition of concluding our season with a service based on a specific theme that would include all of our ensembles. This year's theme is ***"For the Beauty of the Earth: A Celebration of God's Creation."*** Sunburst Singers, Jubilate Bells, and Chancel Choir will share music in praise of the gift of our earth and our liturgy and scripture will help us to appreciate all that God has given us to enjoy and care for. This Sunday is also a good time to thank our choir members and soloists for all they give to us throughout the regular church year.

Vacation Bible School, June 23-27, 2025

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

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!
