

Joy of ST. JOHN'S UCC

Social Justice Policy Change

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JULY 23

We're continuing to fine-tune our constitution regarding our Social Justice work. Policy changes require congregational awareness and approval, so a congregational meeting has been scheduled for July 23.

Our Social Justice Team responds to justice issues in our community and beyond. This team consists of Michele and Harry Wilson, Donna and Jim Benedict, and Linda and Eric Canter. Their purpose is to provide the congregation with opportunities for education, advocacy, and action in response to current issues and events. The team will also oversee the Samaritan Fund and promote support for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and Church World Service.

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NANCY HACKWORTH LITERACY INITIATIVE
— AT ST. JOHN'S UCC —

Library Opens

PARTNERING WITH DUNGYTREEI

The Nancy Hackworth Library has opened to the public! We are partnering with the Dungytreei "Kinderstar Academy" kids' program each Monday beginning July 10.

Dena Morgan of Dungytreei Heritage Foundation provides activities for youth aged 4-18 in the Community Room. Kinderstar Academy offers classes and activities including choir, art, hair-braiding, self-defense, and babysitting classes. Fifteen to twenty young people participate each Monday and the first Friday of every month. Dena reported that the students were curious about the library. We're looking forward to welcoming them!

The NHL Team consists of Darryl and Andy Hackworth, Sara Vowler, Bert Steck, Cindy Osborne, Judy Goodrow, and our literacy coach Sue Nawroth.



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We received the gift of a new church van! The Van Ministry provides rides to church services as well as transporting food for the Food Pantry. Many thanks to our anonymous donor.



From the Pastor's Screen

FEELING CONTENT

Last December a coaching class was advertised in the Michigan Conference newsletter, and I felt drawn to it. I wanted to be a better minister, and I hoped this class might provide the tools I needed, so I enrolled.

Clergy coaching is simply asking really good questions. The belief is that every person has within them the knowledge and resources needed to solve their problems. As Albert Einstein said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." Every problem can be solved if we approach it with curiosity. A coach asks the questions that help people shift perspective and change thought patterns.

After two weeks I was hooked. I loved being back in school. The instructor suggested completing the second session which would begin in November of this year. I reasoned that a coaching credential might later provide a side business for retirement.

Fortunately, I came to my senses.

When the enrollment opened for the November intensive, I realized that I had a schedule conflict and would not be able to take the second class. I expected to be disappointed, but instead, I felt nothing but relief.

I realized that somewhere along the way my goal had been forgotten. I took the class to be a better minister - not to get a coaching credential. The goal was achieved. I learned strategies that help me better serve you as your pastor.

I have also been blessed with my own coach, Alice W. Hunt. Alice is a past president of Chicago Theological Seminary and retired executive director of the American Academy of Religion. Her insight is invaluable.

Most importantly, I discovered that I am content right here at St. John's UCC. I love serving here, and I know this is where God wants me to be. I don't need to earn another credential. I feel fulfilled - and it feels delightful.

Someday, if God leads, I may complete the coaching credential. But not today. Today I just want to be the best pastor I can be. Thank you all for letting me serve here.

Content to be: Pastor Judy

Social Justice Policy Changes

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

In years past, a list of intended annual contributions was presented at the January congregational meeting for approval. The funds are earned from interest revenue from the Living Memorial Fund. Proposed changes to our current constitution and policies will allow us to support service organizations throughout the year in a timely manner as needs arise.

Disbursements will be approved by the Council and published in meeting minutes, in the newsletter, and during worship announcements. Flexibility is necessary in a world where issues surface quickly throughout the year.

Details regarding the proposed constitutional changes will be available two weeks prior to the congregational meeting which will be held Sunday, July 23, immediately following our worship service. Please plan to be present in person or on Zoom.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4: 12-13 NIV



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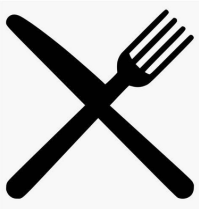
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July Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE

- 2 - Tim Schroeder
- 3 - Katie Anderson
- 4 - Penny Poor
- 4 - Amanda Canter
- 5 - Rashiem Dentmond
- 8 - Katie Reynolds
- 8 - Gary Reasoner Jr.
- 9 - Debbie Benedict
- 15 - Allen Schroeder
- 17 - Rachael Hubbard
- 25 - Walter Shuberg Jr.
- 26 - Michele Wilson



Community Dinner

JULY 25 AT 6 PM

Last month more than 50 persons enjoyed grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, macaroni salad, and potato salad at our free dinner. Our next free Community Dinner is Tuesday, July 25, at 6 PM.

We are grateful to Carl and our neighborhood chefs, Joe and Don, for cooking each month. Funding for these events is provided by the United Center for Caring. Mark your calendar and bring a dessert to share!

Yard Clean-up

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, AT 10 AM

The church grounds and the Orchard are looking better! Let's meet to continue cleaning up the landscaping around the parking areas on Wednesday, July 10. We will begin at 10 am and break for a light lunch at 12 noon. Bring your garden gloves and yard tools and join us!



STOP BY AND ENJOY
THE ORCHARD!

Shared Worship

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

St. John's UCC and Westminster Presbyterian will join together for worship several Sundays this summer. On July 2, 30, and August 6 we will worship at their location. On July 9 and 16 they will join us here on Mechanic Street. Please plan to be present -- and plan to enjoy worshipping with other Christ followers!

July Calendar

JULY 2 - COMBINED WORSHIP
AT WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2301 RIDGEWAY, JACKSON

JULY 3-4 - OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 8 - PRIVATE WEDDING
RECEPTION IN THE
COMMUNITY ROOM

JULY 9 & 16 - COMBINED
WORSHIP AT SJUCC

JULY 12 - YARD CLEAN-UP
10AM TO 12 NOON

JULY 14 & 27 - AMERICAN RED
CROSS CLASS

JULY 18—CENTERING PRAYER
5PM

JULY 21—FOOD PANTRY AND
BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM

JULY 23 - CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING FOLLOWING
WORSHIP

JULY 25 - COMMUNITY
DINNER 6PM

JULY 29 - PRIVATE PARTY IN
THE COMMUNITY ROOM

JULY 30 - COMBINED
WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Samaritan Fund

BEING GOOD SAMARITANS

In June our Samaritan Fund received 16 requests for assistance. We had 8 requests for help with rent; six payments were issued. We had 8 requests for help with Consumers bills; five payments were issued. Requests for help with motel stays and gas money were referred to other agencies. Nine people received emergency food.

Food Pantry

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry was held on June 16 and continues to serve families in need. Last month we provided 2800 pounds of food and served 112 individuals, representing 287 family members. We are so grateful for Carl and our faithful team of volunteers. The next Food Pantry will be July 21 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. More families are being served each month! Last month 49 families received items; 71 children were served. Many thanks to Donna, Caroline, Jeannine, Janice, Ruby, Linda, Cat, and all our volunteers! We will be open next on July 21 at 10 AM until 12 noon.

MyBakery

MYPLACE ENTERPRISE

MyPlace's MyBakery is going strong! They have renewed their contract with us to continue using the kitchen. You can visit with them and buy baked goods at the Grand River Farmers Market every Friday and Saturday from 9 AM - 2 PM. Pictured at right is Trace, a MyBakery baker.

Reaching In

CENTERING PRAYER ON JULY 18 AT 5 PM

Feeling rushed? Centering Prayer is a silent prayer time that creates space for stillness. In June we practiced Julian of Norwich's 4-part body prayer. This month we will meet on Tuesday, July 18, at 5 PM. After a brief discussion about prayer, we will sit in silent contemplation for 30 minutes. Join us!



Shower Ministry

SHOWERS FOR THE HOMELESS

Our showers are getting noticed -- and used! In June, showers were used 55 times, requiring donations of towels, soap, and shampoo. We now have soap and shampoo dispensers mounted in each shower. Thank you to Kate Turner for washing towels every week and to everyone who donated care items.



Be the Blessing

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

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

- Pull weeds!
- Support MyBakery
- Invite friends to church
- Attend the Community Dinner
- Help with the NHL library
- 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

260-668-9173

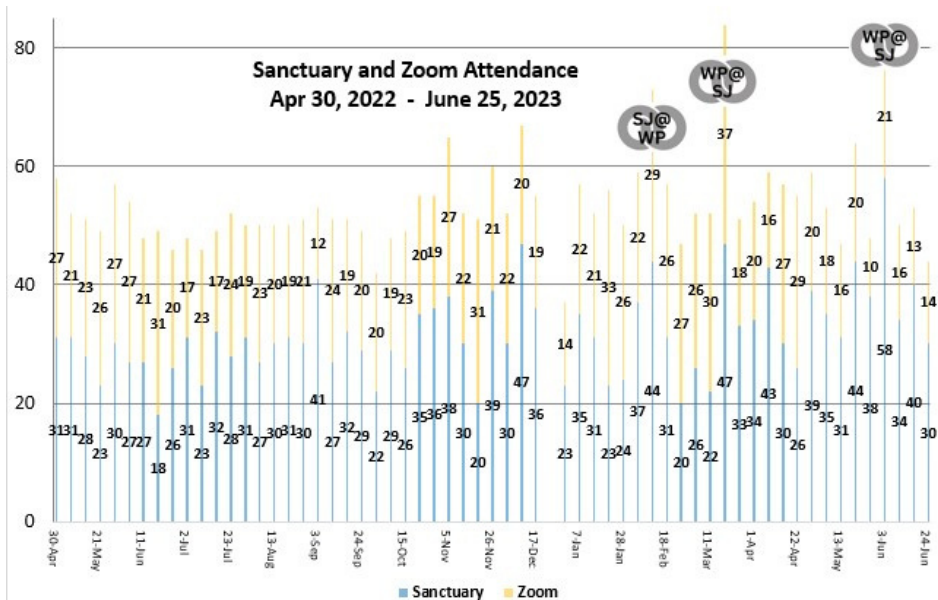
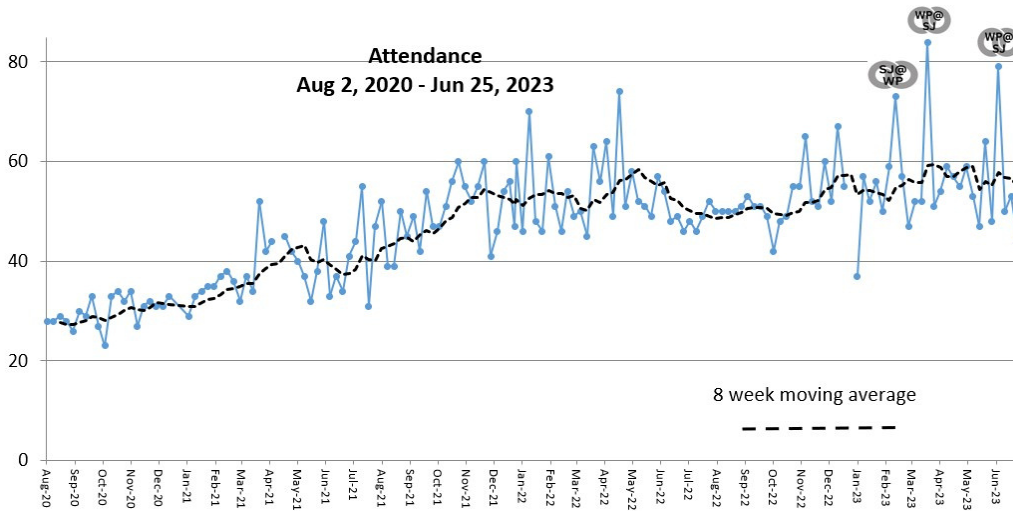
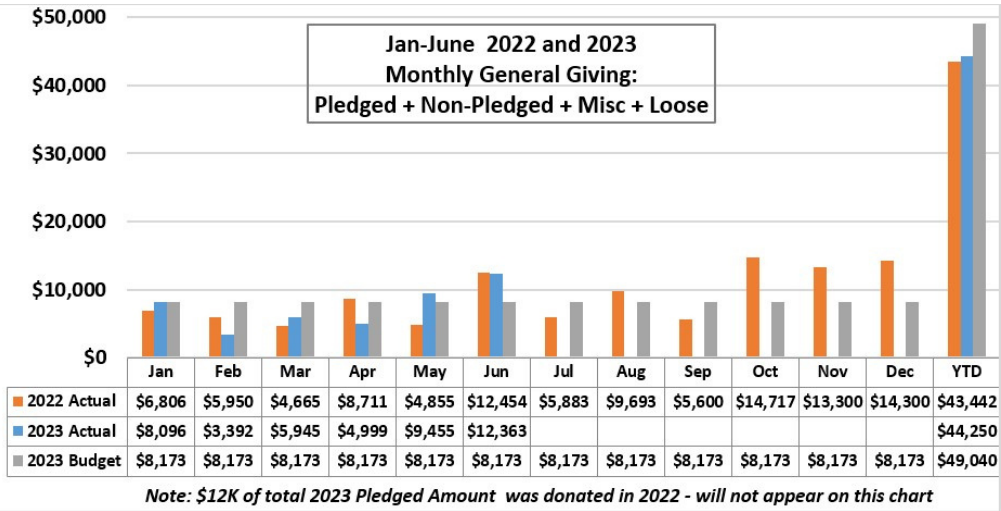
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Partnership Team

PREPARING FOR PARTNERING

Our Partnership Team has completed a church profile to share with Westminster Presbyterian Church. The combined team has met and activities involving both churches are being planned. Most importantly, we are forming friendships! Watch for upcoming announcements and events.



Your Partnership Team

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



Council Update

The Church Council met June 14, and the following items were discussed:

- Bids continue to be collected for a new roof and fire/electrical maintenance.
- A van was purchased by anonymous donation.
- The fire alarm will be tested.
- Proposed bylaw changes were approved.
- Congregational Meeting date set for July 23.
- The Sauerkraut Supper will be held in November.
- St. John's will celebrate 140 years in November.
- The Social Hall name was changed to Community Room to aid applications for grant funds.
- Our church profile for partnering with WPC was presented.

Meeting minutes for past meetings are available in the church office. The Council will not meet in July and August. The next Council Meeting will be September 13 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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