

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 1, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Eighteenth 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

“We Shall Behold Him”

Dottie Rambo arr. Bock

10:30

“Miriam” (*Dedications to Women of the Bible*)

Jaromír Weinberger

©1954 H.W. Gray Co., Inc.

Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship¹

One: God's story continues, and we come as witnesses.

All: God's people—first called Israel, or the Hebrews—become enslaved to the Egyptians. Their numbers grew, and the Egyptians came to fear them.

One: Pharaoh asked that the midwives eliminate all the Hebrew baby boys.

All: But the midwives were shrewd, and they loved God. They said that the Hebrew women were so strong, they gave birth before the midwives could arrive!

One: As we worship, we find inspiration in the creativity of people like the midwives.

All: As we serve, we seek to honor God, one another, and the lives God has given us.

♦Hymn #149

“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”

Text: Carl Daw ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Sin was present...And so we pray together. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God, you call us to live with integrity. And we give thanks that your way of love always wins out: Even when we devalue the people around us. Even when we ignore your powerful presence. Even when we shy away from serving you. Help us to live differently and to honor your ways.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Small or large, bold or quiet, the grace of Christ is enough to cover all our sins. We do not need to fear. We can begin a new kind of life.

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: Forgiveness and peace bind us together in community. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

(10:30am)

Recognition of Faithful Service

Introduction

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Neeta was clothed with Christ in baptism. She was called by God through the voice of the church to give particular service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament; a teaching elder; a pastor.

All: We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ. We celebrate God's call to all who minister among us.

One: Almighty God, we give you thanks for Neeta, our co-worker in Christ, and for bringing forth abundant gifts for the ministry of the whole people of God. Fill the church with truth and love, that all its members may serve you faithfully. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: We thank you for raising up women and men of faith to preach your Word and administer your Sacraments, especially Neeta. As you have blessed her during fifty years of ministry, grant that she may continue to keep her ordination vows, fulfill her calling in ministry, serve your people, build up your Church, and glorify your name. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: Eternal God, we praise you for joys and accomplishments and for your grace which has nurtured and sustained us.

All: Bind us ever closer to one another, and draw us nearer to our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may continue to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Blessings

All: Neeta, we give thanks to God for the blessing of your friendship and leadership. We give thanks for your wisdom and experience. And for the opportunity to do ministry together, as we serve God and witness to Jesus Christ. Amen.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy Spirit, who spoke to Moses from the burning bush, speak to us now in the reading and proclaiming of your word. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 105”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Ellacombe*, #31 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

***“Remember well when God’s elect in bondage bore the chains,
Endured the test of faith and won God’s favor yet again.
These slaves, redeemed through true belief, the tyrant’s rod destroyed;
They claimed the blessings of the land which masters once enjoyed.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 105 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Based on Exodus 3:1-15

Pew Bible, OT pg. 55

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Beautiful Savior”

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

~Chancel Choir

“Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the flowers of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and for evermore be Thine!”

©1919 & 1955 Augsburg Publishing House

Sermon

“Who’s God Gonna Call?”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Thou Shalt Bring Them In” (Israel in Egypt)

G. F. Handel

~Olivia Donnel

“Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance, in the place, oh Lord, which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in, in the sanctuary, oh Lord, which Thy hands have established.”

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

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer²

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: God of all creation...a unified chorus of praise:

("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord": see insert)

One: All glory and honor are yours...that we may follow him even beyond death into your eternal love:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

One: Gather us now at your table...We pray now in the way of Jesus, saying together:

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

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation.

You are invited to come forward to the servers at the front of the church to receive the bread and cup. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Eat the bread when you receive it. A gluten free bread option is available in the center of the plate; please let the server know and you're invited to take the GF bread from the plate yourself. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby. If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.

Prayer After Communion

All: God, we say thank you: for this meal, for this community, for your grace. Today, we say it in many languages: grazie, merci, arigato, gracias, thank

you—remembering our connection to siblings around the world who also praise your name at this, your table. Draw us together by the power of your Spirit. Amen.



SENDING

◇ **Hymn #584**

“Come, Celebrate the Call of God”

◇ **Benediction**

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Go Down Moses”

Fela Sowande

©1955 Chappell & Co. Ltd.

Blessings for Neeta are offered from colleagues in the Presbytery, church leaders, family, and staff. We welcome the Rev. Matthew Nickel, Elder Kevin Ball, Jen Kondak, Joseph Jackson, and the Rev. Dr. Bob Agnew, to offer blessings today.

Portions of today's liturgy adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2*. Ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014).

1 Communion liturgy adapted from Danielle Shroyer, *An Original Blessing Communion Liturgy*, November 2, 2017, <https://danielleshroyer.com/originalblessing-communion-liturgy/>. And from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.

LITURGIST

Rev. Neeta Nichols

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 Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Gerry & Lisette Snider in honor of their family (5 children & 9 grandchildren).

Please join us for cake, coffee, and gluten-free treats at coffee hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall celebrating Pastor Neeta's 50th ordination anniversary. Thanks to the Worship and Nurture committee for hosting.

On the Rise Bakery—Capuchin Soup Kitchen Program

Today after the 10:30am worship service, On the Rise Bakery will be selling baked goods (prices \$2-\$8). Your purchase helps support housing, training, counseling, education, and self-help programs.

Grief Support Group

Starting **October 2**, FPCRO will offer an eight-week support group for those experiencing the loss of a loved one. Sessions are facilitated by Pat Johnson, who has led similar groups for hospice families. Sign up confidentially: <https://tinyurl.com/feh3w36j>. Questions? Please contact Pat Johnson.

Four-Week Bible Study in October “God and the Old Testament”

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 4, 11, 18, and 25**. <https://tinyurl.com/4e4wmjax>

New FPCRO Men's Fellowship Group

A new men's fellowship group, which will meet monthly, is forming! The first gathering is **Monday, October 9 at 7:30pm at Bagger Dave's in Berkley**. It's designed for men of FPCRO, but men who relate to the church community—even if not members—are welcome! For more info, contact Matthew Nickel or Derek Helenberger. See you October 9!

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 at <https://tinyurl.com/29yuzfcn>

Trunk or Treat Candy Donations & Decorated Cars!

Candy donations *and* decorated cars are needed to ensure our Trunk or Treat (**October 20**) is a success. Candy donations are due **Wednesday, October 11**. Choose a fun theme for your car then sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/4upv454h> Thank you!

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>

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

Upcoming October meetings: **Sunday, October 8 at 4:30pm** at Cana Lutheran; **Sunday, October 15 at 6pm** at Greenfield Presbyterian for a Movie Night; and **Sunday, October 22 at 4:30pm** at FPCRO.
