

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**AUGUST 31, 2025 | 10:30AM**

12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



## Giving

Giving online is fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://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

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At the ♦ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

### Prelude

“Allegro in E flat Major”

*J.S. Bach*  
Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ♦ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Gathered to worship God,

**All: we are right where we belong.**

One: Called to this celebration of worship by God's Spirit,

**All: we approach God with joy in our hearts.**

One: Nourished by the love of Jesus, God's Son,

**All: we gladly feast at this banquet of grace.**

#### ♦ Hymn (*see insert*)

“I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table”

African American spiritual arr. Carl Dixon ©1930, ren. G. Schirmer, Inc.

### Call to Confession

One: Our God is a generous God, bestowing grace immeasurably, loving us beyond what we can imagine, and forgiving us before we know to ask. To this God of generosity, love, and forgiveness we now turn as we confess our sins. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Prayer of Confession<sup>2</sup>

**All: Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Trusting in Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ, God has declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

**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: As forgiven people, we can share the peace we find in Christ. 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 classes with their teachers. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Holy Spirit's power, that as scripture is read and the Gospel announced, we might receive with open hearts whatever you speak to us this day. Amen.**

### Psalm

"Psalm 112"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Lyons*, #2 "O Worship the King"

***"Forever the Lord will honor the race which worships in awe, and prospers in grace;  
In darkness, the godly a radiance shall find,  
And equal compassion for those who are kind."***

Paraphrase of Psalm 112 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Luke 14:1; 7-14

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 78*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"A Status Shake-Up"

*Rev. Emma Nickel*



# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

Prelude on “Simple Gifts”

Virgil Fox

© 1980 ASILOMAR MUSIC, assigned to Warner Bros. Publications, 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

◊**Affirmation of Faith** — from the Book of Common Worship, Philippians 2:5-11

**All: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! 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

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### ◊Hymn (*see insert*)

“There Is Now a New Creation”

Text: David Gambrell ©2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

### ◊Benediction

### Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. David Cherwien

© 1997 Augsburg Fortress

1 Today's liturgy is by Robert Owens, © Presbyterian Outlook, 2025. Used by permission.

2 Prayer of Confession by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett.

## **LITURGIST**

Suzanne Lewand

## **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 DelVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## **Chancel Flowers**

The flowers today are given to the glory of God in celebration of the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Phoebe's baptism by her parents, Matt and Emma Nickel.

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## **Labor Day Weekend Update**

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

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## **Flu Shots on September 7**

Mark you 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.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### 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



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### Men's Fellowship Group

Come meet up with the Men's Fellowship Group on **Monday, September 8 (please note the change from our usual 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month date due to Labor Day)** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge). We'll be there starting at 7:30pm. Come have a burger, a salad, an Arnold Palmer, a drink, or a float. See you there!

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### Hands-On Mission Opportunity

The Mission in Service Committee is planning a volunteer opportunity with the organization "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" on **Saturday, September 13 from 8:30am to 12pm** at the Lowe's in Westland (6555 N Newburgh Rd, Westland—approximately a 35 minute drive). Volunteers will make beds for kids who don't have one, and will have the opportunity to learn, or hone, their skills at cutting, sanding, drilling, assembling, staining, and branding. Our goal is to make 50 beds! Register online: **<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4EABA82DABF85-57952293-sleep>**. You will be asked to sign a waiver. Dress in clothing you don't mind getting dirty and wear closed-toe shoes. All tools are provided and all skill levels are welcome. Minimum age is 12-years-old with a guardian. Car pooling will be organized. Come join us to help serve our community!

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### 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.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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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.*



# I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble;  
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;  
 3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;  
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;  
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 here all the world will find a wel-come, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

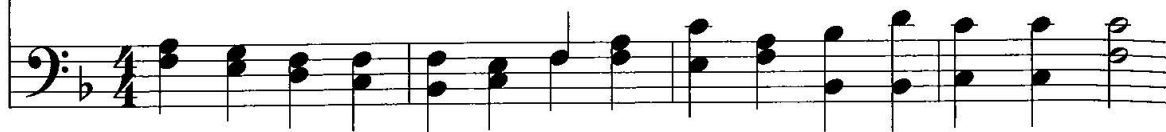
I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble; I'm gon - na  
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na  
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na  
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the  
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

# There Is Now a New Creation



- 1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,  
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:  
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.  
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;  
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.  
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.  
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.  
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.  
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!

