

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 26, 2025 | 10:30AM

Third Sunday of Epiphany



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.
- 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



SCAN ME

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

“Cantabile”

César Franck
Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

All: Jesus calls us to worship.

One: Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

All: Jesus calls us to love.

One: Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to speaking up and providing help;

All: Jesus calls us to justice.

One: Let us heed the call of Christ.

All: Let us worship together with joy.

◊ Hymn (*see insert*)

“You Walk along Our Shoreline”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan, 1984 ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Call to Confession

One: Trusting in the promise of grace, let us pour out our hearts before God.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession²

All: Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith. You invite us to serve just as we are. Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understanding of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose. You equip us for each new task we face. Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling. You promise to always be with us. Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future. Touch us now with your Spirit. Give us the courage to live as your disciples.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the name of Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God knows the heart of those who seek forgiveness, and by grace you have been saved.
In Jesus' name, our sins are no more!

All: God strengthens us with freedom through the Holy Spirit. 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: We are drawn to the light of Christ. Christ is the one who brings peace for us and for the whole world. 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.

Minute for Mission

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

Jack Kortlandt



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: By your Holy Spirit, O God, open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to your Holy Wisdom so that it comes to rule within us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 138”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Darwall's 148th*, #342 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

“O Lord, my heart will sing, I give Thee thanks and praise,

And in Thy holy temple bow throughout my days.

Thy steadfast love in faithfulness, O God, let shower from above.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 138 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Pew Bible, NT pg. 64

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Here I Am, Lord”

Schutte arr. Craig Courtney

~Chancel Choir

“I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bring my light to

them? Whom shall I send? **Refrain: Here I am, Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night, I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.** I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain, I have wept for love of them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone, I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send? **Refrain.** I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **Refrain."**

©1981 Daniel Schutte and New Dawn Music; this arr. ©1993 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Sermon

"Caught Alive"

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth" (Elijah)

Felix Mendelssohn

~Brady DeVecchio

"Then, shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly father's realm. Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away forever."

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

◇Litany—A prayerful reflection on Luke 5:1-11

One: Onto paths we have never travelled, you call us.

All: Toward horizons ever stretching, you call us. Through to dawns we have never known, you call us, and we hear.

One: Take our journeys and shape them with a vision of heaven.

All: Take our hopes and invest them with wonder, and we will go.

One: Onto boats we have never seen, you call us.

All: Into water we have never sailed, you call us. Through the nights we have never expected, you call us, and we hear.

One: Take our living and hold us close, our needs and unfold them, our faith and trust, and we will go.

All: Into a world we have broken, you call us. Into a life for which we have not always been grateful, you call us. Into a history we have never learned from, you still call us, and we hear.

One: Take our regrets and love them, our hurts and heal them, our questions and hold them,

All: and we will go. 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 #466

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

Public Domain

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Gird Thee Now, My Soul, with Gladness”

Johann Walther
Public Domain

1 Call to Worship by Joanna Harader, **Spacious Faith**, <https://spaciousfaith.com/>.

2 Inspired by *Prayers and Readings for Worship*, Volume 2, Peter Judd, ed. (Herald Publishing House, 1996, ISBN 9780830907199), 22, available at Community of Christ, <http://www.cofchrist.org/worship12-13/13-05-12.asp>

3 Adapted from *Spill the Beans* Issue 21, Luke 5:1-11, January 22, 2017, p. 80, 2016

LITURGIST

Norm Dell

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 Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in honor of our wonderful Director of Music, Choir Director, enthusiastic congregation, and dedicated Chancel Choir as we express our faith in song. What would life be like without music and singing?

The rose in the front is in celebration of the birth of Leila Waugh Huotari to FPCRO members Kelsey Waugh and Michael Huotari on January 17, 2025. Welcome, child of God!

“All Creatures Great and Small” packets are on their way

This week, watch your postal mailbox for your *All Creatures Great and Small* stewardship mailing. This playful theme invites us to fly, leap, or stretch as we seek to serve God with our lives and resources. We invite you to prayerfully consider the request and return your pledge card on or before **Dedication Sunday, February 16**.

Upcoming January S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Service day at Crossroads from 8:30am-3:30pm on **January 26**. 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! Join our newsletter by emailing

stageyouth@gmail.com for all the details on our meetings, added 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



Men's Fellowship Group

Join us at the Men's Group gathering on **Monday, February 3, at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge) in Berkley. There's no telling what topics the always stimulating conversation will cover, so feel free to bring your favorites! If you can't make it at 7:30pm, drop in at 8pm or whatever time you can arrive. We are usually there for a couple of hours, sometimes even closing the place down at 10pm (it is a Monday night after all!).

The Big Game Sub Sandwich Fundraiser—Buy Yours Today!

Sat, Feb 8 • 1-3pm & Sun, Feb 9 • 7:30-11:30am

We will need youth to help with our annual fundraiser! Saturday, February 8 we will be prepping the ingredients for the subs, and Sunday, February 9 we will assemble the subs bright and early. Both days we will be at FPCRO and our goal is to have all sub orders for the respective congregations ready for pick-up mid morning on February 9. Refreshments for volunteers will be provided Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Congregational Lenten Devotional—Sign up to Contribute an Entry

You are invited to contribute to our 2025 Congregational Lenten Devotional. This year, we are compiling a booklet to use for spiritual enrichment during Lent. Each day of Lent will include a short entry for reflection, written by church members and friends. To make it possible, we need you to contribute an entry (or two or three!) To write an entry, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3pxbszap> Select a weekly topic and use the prompt to guide your reflection. Each entry only needs to be 100-250 words. Writers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate!

Souper Bowl of Caring

During the month of February, our congregation is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring! You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for our Little Free Pantry. Cans with pull-tabs are very useful. Fruit cups and cereal bars are also great to include. (Please, no glass containers.) Since its installment, the Little Free Pantry at FPCRO has been a truly helpful source for people in our neighborhood. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may do so by labeling it “Souper Bowl of Caring” or “Little Free Pantry.”

Flower Dedications

The FPCRO **2025 Flower Dedication Chart** is up and ready for your requests. Please add your name in the slot of your choice to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or honor someone with flowers this year. The chart is in the hallway across from our reception desk. You may fill out a card immediately or closer to your dedication date. Dedications are \$45. Please see Chris Klein or call 248-990-8586 if you have questions. Thank you very much.

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO’s Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may need a little extra help with groceries. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the “Little Free Pantry” on the check or note. **Pull-Tab Cans:** stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. **Non-perishables:** granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).



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.