

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

AUGUST 24, 2025 | 10:30AM

11th 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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

J.S. Bach arr. Virgil Fox

©1959 (Renewed 1981) Belwin Mills, c/o Warner Bros. Publications Inc.

Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship¹

One: We come with grateful hearts

All: for music and scripture

One: for faith unextinguished

All: for Sabbath rest and routine.

One: We come with grateful hearts

All: to worship the God of grace!

♦Hymn #14

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Public Domain

Call to Confession

One: God sent Jesus into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. So trusting in that good news, let us confess our sins against God and our 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 delinquent in our gratitude and sluggish with our thanks. It is easier to keep a running tally of all that is wrong, or has wronged us than to lift our eyes to see all that is right. Open our hearts to your goodness, so that we cannot help but overflow with grateful praises to your glory.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Trusting in Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward God's children. As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us.

All: In Jesus Christ, we 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.

Back to School Blessing

Children of all ages, as well as teachers, paraprofessionals, school staff, professors, and anyone who works in a school-setting is invited to come forward to receive the blessing and a small reminder of God's presence with you. Afterward, 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: O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace—so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses. Speak to us so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith, and trust. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 24”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Anne*, #84 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

***“Unto the Lord my praise I sing, God’s goodness ever bless;
The proud convictions of my soul speak of God’s righteousness.
Come, magnify the Lord with me! Together bring God praise,
Whose presence overcomes all fear, and glory lights our days.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 24 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Pew Bible, NT pg. 219

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Practicing Gratitude”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Menuetto”

Mozart

~Megan Kortlandt, violin

~Jack Kortlandt, cello

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



SENDING

◊ **Hymn (*see insert*)** “Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries”

Text: Ruth Duck ©2011 GIA Publications; Music: Harmonization, Richard Proulx ©1975 GIA Publications

◊ **Benediction**

Postlude

“Now Thank We All Our God”

David Cherwien

©1997 Augsburg Fortress

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

LITURGIST

Jim Rae

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*

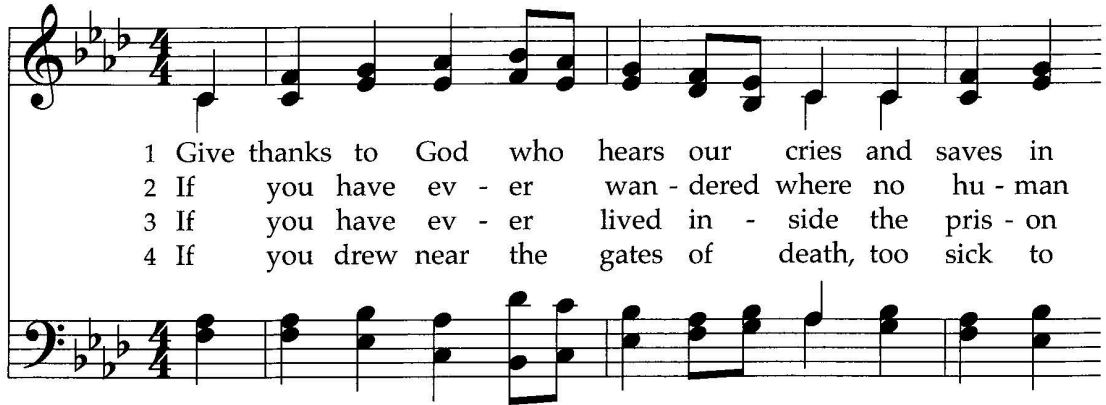
Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved. Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms. When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes without compensation.



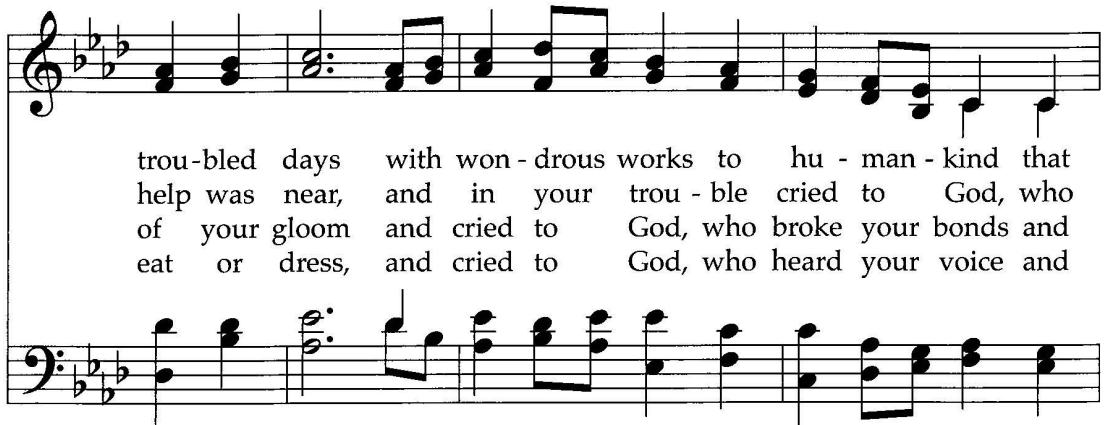
Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Contact the pastor if you are in need.

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

(Psalm 107)



1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in
2 If you have ev - er wan - dered where no hu - man
3 If you have ev - er lived in - side the pris - on
4 If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to



trou - bled days with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that
help was near, and in your trou - ble cried to God, who
of your gloom and cried to God, who broke your bonds and
eat or dress, and cried to God, who heard your voice and



call for high - est praise. Let all who know God's
res - cued you from fear, then thank the God of
raised you from your tomb, then praise the One who
healed all your dis - tress, then sing with sounds of

Over →

sav - ing love sing grate - ful songs al - ways.
 stead - fast love who dries your ev - ery tear.
 sets you free, who makes dry plac - es bloom.
 ho - ly joy; God's won - drous works pro - fess.

5 If you have felt your courage fail
 before a violent sea
 and cried to God, who stilled the storm,
 and made the wild wind flee,
 then in the congregation praise
 the One who heard your plea.

6 So praise the One whose love is great,
 whose kindness is well-known.
 Consider well the healing hand
 and help you have been shown,
 and tell the world what God has done.
 Praise God and God alone!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Linda & Ken Noble in honor of their 64 years of marriage.

Outdoor Games and Ice Cream Social Today!

After the worship service today, 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!

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

Flu Shots on September 7

Mark your 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. Forms are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby and online at <https://bit.ly/4oITZHx> to fill out ahead of time. Bring your insurance and pharmacy cards and your ID.

S.T.A.G.E. Kick-Off Party

The S.T.A.G.E. Kick-Off party will be **Sunday, September 7 from 6-8pm at FPCRO**. This event is open to all 6th grade through 12th grade youth and their families. Bring a friend! S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth ministry for middle-and high-school youth. Meetings are on select Sundays at one of our collaborating churches. Scan the QR code for more information.

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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.

Save the Date—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.

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.

Labor Day Weekend Update

The church office will be closed on Friday, August 29 and Monday, September, 1 in observance of Labor Day, while the Arts, Beats, and Eats festival rents our parking lots. The lots will be open for church service on Sunday, August 31. Free tickets for Arts, Beats, and Eats are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby.

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.
