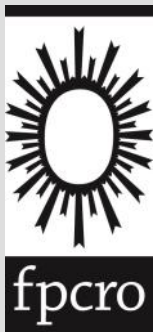


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 15, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Twentieth 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 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

9:00

“Lead Me, Lord”

Wesley arr. Fred Bock

10:30

“Ruth” (*Meditations on Women of the Bible*)

Jaromir Weinberger

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Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: God of the exiled, the alien, the stranger:

All: you are our God and we are your people.

One: God of the hungry, the poor, the grieved:

All: you are our God and we are your people.

One: God of the vulnerable, the powerless, the side-lined:

All: you are our God and we are your people.

One: God of mercy, justice, and faithfulness:

All: you are our God and we are your people.

One: Where you stay, we will stay; where you go, we will go, because

All: you are our God and we are your people.

◊ Hymn (*see insert*) “Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm”

Text: Martin Leckebusch ©2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Being honest is not easy, and yet with Christ, it can also be freeing. Let us confess our sins to God, from whom our help comes. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God, your commitment to all your people runs so deep. But we have trouble honoring our commitment to you. We take the easier path, letting our priorities slip. You show us how to love each other. But we choose more common ways of being, which sometimes lead to gossip, judgment, and hurtfulness. Turn us back to you, loving God. Help recommit our lives and our love.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Beloved, the Lord is loving, merciful, and just. Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another, so that we can live in peace and love.

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: The peace that Christ gives allows us to forgive each other. The peace that Christ gives is a kind that goes beyond our understanding. 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.

Minute for Music

Organ Concert

Karen Kline



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: O Lord, you are our God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, teach us how to follow you and how to deepen our commitment to you and your ways. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 89”

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

**“God’s covenant forever stands as truth for all to claim,
And generations yet to come will sing God’s holy name.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 89 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Ruth 1:1-17

Pew Bible, OT pg. 267

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“O Love”

Elaine Hagenberg

~Chancel Choir

“O Love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O joy, that seeketh me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be. O Love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be. O Love, that will not let me go.”

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Sermon

“Your God, My God”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee”

Charles Gounod

~Brady DeVecchio

“And Ruth said: Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God.”

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.

Blessing for a Departing Member

Prayer

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

All: Go in the peace of Christ. 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 #606

“As Your Family, Lord, Meet Us Here”

Public Domain

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Allegro Maestoso”

Felix Mendelssohn

Public Domain

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

LITURGIST

The Kortlandt Family

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director: Jessica Gibbs

Parish Associate: Rev. Neeta Nichols

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Nursery Care Worker: Julia Carroll

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 to the Glory of God by Sally & Greg Gilreath in celebration of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

Next Sunday we will welcome members of Drayton Presbyterian Church to worship and get to know them at coffee hour, sponsored by the Deacons. Their church will be closing in March of 2025 and they are exploring how God is calling them to worship in the future.

Flower Dedications

Our FPCRO **2023-24 Flower Dedication Chart** is up in the hallway across from the reception desk. Choose a date to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or honor someone with flowers. Dedications are \$45. Please contact Chris Klein if you have questions.

“God and the Old Testament” Bible Study

As Christians, we focus intensely on Jesus and the Gospels as the primary source for revealing God's activity with humanity. Before the incarnation, God's purposes were taking shape as described in the Hebrew Scriptures. What can we learn about God from the Old Testament? Join Pastor Neeta at **7pm** on **October 18 & 25**. <https://tinyurl.com/4e4wmjax>

Decorated Cars Needed for Trunk or Treat!

Decorated cars are needed to ensure our **Trunk or Treat** on **Friday, October 20** is a success. Choose a fun theme for your car then sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/4upv454h> Thank you!

New Member Class

Are you feeling called to learn more about our church or are you considering becoming a member? Join our New Member Class to explore what it means to be Presbyterian, how we understand God and theology, and what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian Church. Our next series of classes will be held at **9am on Sundays October 29, November 5, and November 12** in the Fireside Room. The final class will include brunch with church elders, and a welcome during the 10:30 worship service on **November 12**. Please let Pastor Emma know you plan to participate, and if you need childcare during the classes.

Organ Concert & Pre-Concert Reception

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. Purchase online here: <https://tinyurl.com/44jefh2s>

Fall Grounds Clean-Up

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 4, from 9am-12noon** for the annual Fall Grounds Clean-Up. All are welcome! Bring work gloves and gardening gear as we rake leaves and prepare the church grounds for the coming winter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Fall Book Discussion—Order your book now!

On **November 8 at 7pm**, we'll meet in the Fireside Room to talk about *Filled to be Emptied: The Path to Liberation for Privileged People* by Brandan J. Robertson. Buy a copy of the paperback book or read it on your Kindle. Robertson traces the Kenosis Hymn—a short passage in the book of Philippians 2:5-11—which describes the way Christ emptied himself of power to become humble in service to God. Readers are invited to consider how we can choose humility by thinking differently about the various privileges we carry. The book touches on race and poverty, among other issues, and is an invitation to people across the spectrum to faithfully consider our own lives in relation to our wider community. If you would like to read a copy, but purchasing one is hard for you, simply contact Pastor Emma.

The Presby Baking Showcase

On **November 12**, the Generosity and Resources Committee will be hosting **The Presby Baking Showcase**. Our church family is invited to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30am service to enjoy sampling what our bakers have provided. Fellowship and storytelling over baked treats will be a treat for us all. Sign up to bring a baked good at the Reception Desk, or sign-up online (<https://tinyurl.com/2ec3fsjp>). Bake a recipe that is a favorite, a specialty, or is a family tradition. Include a copy of the recipe and share the story of your baked good with our church family. Please provide small servings for at least 28.

Soup and Salad Dinner Fundraiser

You are invited to join S.T.A.G.E. on **November 12 at 6pm** at Cana Lutheran Church for a Soup and Salad dinner. Enjoy live entertainment, delicious soup, and fun for the entire family! Proceeds support S.T.A.G.E.'s summer mission work for our middle and high schoolers! Adults \$12, kids ages 3-10 \$6, kids 2 and under are free! Purchase tickets here: <https://forms.gle/2sicuHMhVmb2DzkJA>

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Upcoming October meetings: **Sunday, October 15 at 6pm** at Greenfield Presbyterian for a Movie Night; and **Sunday, October 22 at 4:30pm** at FPCRO.

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 ME



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.