



Civility Project

How can people disagree, politically and otherwise, but still be civil, even friendly?

That's the topic of the Civility Project, a presentation by Stephen Henderson of the Detroit Free Press, and Nolan Finley of the Detroit News. The two journalists are longtime friends despite their political differences. They will discuss what it takes to create and maintain civility in American politics and the community in a contentious election year.

This is a free event which will be held on Thursday, April 25, at Cascades Manor, 1970 Kibby Road, from 6 to 7 PM. Reservations are recommended; please contact Kelsey Heck Wood at klheck0422@gmail.com.

Contributed by Nancy Connelly (WPC)



April Calendar

APR 7 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:45 AM

APR 9 - ENNEAGRAM 4 PM; CENTERING PRAYER 5 PM

APR 7,14,21,28 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM

APR 14, 21 - LENT STUDY 12 NOON

APR 10 - COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM

APR 17 - PARTNERSHIP MEETING WITH WPC AT SJUCC 7 PM

APR 19 - FOOD PANTRY/BABY SPRINKLES/KIDS CLOSET 10AM-12 PM

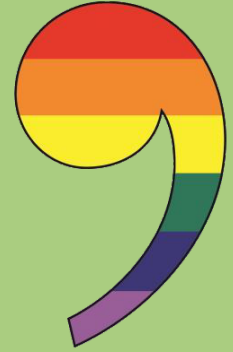
APR 20 AND/OR 27 - SPRING CLEANING DAY

APR 23 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

APR 23, 30 - OFFICE CLOSED

APR 27 - COMMUNITY SPECIAL NEEDS DANCE 7-9 PM

April 2024



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Ken Medema

Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Save the date! On Friday, May 17, the Interfaith Shelter will host an Empty Bowls event.

Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and crafts people around the world to raise money for food-related charities to care for and feed the hungry in their communities. Handmade ceramic bowls are donated and filled with delicious soup.



Tickets can be purchased online for \$25. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase a one-of-a-kind bowl. The event will be held at the ART 634 Event Room on May 17 from 5-9 PM, featuring handmade bowls by local students, food, music, and more!

The Interfaith Shelter provides hot meals, shelter, and case management. In 2023 the shelter served 73,000 meals and provided care to 700 individuals and families right here in Jackson. Let's support our local shelter at this unique fundraiser.

Faith & Security

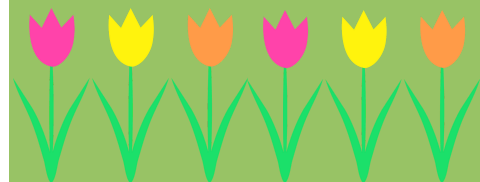
A broad welcome is a cornerstone of ministry for many United Church of Christ churches. How does a church attend to the safety of its congregants while continuing to live out its religious belief about welcoming all and creating a just world for all?

Over the past few years, some United Church of Christ churches have been targeted by extremist groups and individuals that attack the churches' theological positions on anti-racism, and the inclusion and affirmation of LBGTQIA+ people. Other churches have had their worship disrupted by visitors from these groups.

Although we have had no issues here at St. John's, we will explore safety and security protocols in the coming weeks. Safety means protecting people, while security means protecting property. Our first priority is your safety during our Sunday morning worship services.

We are forming a Faith & Security team, whose first responsibility will be to invite a member of the law enforcement community to advise us how best to proceed. We may utilize 'observers,' who would keep an eye on the south entrance and hallway during worship.

If you would like to help with these efforts, please contact Pastor Judy.



Spring Cleaning

It's time for spring cleaning!

Every spring we have an indoor team cleaning and dusting the sanctuary and fellowship room and an outdoor crew pulling weeds and putting down fresh mulch.

We will plan to work on Saturday, April 20 or Saturday, April 27, depending on the weather. Many hands make light work! Watch for details in upcoming Weekly Digest emails and on our Facebook page.



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From the Pastor's Screen

Making Room

Our little house has served us well over the years. At just 1100 square feet (including the basement), we call it “cozy.” When our three sons were growing up, Keith and I always said, “In a few years we’ll have the perfect retirement home.” For a brief time, we were empty nesters. Then two of our sons came home again.

Brett moved back after just one year of college, and we quickly got used to him being home again. When our son Brian decided to move back, we had a bit of a problem. This little house has only two bedrooms and a nook I use as an office. Where were we going to put another adult? We had to make room.

We sorted through thirty years of accumulation. We donated items, cleaned closets, organized cupboards. We created a bedroom on one side of the family room with heavy curtains.

We prepared a dwelling place, a place of rest for one in need.

Soon, we will be doing the same at our church. When our dear friends at Westminster Presbyterian sell their building and say goodbye to their beloved pastor, we will make room.

We will sort through at least thirty years of accumulation. We will donate items, clean closets, organize cupboards and offices and file cabinets. We will create a dwelling place – a place for our Christian family to rest.

Prepare your hearts, dear ones. The table your grandmother donated may be re-homed. The paintings you love, the memorabilia you treasure, even your choir robe may need to go home with you.

I am preparing to share my office with another minister. Our church office will be shared. Our altar will change, as we make room for the Presbyterians’ symbols of worship.

When our son moved in again last fall, I thought our little house might burst. It did not. I feel such joy to see four cars in the driveway when I come home, to be greeted by one husband, two sons, and two big dogs. Even when I can’t get in the bathroom, or fit my water jug in the fridge, or even get a bite of the leftovers -- because there aren’t any!

We will make room, and we will thrive. “If it were not so, I would have told you.”
Pastor Judy

In my Father's house
there are many
dwelling-places. If it
were not so I would
have told you;
for I go to prepare a
place for you.

John 14:2

Be the Blessing

**SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!**

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO
TO BE A BLESSING:

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

ATTEND THE COMMUNITY
DINNER - OR BRING DESSERT

HELP WITH THE NHL LIBRARY

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

BRING DONATIONS FOR BABY
SPRINKLES AND KIDS' CLOSET

VOLUNTEER TO BE AN USHER

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING
FROM WORSHIP
... AND REACH OUT WITH
LOVE!

Lenten Study continues

Our Lenten book study is still going! We will meet again on Sunday, April 14 and Sunday, April 21 at 12 noon to discuss the final chapters of Adam Hamilton's **24 Hours That Changed the World**.

We will meet in-person and on zoom. No book is required, and it's okay if you missed the first few conversations -- you can still join in.

Contributed by Jan Janke and Judy Goodrow

Office Hours

We may be changing our church office hours by having Evelyn work on Sunday mornings as one of her workdays. She will be on hand for any tech issues we encounter and will also be a presence in the office during worship when the doors are unlocked. When this change takes place, she will drop one of her weekday afternoons. I would appreciate a volunteer to staff the office that afternoon.

I am usually in the office each Tuesday, but sometimes that changes. My days off are Monday and Saturday each week. If you need to reach me, or if you would like me to visit you, please call or email.

Pastor Judy

In March, 5 individuals received emergency food and 17 people took showers. The Samaritan Fund provided assistance for 1 eviction and 2 utility payments.

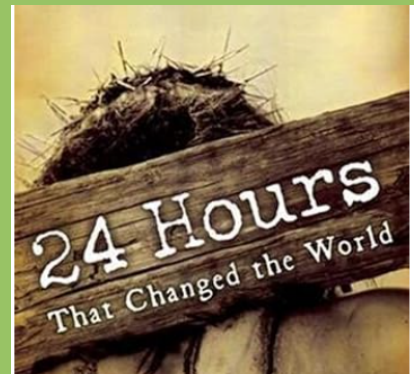
Contributed by Michele Wilson

Our March Baby Sprinkle and Kids' Closet was held on March 22 and served 34 families, representing 62 children.

Contributed by Donna Benedict

Our March food pantry served 107 persons representing 289 family members. Two thousand pounds of food were distributed. About forty persons were served at our Community Dinner on March 26.

Contributed by Carl Robinson



Emergency Food

We continue to provide emergency food for those who come to our door throughout the month. Please remember to bring prepared meals, canned food with pop-tops, and ready-to-eat snacks.



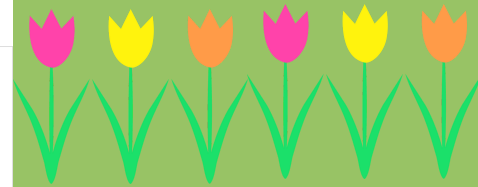
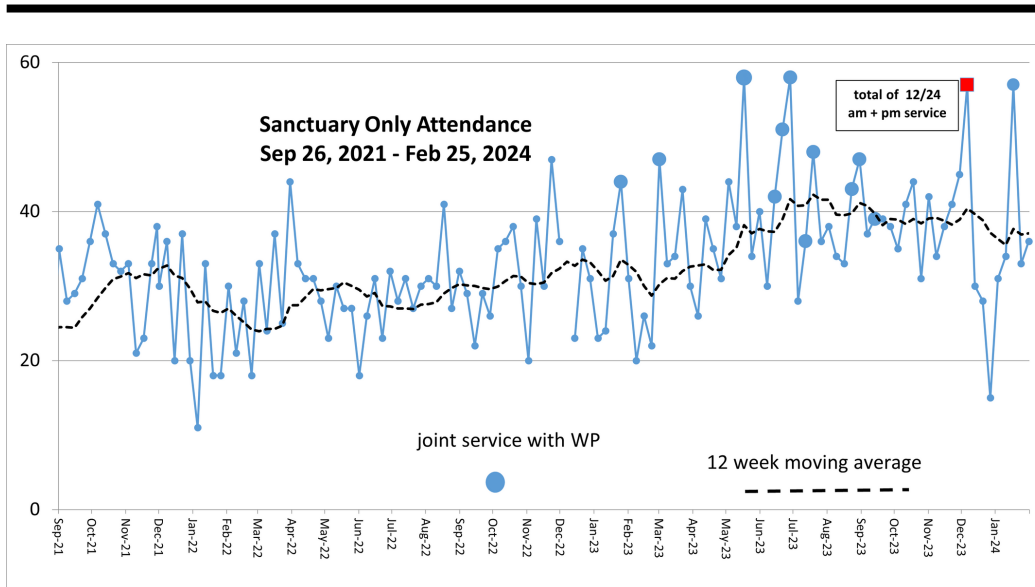
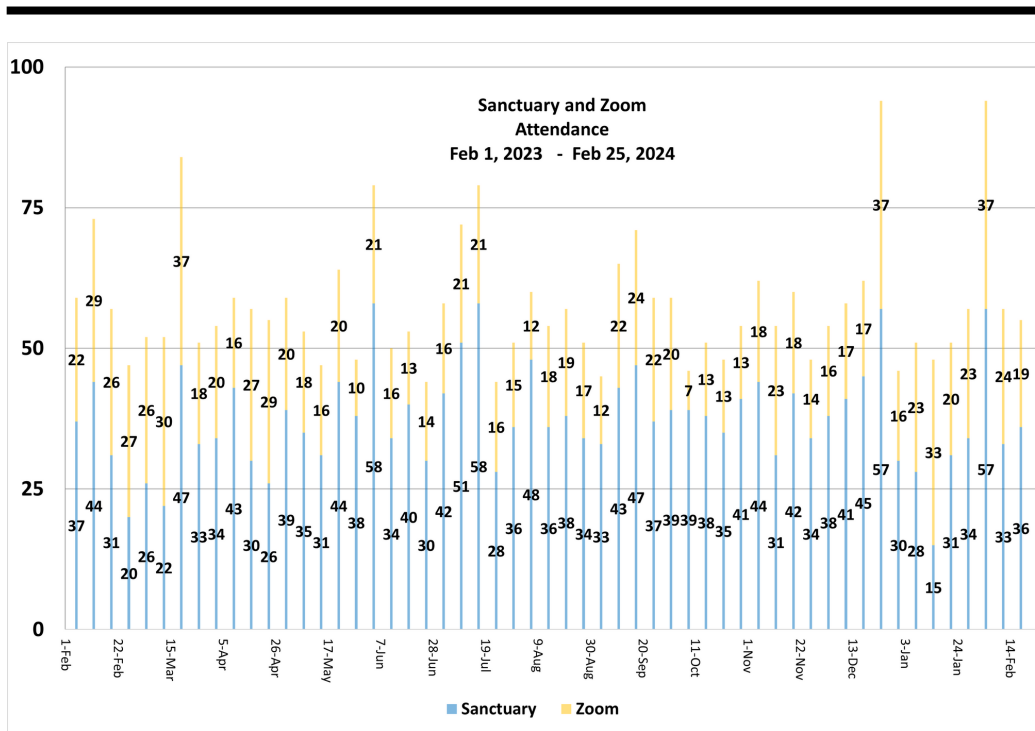
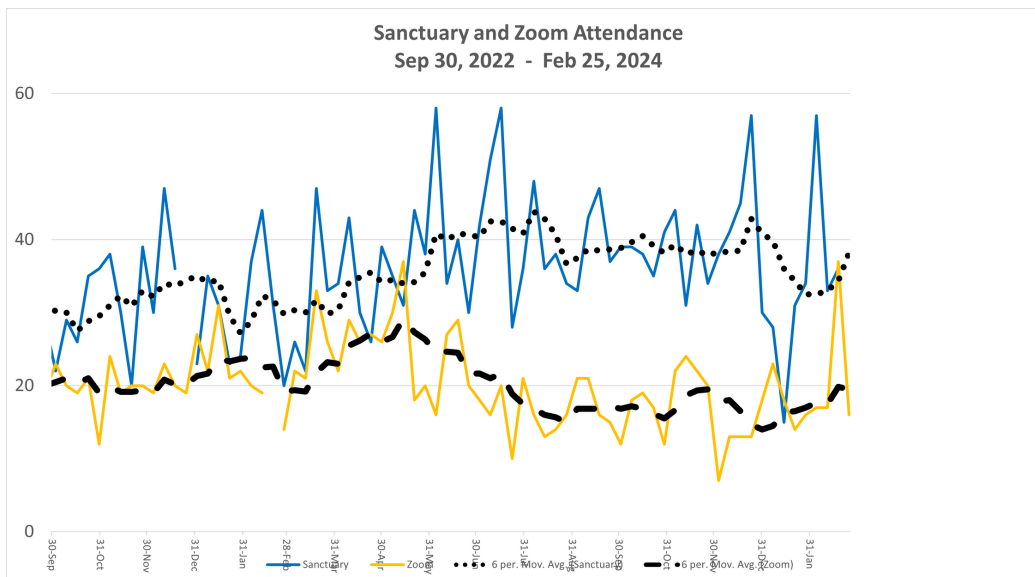
Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

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Attendance and Giving



Concert Update

Our first concert concert was a success! We raised \$885.83 after expenses.



Ken Medema concert & MyBakery cookie table



Charts contributed by Bert Steck, Financial Secretary

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Love God ♥ Love People ♥ Serve Both

