

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Seventeenth 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

“The Love of God”

Lehman arr. Bock

10:30

“Prélude Élégiacque”

Joseph Jongen

Public Domain

Call to Worship¹

One: Together, we arrive in this space.

All: Together we seek God’s face.

One: Together we help one another

All: in being strong,

One: in being courageous,

All: in being attentive to the very presence of the Divine

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Hymn #58

“God of Many Names”

Text: Brian Wren; Music: William Rowan; Text & Music ©1986 Hope Publishing Co.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: We have trouble believing God’s promises. And yet, God is faithful and forgives.
Trusting in that good news, we can be honest with God and each other in prayer.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Dear God, you have given each of us a name and you call us your own. But we forget that we are worthy of claiming that relationship. Remind us that we are worthy of your love. Remind us that the gift of faith is worth wrestling over; that discipleship is a worthy undertaking because it restores the world and connects us to you.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Hear our prayers, O God,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God.

**All: Let us love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.
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: Jesus offers us the gift of peace by the power of the Holy Spirit. 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.

(10:30am)

Minute for Mission

Meet Our Choral Scholars

Suzanne Lewand



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Let the wisdom of your word meet us here today, that we may be strengthened to serve in the way we are called, for the glory and honor of your name. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 26”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Maryton*, #589 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

**“Test me, O Lord, Before Thy sight; the secrets of my heart reveal;
And for the wrongs which mar my cause, to Thy great mercy, I appeal.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 26 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:9-30

Pew Bible, OT pg. 32

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Find Us Faithful”

Mohr & Fetteke

~Chancel Choir

“We’re pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road, and those who’ve gone before us line the way. Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary, their lives a stirring testament to God’s sustaining grace. Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race not only for the prize; but as those who’ve gone before us, let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness passed on through Godly lives. Refrain: Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful, may the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey. Oh may all who come behind us

find us faithful. After all our hopes and dreams have com and gone, and our children sift through all we've left behind, may the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover become the light that leads them to the road we each must find. **Refrain.**"

©1987 & this arr. 1988 Birdwing Music/Jonathan Mark Music (admin. The Sparrow Corp.)

Sermon

"A Blessing that Changes Us"

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" Scottish Melody arr. K. Lee Scott

~Brady DeVecchio

"Come, O thou traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see; my company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee: with thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day. I need not tell thee who I am; my sin and misery declare; thyself hast called me by my name; look on thy hands, and read it there. But who, I ask thee, who art thou? Tell me thy name and tell me now. 'Tis love! 'tis love! Thou diedst for me! I hear thy whisper in my heart; the morning breaks, the shadows flee; pure, universal love thou art. To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is love!"

©1992 Augsburg Fortress

◇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

◇Litany²

One: We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

All: We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

One: We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

All: We are the Body of Christ—living in truth, sharing peace, carrying his hope, embodying Christ's love throughout the world God loves so much.

One: Here we are reminded once more, who we are, whose we are, and what our lives are about.

All: Here we are uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.

Response (*see insert*)

“Bless the Lord”

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier; Text & Music ©1984, 1998 Les Presse de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

While we sing the song, the congregation is invited to come forward and take a blessing from the basket. These blessings are found throughout the scriptures and are the same as the ones that adorn the tree today. Whenever we encounter God, we come away blessed.

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 (*see insert*)

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications; Music: William Rowan ©1993 Selah Publishing Co.

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Marche Héroïque”

Herbert Brewer

©1915, 1942 Boosey & Hawkes Inc.

1 The Call to Worship and Prayers of the People were adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.

2 Adapted from “God’s Work of Art,” written by the Rev. David Inglis, *Worship Resources for Human Relations Day*, 2011, <http://www.umcgiving.org/>

LITURGIST

Gary Moultrup

EPCRO 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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Sally Gilreath and Charlie Gilreath in honor of Greg Gilreath's 50th trip around the sun—Happy Birthday!

Per Capita Giving Time

This offering keeps us connected to our family in the Presbyterian Church (USA), both locally and around the world. This gift is **\$36 per confirmed/adult member** for 2023 and we invite you to donate the gift for you/your family. You may use a blue envelope, found in the narthex, or write “per capita” on the memo of your check. Or, make a gift online noting “Per Capita.” Electronic Givers who authorized their per capita gift on their pledge card are having it processed in September.

Rise Against Hunger Mission Event Today!

Following lunch (between worship and the start of the event) in the Fireside Room, this intergenerational event will run from 12pm-2:30pm, is high energy and open to all!

On the Rise Bakery—Capuchin Soup Kitchen Program

After the 10:30am worship service **Sunday, October 1**, On the Rise Bakery will be selling baked goods with prices ranging from \$2-\$8. By purchasing their goods, you're helping make possible provisions of supportive housing, training, counseling services, educational opportunities, 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 of sharing, support, and resources are facilitated by Pat Johnson, who has served as a Commissioned Ruling Elder and chaplain, and 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>

Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved. Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms. When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes without compensation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

New FPCRO Men's Fellowship Group

A new men's fellowship group is forming! It will meet monthly for beverages, spiritual connection, and social connection. 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 information, 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> More info will then be provided about signing up on the Forgotten Harvest website. Contact Edie Watson or the church for more information.

Trunk or Treat Candy Donations!

To ensure our Trunk or Treat (**Friday, October 20**) is a success, we need candy donations. The CE lobby has a kiddie pool for the collection. Let's fill the pool to have enough treats for the 200+ children expected. Candy donations are due by **Wednesday, October 11**. If you'd like to instead make a monetary donation, indicate "trunk or treat" on your donation. Thank you!

Spiritual Retreat Weekend October 13-15

Take part in the Great Lakes Pilgrimage weekend at Echo Grove Camp and Conference Center in Leonard, Michigan. This renewal weekend offers introspection, discussion, laughter, and singing. Participation can be life altering. Please see Norm Bayne for details.

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>



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