



graceplace

**ALL Kids are OUR Kids**

**August 27, 2017**

**9:00 am Arise! Worship**

**Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

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**Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

**Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following worship.**

**Hearing enhancement devices and large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

\*All who choose may stand

**FWS:** Song printed in black The Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

- \* **Songs** Undignified  
Our Love Is Loud

- \* **Call to Worship**

One: From the moment we open our eyes each morning,  
until we close them at night, God is with us.

**All: Thank you, God, for your abiding presence.**

One: In times when we are surrounded with struggles,  
Jesus offers hope.

**All: Thank you, Jesus, for your compassionate care.**

One: When we feel orphaned by the world,  
the Holy Spirit welcomes us into faith's family.

**All: Thank you, Spirit, for your inclusive love.**

One: All are welcome here!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

- \* **Response #657 (UMH)** This Is the Day

- \* **Greeting Your Neighbor**

**Invitation to Mission**

**Time with Children**

**Blessing of Backpacks**

**Litany of Blessings**

One: We pray for you because you are special to your parents, to your teachers, to us, and most important, to Jesus!

**All: Remember God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!**

One: We pray that you would be surrounded by a safe environment to grow physically,  
emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

**All: Remember God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!**

One: We pray that you would know God's daily protection and abiding grace.

**All: Remember God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!**

One: We pray that you will grow up with a heart for the things God has a heart for - for people, for creation, for justice and for peace.

**All: Remember God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!**

One: Remember that no matter where you are or what you do, you will always be welcome here among your church family.

**All: We bless you in Jesus' name.**

**We bless you because we love you and we believe in you!**

One: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

### **Presenting Gifts**

**Song**

*Prayer of the Children*  
Vocal Ensemble

Kirk Bestor

### **Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

**Mission Moment**

**Musical Offering**

*Child of God*  
House Band

Mark A. Miller

\* **Song**

Join the Stream of Living Water  
with Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

C. Williams

### **Scripture**

Matthew 18:1-5

*Common English Bible*

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

**Message**

ALL Kids are OUR Kids

Jeff Nelson

\* **Song**

Send Me Out

\* **Blessing**

Dear Friends,

Royal Oak First is downtown for good!

We are a faith community smack dab in the middle of a vibrant downtown. We are neighbors with shop owners, restaurant workers, yoga instructors, and hair stylists. Every day hundreds and hundreds of people are walking up and down the streets that surround us.

How do we make Christ's love real in downtown Royal Oak?

How can we be a force for good?

This last week we saw how it works. Over 150 people gathered on our front lawn to watch the eclipse. Many of the people who gathered were new to our church, but they came to experience this moment with us. And, they came to shed a light on the hungry. By the time the day was over, hundreds of bags of groceries had been collected (thank you Randy Riggs and the Boy Scouts) and \$6,000 had been raised for Gleaners Food Bank.

We are downtown for good!

Next weekend we will be in the middle of Arts, Beats and Eats, one of Metro Detroit's largest music and arts festivals. Half a million people will descend upon the area to enjoy the music, food, art and each other. And we will be right in the middle of it all!!!

Our church lawn will be used for families to sit and eat. There will be a nursing and diaper changing station and we are the volunteer headquarters for the entire event.

We will also be having our Sunday worship as a part of the event. That's right - we will be on the Bud Light Country Stage for one worship service at 9:30 am. Please see all the details in our bulletin for information about parking and passes. And remember, this is a great chance to bring your friends to experience our unique style of worship and our deep commitment to being agents of love and change for the world.

We are downtown for good!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.