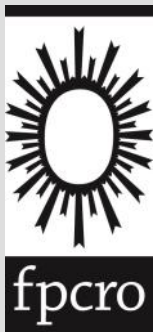


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 | 10:30AM

Twenty-Fifth 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.
- 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

“Lord, Hear the Voice of My Complaint” BWV 639

J.S. Bach

~John Etsell

Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship

One: When the city of Nineveh was broken and filled with wickedness, the word of God came to Jonah.

All: The word of God comes to us.

One: Go

All: despite your fears.

One: Speak

All: the truth of God.

One: Show love

All: to your neighbor and even to your enemy.

One: Forgive

All: as you have been forgiven.

One: Receive

All: grace upon grace, overflowing from the fullness of God.

◊Hymn #726

“We Praise You, O God”

~John Etsell

Public Domain

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: We are often reluctant disciples. Yet God is persistent in calling us back and forgiving our sin. Therefore, we can approach God honestly in confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God, you are eager to share your love and blessings. Forgive us for our reluctance to see your face in the face of others. Forgive us for dragging our heels when you call us to something new. Forgive us for the fear and worry that make us follow our own way instead of Christ’s way. Make us eager disciples, ready to serve and prepared to share your grace.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Hear our prayers, O God.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Let us walk in the new way that the Spirit reveals to us.

All: We eagerly receive God's forgiveness and love!

◇ **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: Through Christ, we find new life and the peace that passes understanding. 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

Prayer for Illumination

All: God of grace, quiet the thoughts that seek to overtake our minds and allow us a space to really hear you. Help us to listen with our hearts and minds, as well as our ears. Thought Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 61”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Rathbun*, # 264 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

***“Hear my cry, O Rock of Ages,
To my earnest prayer, give ear:
Grant me refuge from disaster,
Confidence to vanquish fear.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 61 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-5; 3:10-4:5

Pew Bible, OT pg. 959, 960

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Mercy”

Craig Courtney

~Chancel Choir

“I dare not lift my guilty eyes. I hide my lips in trembling shame. And in the darkness of my soul, I shrink from your rekindling flame. **Refrain: Kyrie eleison, have mercy.** In mercy cover me with grace and blot out my iniquity. Renew my heart and wash me clean; grant with your pardon, purity. **Refrain.** In equal measure of your love, you promise mercy, tender compassion to the one who seeks your face. A broken heart, a fainting soul, a contrite spirit, together cry for your forgiveness and your grace. Against you only have I sinned. My deeds are evil in your sight. Of your forgiveness let me sing, and in my singing take delight. **Refrain.**”

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Sermon

“No matter what,…”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Lord, to Thee Do I Lift My Soul”

Antonio Vivaldi arr. Pfautsch

~Audrey Frieberg

“Lord, to Thee do I lift my soul for comfort, for Thou, O Lord, art kind and Thy mercy is great. Give ear to my prayer, O Lord my God, ponder the voice of my desires, in time of trouble I call upon Thee; Lord, give ear to my prayer, Lord, to Thee do I lift my soul for comfort, for Thou, O Lord, art kind. Thy mercy is great unto all that call upon Thee in the time of their great need. Lord, I will thank Thee with all my heart, and will praise Thy name for evermore.”

©1957 Lawson-Gould Music Publishers, 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 A Brief Statement of Faith*

One: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a

covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 #60

“I Will Sing of the Mercies”

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◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Fanfare”

John Cook

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LITURGIST

Theresa Henige

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 DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Scott Rieck in memory of Karl Rice.

Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Thanks to Karen Kline for hosting!

Women's Fellowship Group Meets November 11

Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation. We'll meet at North End Taproom (111. S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, November 11 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Let us know you're coming at <https://tinyurl.com/muw55tnw>

Serve at Forgotten Harvest on Saturday

Join us for a day of volunteering at Forgotten Harvest in Oak Park **from 1-4pm on Saturday, November 16**. Activities may include sorting and repacking food, breaking down boxes, or other needs. We are looking for 35 volunteers and will serve alongside S.T.A.G.E. Youth group students and members of Drayton Presbyterian. Use this link to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/2upuutjw>. Then look for an email to register with Forgotten Harvest.

Mammograms Save Lives—Get Yours at FPCRO!

The Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile Mammography Screening Center will be at FPCRO on **Monday, November 18 from 9am to 4pm**. Advance registration is required, so please call 248-577-0800 to reserve your spot. This mobile mammography screening center serves all women regardless of health insurance status. Mammography is usually a covered benefit within a 12-month period. Please bring a photo ID and your insurance card (if applicable). All mammography images are read by board certified radiologists. You must be 40 years or older without prior breast condition. For more information call 568-381-1603 or visit ascension.org/michigan.

Returning Outside Group Rental

Sportsman's Dog Training Club is hosting an American Kennel Club Scent Work Trial here **November 15-17**. On **Sunday, November 17**, enter the building through the Chapel or Hendrie doors. The entire building is being used except the worship wing starting at the reception desk. The sanctuary, chapel, and nursery will be open. Rest rooms will be open: if possible, please use the ones in the CE Lobby. The dogs are being timed so please don't interact with them in any way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Women's Wellness Circle: Sharing Ideas & Experiences **Wednesdays at 7pm, thru November 20, in the Fireside Room**

The responsibilities of caregiving for family, friends, and communities, alongside demanding careers or volunteering, often take a toll on women's wellness. When we take time to gather, we can share tools and resources with one another, accept that we are in this together, support one another, and continue doing these tasks while protecting our wellness. Each week we'll share and discuss a scheduled topic, but also check in with one another. Facilitated by Heather Gleason. Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3xjh5t>

Hanging of the Greens is November 24

Lend a hand after worship on **Sunday, November 24**, as we decorate the church for Advent. Help hang wreaths, garland, and put up and decorate trees. We are grateful for your assistance!

Poinsettia Dedications

It's time for poinsettia dedications! Plants are \$15.50 this year, and orders are due by **December 1**. Complete an order form and return it with a check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak). Leave your check and order form in the basket at the reception desk. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at 248-990-8586.

Angel Tree Toy Donations

You are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys to bring a sense of love and hope to a child in your community. Please bring unwrapped gifts to FPCRO by **Sunday, December 1**. In addition to toys, the Salvation Army is in need of **new winter coats**. The Angel Tree program in Royal Oak helps 15 communities in Southeast Oakland County. Need gift donation ideas? Use the QR codes on the poster in the CE Lobby, or the links provided here, for the Amazon (<https://tinyurl.com/4xtbuf6x>) and Walmart (<https://tinyurl.com/5ewehxn6>) Angel Tree wish lists.

Advent Study: Mondays in December, 11am-12pm

Beginning **December 2**, join Pastor Emma to read the short book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*. Order your copy now! (<https://tinyurl.com/yczak8tf>) Also available on Kindle. This Advent study will help us anticipate the gift of Jesus as we explore the unique ways each of the gospel writers describes the incarnation. We visit the "home" of Mark—a spare, simple house—then travel to the fully decked out home of Luke and his familiar nativity story. With stops at Matthew's and John's abodes, too, we notice how the differing stories emphasize various aspects of God-made-flesh.



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.