

Joy of ST. JOHN'S UCC



Citizens' Climate Lobby

CCL

CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

Are you worried about climate change?
Is there anything we can do about it?

At the Covenant Association Spring Meeting, Mary Garton spoke about climate change. Mary is a volunteer from Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address the global climate crisis.

Our Social Justice Team has reached out to invite Mary Garton to visit and share information about the impact of climate change and how our church can be involved. Watch for details.

In the meantime, please consider supporting CCL by contacting Congressman Walberg and asking him to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation Act when it is reintroduced. Details about this bill are available at the Citizen's Climate Lobby website:
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>.

UCC General Synod

JUNE 30-JULY 4

The United Church of Christ General Synod 34 will be held this year in Indianapolis; Pastor Judy and Michele Wilson will represent our church. The theme is from Isaiah 43:18-19 --"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." The keynote speaker is Nadia Bolz-Weber, an ordained Lutheran Pastor and the author of several books, including *Accidental Saints* and *Finding God in All the Wrong People*. Seventeen resolutions will be introduced, including one submitted largely by the Michigan Conference entitled "Encouraging a Plant-based Life." If you would like to attend General Synod, or for more information, visit UCC.org.



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From the Pastor's Screen

STEPS OF DELIGHT

Last month I bought myself a gift, something I've been wanting for a long time. It was on sale, half-price, and I couldn't resist. I bought a Fitbit. It looks like a sleek wristwatch, which not only tells time but also counts my steps, monitors my heart rate, tells how many calories I've burned, and tracks my "zone minutes" (when I'm exercising enough to get my heart rate up). I was delighted! Then I became slightly addicted.

Several times each day I check to see how many steps I've taken and how many calories I've burned. I punctuate the day with dog-walking which Remi and Jackson love. It's so rewarding to track my daily progress.

My Fitbit rewards me -- fireworks buzz across the screen with a floating banner that reads "10,000 steps!" That little reward is all I need to keep walking, because it won't happen again until I've walked 20,000 steps. Those buzzing fireworks feel like a party on my wrist.

I wish God were more like a Fitbit. Wouldn't life be easier if God gave us constant feedback? "You were wrong, try again." "Keep going! You're doing great." "You should apologize." Maybe God would reward us, saying, "You were kind today. Good job!"

God, however, is usually silent. I try to follow Jesus, yet life doesn't get any easier. Decisions seem impossible to make. I ask God for guidance, and there's no answer. No fireworks, no buzz, no specter floating by with

encouragement. God is too quiet ...
or is she?

The Psalmist wrote, "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him." What does it look like to delight in God? When was the last time you felt delighted about *anything*?

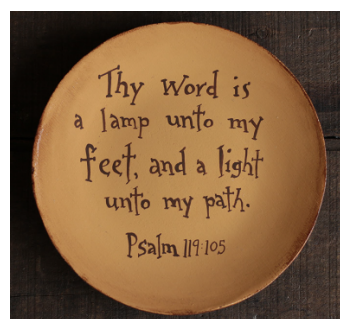
When we feel delight, God's Spirit is delighted in us. Our emotions provide our feedback, letting us know when we are following God's leading.

Culture teaches us to follow the crowd, to do what is approved by society, even when our hearts resist. Jesus' actions often flew in the face of what was customary or accepted. Jesus delighted in God by following his heart, which often made people angry. When we're honest about our feelings, we acknowledge the Spirit of God within us. The Spirit leads us to live our truth, even when it makes others feel a bit uncomfortable. Psalm 51 tells us, "You desire truth in my inward being ... you teach me wisdom in my secret heart."

My Fitbit, however, doesn't understand truth. Last week I was relaxing in an easy chair, petting Jackson's head, when my Fitbit buzzed with miniature fireworks, announcing "10,000 steps!" My feet weren't even on the ground. Oh, technology, you disappoint me!

God, you do not disappoint. You have placed your Spirit within each of us, to guide our steps and light our path. Let delight show us the way. Amen.

Stepping into delight, Pastor Judy



The Lord makes firm
the steps of the one
who delights in him;
though he may stumble,
he will not fall,
for the Lord upholds
him with his hand.

Psalm 37 :23-24 NIV



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June Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE

- 1 - Richard Poor
- 1 - Arthur Bonner
- 3 - Janell Houser
- 8 - Connor Bush
- 8 - Dorothy Woodruff
- 15 - Rick Havens
- 20 - Jerry Nelson
- 25 - Lori Canter
- 26 - Deana Thompson
- 29 - Joan McMahon

ZOOM Survey

AND TECH FUND UPDATE

Thank you to all who completed the Zoom survey which was emailed to Zoom participants. Your suggestions are valuable!

We also appreciate the continued donations for our Technology Fund. We received the funds needed to improve our equipment -- which improves our Zoom experience as well as our in-person worship experience. Thank you!

NHL Library

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



This summer the Nancy Hackworth Library will schedule open hours for the community. Volunteers are needed to staff the library. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

In the Orchard

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, AT 10 AM

We had so much fun cleaning and weeding last month -- we're doing it again! We still have outdoor work to do in the Orchard, around the building and along the fence. If you can help, bring your tools and garden gloves, and meet us at 10 AM on June 7.

Dinner

JUNE 24 AT 6 PM

Our next free Community Dinner is Tuesday, June 27, at 6 PM. We are grateful to Carl and crew for organizing and to the United Center for funding these events. Mark your calendar and bring a dessert!

Interfaith Shelter

PARTNERSHIP EVENT

St. John's helped WPC with "dinner church" Wednesday, May 24 at the Interfaith Shelter. Allen, Kathy, Gary, Darryl and Duane served food and stayed for the worship service with Pastor Karen and her team. Overall, it was a positive experience and a new way to be partners in Christ.

Special Dances

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, AT 7 PM

Dance the night away at the next Special Needs dance on Saturday, June 24. If you would like to help, dance, and have fun, call the office for more info.

June Calendar

JUNE 2,3,4—SPRING RETREAT

JUNE 6—LEAP WITH FRANCIS PRIMARY - FIELD TRIP TO BINDER PARK ZOO

JUNE 7—SPRING CLEANING 10AM

JUNE 14—CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS 3PM

JUNE 16—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM

JUNE 20—COMMUNITY DINNER 6PM

JUNE 24—SPECIAL NEEDS DANCE 7PM

JUNE 27—CENTERING PRAYER 5PM

JUNE 30-JULY 4 UCC GENERAL SYNOD



Bring your used adult and children's books to fill our Little Lending Library. Many thanks to Duane Leece and Alan Richmond for a brand-new way to serve our neighborhood.

Samaritan Fund

BECOMING GOOD SAMARITANS

In May our Samaritan Fund distributed \$400 in assistance. We had 8 requests for help with rent; four payments were issued. We had 2 requests for water bill assistance; one payment was issued. We received 9 requests for help with Consumers bills; five payments were issued. Requests for help with motel stays and gas money were referred to other agencies. Twelve persons received emergency food.

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on May 19 and continues to serve families in need. Last month we provided 2500 pounds of food and served 125 individuals, representing 323 family members. We are so grateful for Carl and our faithful team of volunteers. The next Food Pantry will be June 16, from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Baby Sprinkles

KIDS' CLOSET AND MORE

Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet provide clothing up to size 14, in addition to baby items, infant clothing, and diapers. Last month 42 families received items; 68 children were served.

We appreciate donations. Come see us in action on June 16 at 10 AM.

LEAP

LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ARTS

LEAP students, teachers, and volunteers are ending the school year with a field trip to Binder Park Zoo on June 6. Many thanks to Michele Wilson for her leadership and skill in creating this exciting, fun program for students. LEAP is funded by grants from the United Center for Caring.

Reach In

CENTERING PRAYER ON JUNE 27, AT 5 PM

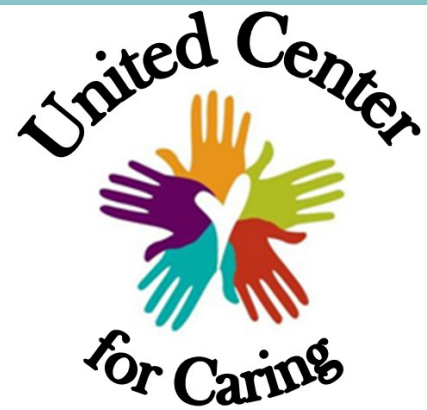
Centering Prayer is a silent prayer time in our beautiful sanctuary. Participants choose their own sacred word, quiet their minds, and listen for God. We will meet on Tuesday, June 27, at 5 PM. After a brief discussion we will pray silently for 30 minutes, so we leave feeling connected and refreshed. Join us!



Shower Ministry

SHOWERS FOR THE HOMELESS

In May our showers were busier than ever! Showers were used 52 times, requiring donations of towels, soap, and shampoo. We are grateful to Kate Turner for overseeing and supporting this important ministry and to everyone who donated towels and hygiene products.



Be the Blessing

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Here's what you can do to be a blessing:

- Decorate and fill the Little Lending Library
- Invite friends to church
- Attend the Community Dinner
- Help with the NHL or LEAP
- Pray for our church every day
- Donate time or money to the Samaritan Fund or Food Pantry
- Bring donations for the Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet
- Volunteer to be an Usher
- Sign up for Coffee Hour
- Offer your musical gifts
- Notice who's missing from worship ... and reach out with love!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

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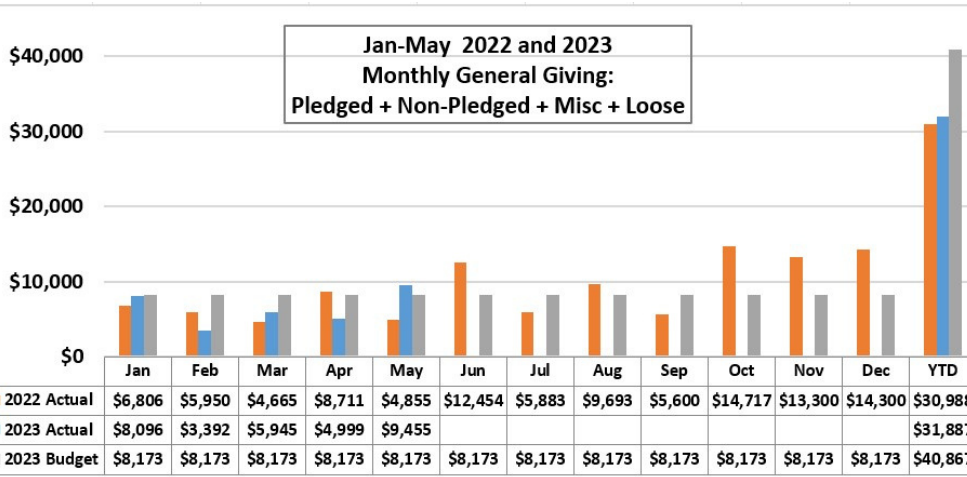
Partnership Team

PREPARING FOR PARTNERING

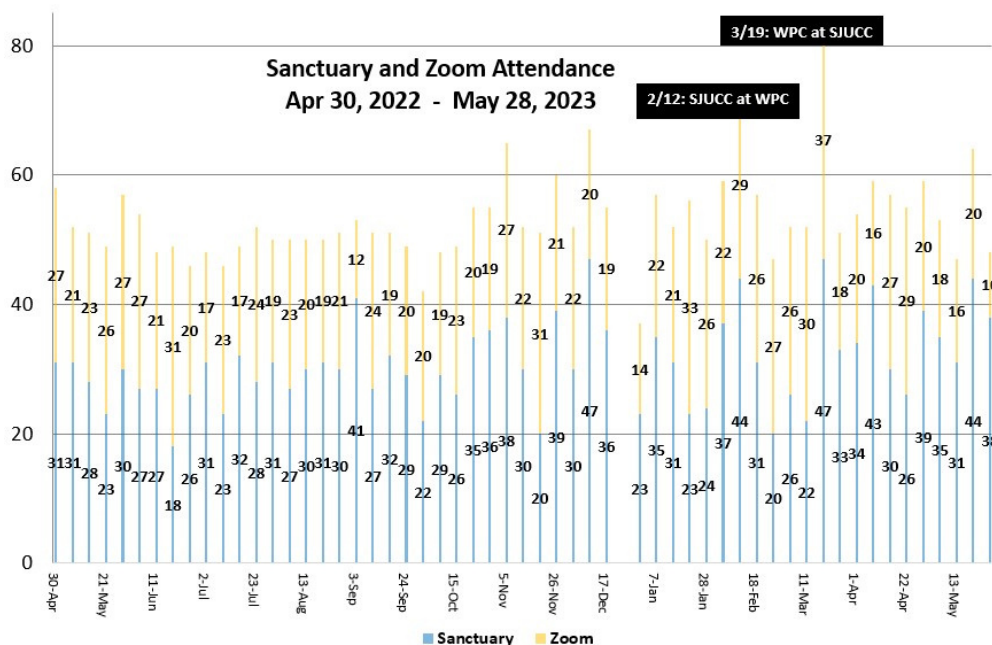
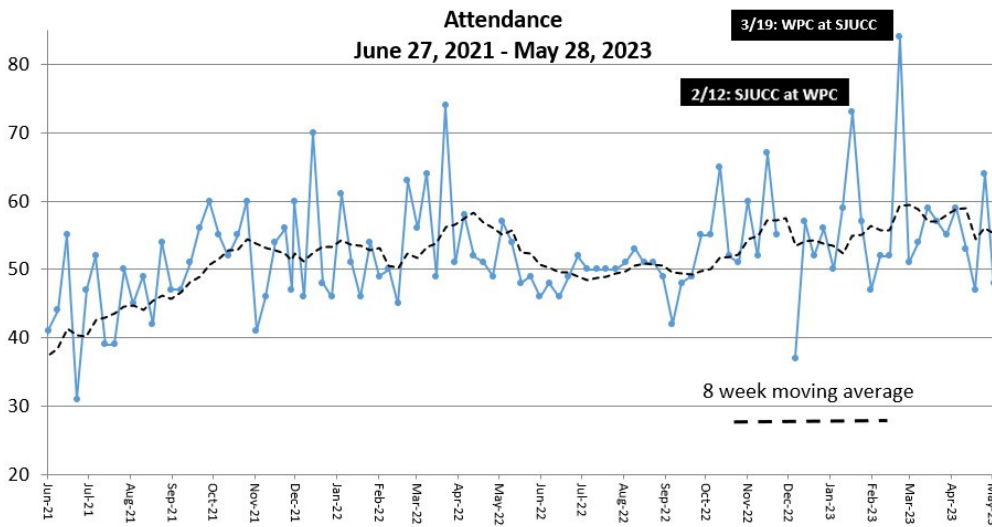
Our Partnership Team is developing a church profile to share with Westminster Presbyterian Church. A panel including three members of each church will meet to discuss partnering opportunities. Members are Vickie Steck, Cindy Osborne, Allen Schroeder, Bette Watkins, John Fenstermaker, and Pat Baumgartner.

Your Partnership Team

Duane Leece
 Carl Robinson
 Vickie Steck
 Allen Schroeder
 Cindy Osborne
 Michele Wilson



Note: \$12K of total 2023 Pledged Amount was donated in 2022 - will not appear on this chart



Council Update

The Church Council met May 10, and the following items were discussed:

- The projected interest income from Charles Schwab investments will be more than \$12,000 in twelve months.
- Roofing bids are being collected.
- Constitution by-laws governing the Social Justice Team need to be amended.
- A congregational meeting for the above-mentioned by-law change and review of roofing quotes was scheduled for July 9.
- The kitchen stove hood has been cleaned but needs additional maintenance.
- A water shut-off valve needs to be installed.
- The amount needed for tech upgrades has been received and the work will be scheduled.
- MyBakery contract for one year will be renewed.
- \$700 from the Timothy Fund will be given to Nation Outside.

Meeting minutes for past meetings are available in the church office. The next Council meeting will be June 14 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.

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Encouraging people to

reach up to worship God,



reach in to strengthen faith, and

reach out in service to others.

St. John's

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God ♥ Love People ♥ Serve Both

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