



# St. John's

United Church of Christ

## *Rev. Dr. Jake Kaufman*

Please extend a warm welcome to Rev. Dr. Jacob “Jake” Kaufman. Jake will begin serving as Interim Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church on June 1. He will spend the month of June ministering at WPC’s location and getting to know the congregation before making the transition with them to 801 S. Mechanic Street on July 1. On July 14, Jake will be our morning preacher, and both Pastor Jake and Pastor Judy will be present for worship services throughout the summer.

Jake sent an article for our newsletter so we can get to know him better (see page 3).



## June Calendar

JUNE 1 - SHILOH PEAVY CELEBRATION OF LIFE 12 PM TO 4 PM

JUNE 2 - WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10 AM

JUNE 4 - UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING 12 NOON;  
ENNEAGRAM 4 PM; CENTERING PRAYER 5 PM

JUNE 9 - WORSHIP 10 AM

JUNE 12 - JOINT WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 3:30 PM

JUNE 12 - COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM

JUNE 15 -- NHL STORYTIME 10 AM

JUNE 16 - WORSHIP 10 AM

JUNE 19-25 - JUDY ON VACATION

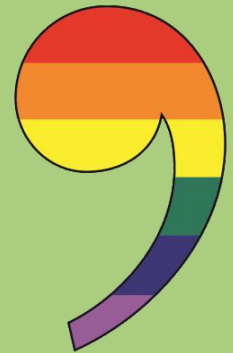
JUNE 21 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12 PM

JUNE 23 - WORSHIP 10 AM WITH JAN JANKE

JUNE 29 - COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9 PM

JUNE 30 - WORSHIP 10 AM

## June 2024



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## Mission Updates

In May, 18 individuals received emergency food and 10 people took showers. The Samaritan Fund provided assistance for 1 eviction and 1 utility payment.

Contributed by Michele Wilson

Our May Baby Sprinkle and Kids' Closet was held on May 17 and served 44 families, representing 77 children.

Contributed by Donna Benedict

Our May food pantry served 139 persons representing 300 family members. 2500 pounds of food were distributed. Forty-six persons were served at our Community Dinner on May 21.

Contributed by Carl Robinson

## Joint Committees Forming

As SJUCC and WPC begin to worship together, several committees will be formed to administer all areas of Joint Witness ministry. Each church will maintain its own church council or session. Representatives from each will meet together to form the Joint Witness Board.

Many areas of ministry will need representation. These committees will report to the Joint Witness Board. The categories identified are:

**Administration** committee will include Finance, Staffing, Building & Grounds.

**Mission** committee will include Outreach, Marketing Evangelism, Vision for Growth, Social Justice.

**Worship** committee will include Worship Planning, Music, AV Tech. First meeting is scheduled for June 12 at 3:30 PM.

**Nurture** committees will include Christian Education, Member Care, Fellowship.

We would like everyone to participate, so please choose an area that interests you and let a council member know. We will be asking for volunteers, so please prayerfully contemplate where you might serve.



## Community Dance

The next Community Dance will be held on June 29th from 7 PM to 9 PM. The theme for this dance is Red White, & Blue. These dances are open to all and they are free!

This will be the last dance of the summer. Dances will start up again in September.

Many thanks to Linda Miller and her crew for making the dances possible.



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# *From the Pastor's Screen*

“Have you met what’s-hiz-name yet?”

This seems to be a current question around our halls. My name is Jake. For the next year-plus-something, I will be your interim pastor. In '91, I completed the Presbyterian Synod of Lincoln Trails (Alban Institute model) interim training and have a fair amount of continuing education in conflict management and consultation procedures. Interim pastoring is my intentional ministry: I'm not just “waiting to become a real minister.” We're together on purpose!

Bill collectors now trace me to my voting residence near Munith, MI (35 miles southeast of Lansing, 15 miles northeast of Jackson). Home-home is the little village of Herkimer, in the foothills of the Adirondacks, upstate NY, on the West Canada Creek (super trout stream!). Growing up had to do with school, paper routes, tying trout flies (caught some chub but no trout), a Lionel train which grew and grew, and the beginning of a ham radio hobby which has spanned the years.

Dad was Episcopalian and Mum was Methodist, so they did the only reasonable thing, baptizing me in the Reformed Church. My college, seminary, and ordination ('62) were Reformed Church in America (Dutch Presbyterian). In '71, a call to a (Scotch) Presbyterian church brought me into our denomination. My son, David, was my last baptism in the Reformed Church, and my daughter, Ruth Ann, was my first Presbyterian baptism.

The “K” family is Ruth Ann, living in Holland, MI, who turned me into a grandpa in '00 by presenting me with little Jake on my birthday (which now is our birthday - the only birthday gift I ever received wrapped in a dirty diaper!), plus Nate in '02. Son/brother/uncle Dave put 4 years in the Navy, and enjoys his work at Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) in Florida. Their mom and I divorced in '89; she became ill in '90, and passed away later that year. In June, '12, Dawn joined the clan, turning clan into family and house into home. We've added to our family by adopting James, a low-dander ragdoll cat whom my allergy tolerates quite well, and rescued Lyle from a cat colony. Dawn is a retired professor and former Director of the MBA Program at Bethel University, Mishawaka, IN. She is ordained, and a super team-player in ministry.

Pastoring has moved me around MI, NJ, NY, OH, and PA, plus two summers on pulpit exchange in Scotland. In addition, two counseling centers have placed me on staff while I was in those areas.

(Continued, next page)

Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received

1 Peter 4:9-10

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

HELP WITH THE NHL LIBRARY

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

BRING MISSION DONATIONS

VOLUNTEER TO BE AN USHER

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

HELP WITH CLEANING

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING FROM WORSHIP

... AND REACH OUT WITH LOVE!

# *From the Pastor's Screen*

(Continued)

Being a trainer for L.E.A.D. Consultants' Calling and Caring Ministry has allowed me to work with some congregations to strengthen their programs. Outside of the church, I held a Michigan realtor's license for a three-year stint. I was a member of the former Academy of Parish Clergy (elected to the College of Fellows and the Board of Directors) and am a member of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Educators.

What does this preacher do with all of that spare time between Sunday mornings? Music is major relaxation. The baritone horn got me a free seat at college football games, and the seminary choir put me behind the piano or organ to keep me from trying to sing. My real talent is playing the hi-fi! Electric trains still bring out the little boy in me, and anything photo/videographic fascinates me. Ham radio is top fun (K2GAT, some 304 countries confirmed 2-way), with licensing going back to '54.

Really, there are only two bits of information which you definitely need to know. The first is that I work with an open door at the church study, and you are welcome to drop by (however, the firm rule is that nobody may leave the study without taking a piece of candy from the dish by the door!). My part-time work-week is t.b.d., and will vary, depending on our program and pastoral needs. Jon always will know where I am; updates will be in your Sunday bulletin. My home 'phone number is 517.596.2275, and my email is k2gat@yahoo.com. You never are an interruption; you are the reason I am here!

Sure looking forward to saying, "Hello," in person!

Jake

## *Choir for July 7*



A combined choir will sing "The First Song of Isaiah" on our first Sunday worship together on July 7. If SJUCC singers would like to participate, please contact Jon Krueger at [sumsym@yahoo.com](mailto:sumsym@yahoo.com) or let Michele Wilson know. Jon currently holds choir practice at WPC on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM until 2 PM but may be available to meet at SJUCC for additional practice in the evenings.

## *NHL Update*

The Nancy Hackworth Literacy Initiative (NHL) would like to introduce our new coaching team!

**Bette Watkins** and **Kellie Hubbard** are both certified in the Orton-Gillingham approach for reading improvement. Both have experience as Executive Directors at the Reading Writing Connection. **Jeff Wilkinson** is a member of Michigan Education Corps and has been a Reading Interventionist with children in grades 1-3 for over a year. **Josie Gauthier** taught at JPS and Lumen Christi for 25 years. She is currently an Instructional Coach for St. Mary's Star of the Sea School. Josie is our storyteller for the NHL Library Summer Program. Story time sessions will take place June 15 and July 20 at 10 AM in the library. Stay tuned for more story time sessions and updated library hours.

One parent wrote, "This year, my daughter has improved two grade levels based on reading tests conducted from the beginning to the end of the school year. This remarkable progress is due to in-class learning and the dependable, effective, and kind literacy individual coaching she receives from the team at the NHL initiative at SJUCC..."

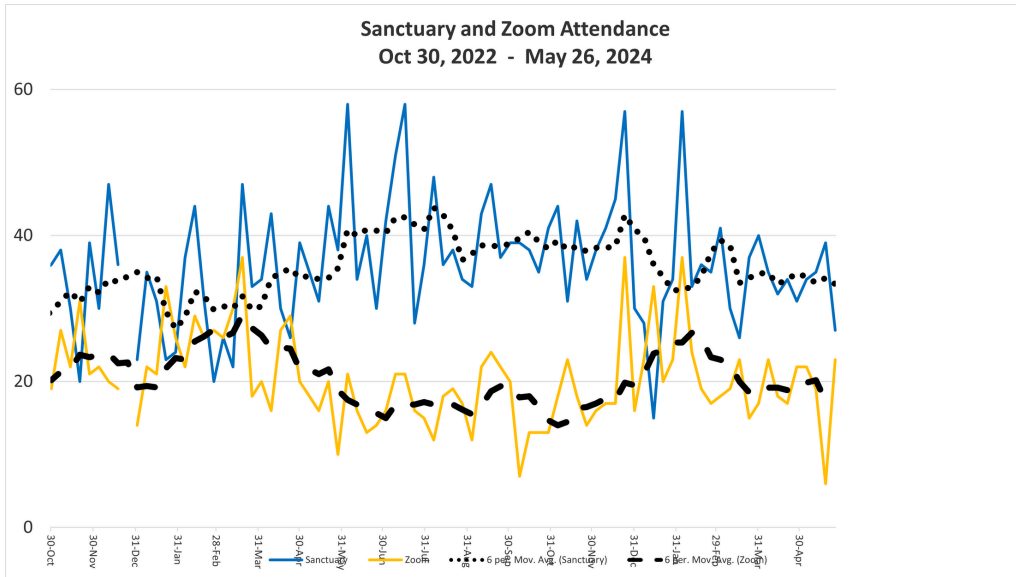
We are so proud of the results we have been seeing in our students!

Contributed by Sara Vowler

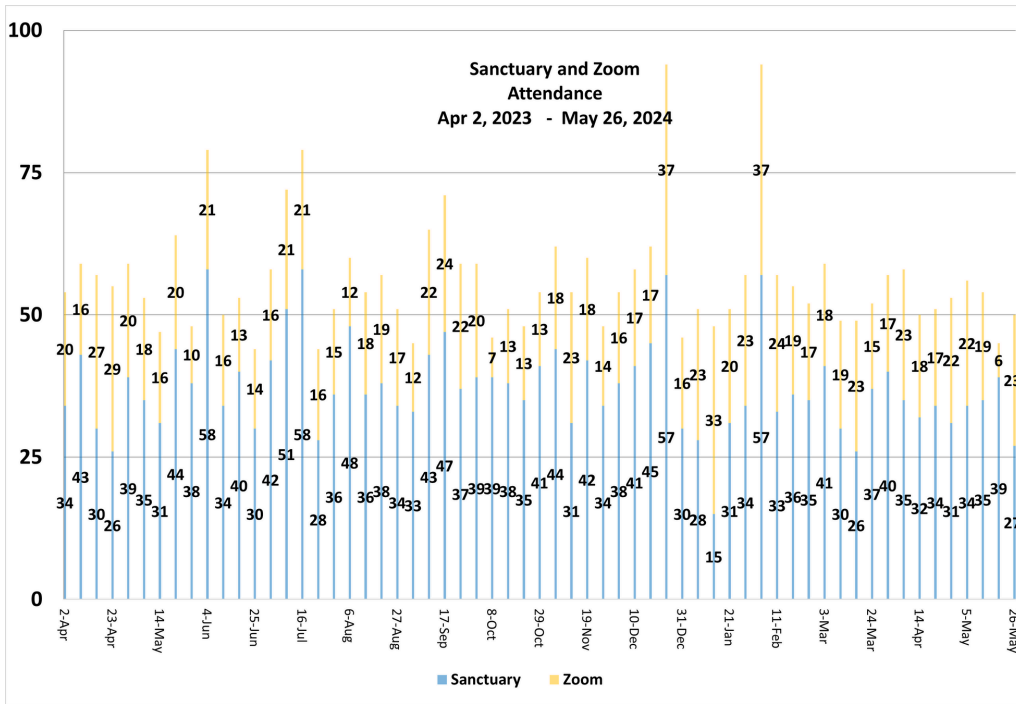


# Attendance and Giving

# Community Dinners



Thank you to our incredible volunteers who set up, cook, serve, and clean up at our dinners each month. Also, thank you to the United Center for Caring and Blue Cross Complete for sponsoring these events.



Charts and flowers

contributed by Bert Steck,  
Financial Secretary

