

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

July 2024

Welcome, WPC!

Westminster Presbyterian and St. John's UCC will join in joyful worship beginning July 7. Thank you to all for your understanding, flexibility, and patience as we collaborate and move forward.



July Calendar

JULY 2 - ENNEAGRAM 4 PM; CENTERING PRAYER 5 PM

JULY 4 - OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 7 - WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10 AM

JULY 10 - SJUCC COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM

JULY 13 - NHL KIDS' LIBRARY OPEN/STORYTIME 10:30 AM

JULY 14 - WORSHIP 10 AM

JULY 17 - WPC SESSION 1 PM

JULY 19 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12 PM

JULY 21 - WORSHIP 10 AM

JULY 23 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

JULY 24 - DINNER CHURCH AT INTERFAITH SHELTER 4:30 PM (WPC)

JULY 28 - WORSHIP 10 AM

JULY 30 - UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING 12 NOON

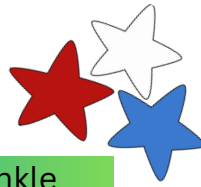
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world
for all
ucc.org

Mission Updates



In June, 25 individuals received emergency food and 18 people took showers. The Samaritan Fund provided assistance for 3 evictions and 5 utility payments.

Contributed by Michele Wilson

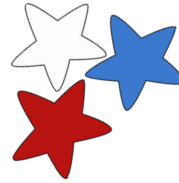
Our June Baby Sprinkle and Kids' Closet was held on June 19 and served 46 families, representing 84 children.

Contributed by Donna Benedict

Our June food pantry served 149 persons representing 352 family members. 5500 pounds of food were distributed. Sixty persons were served at our Community Dinner on June 23.

Contributed by Michele Wilson and Carl Robinson

NHL Update



The Nancy Hackworth Literacy Initiative (NHL) currently has 14 total students enrolled for 16 weekly literacy coaching sessions. These students come from Columbia, Napoleon, and St. Mary's Star of the Sea.

This summer the library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm and Saturday from 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Storytime sessions will be July 13th and July 20th at 10:30 am with the library remaining open until 2 pm.

We are accepting new students! Contact Bert Steck at 734-476-6664 for more information and application forms.

Contributed by Sara Vowler



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



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From the Pastor's Screen



Churches are like flowerbeds.

I wasn't too interested in flowers until my sons were little, and I needed things to do outside while they played. They still complain about those summers when I made them help me break up the soil and haul away the sod. I dug out every root and filled the beds with manure and peatmoss. Every week I discovered a new perennial to bring home.

Twenty-five years ago those fledgling flowerbeds looked pristine. Phlox stood straight and tall, heavy with fragrant blossoms. Daylilies and bee balm bloomed constantly. I experimented with daisies, buttercups, catmint, and clematis. I learned that some flowers could not live in my yard, where we had few trees and full sun. The hot months required constant weeding and watering.

Over the years the landscape has changed. The trees my husband planted now tower over our house, and the whole yard is plunged into shade. The lawn is turning to moss, and the phlox now grow five feet tall, searching for the sun, and produce one tiny flower on each stem. The plants that loved the sun are making way for the shade-lovers. Hostas, lamium, and ferns are taking over.

Everything looks different, and sometimes it makes me sad.

Our church looks different too. I wonder what it looked like when it was brand-new. I imagine the families who sacrificed for its construction, attending worship services with pride. It was a time of fresh soil and full sun. Over the years, maintenance replaced new growth. Sometimes division would spread like weeds that needed to be pulled. During dry seasons, new programs would be added like fertilizer. As time passed, families moved or left or died, and new faces sprang up in the pews. For those who remember years past, the new faces may feel threatening. They're not the same old faces we knew and loved.

I'm discovering that the shade flowers in my gardens have a beauty of their own. The foxgloves are glorious. The fragrance of lily-of-the-valley perfumes our spring season. Impatiens color every bare spot, and some old favorites have managed to find a place where they can get just enough sun. To our surprise, we've become a bird sanctuary! Every morning, we are greeted by joyous song.

Friends, everything changes. Let's look forward to the joyful surprises, trusting the Gardener who watches over us all.

-- Pastor Judy

The one who plants
and the one who waters
have a common purpose,
and each will receive
wages according to the
labor of each.

For we are God's
servants, working
together; you are God's
field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:8-9

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

BRING MISSION DONATIONS

VOLUNTEER TO BE AN USHER

SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

HELP WITH CLEANING

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING
FROM WORSHIP

... AND REACH OUT WITH
LOVE!

Scholarship Fund Grant Requests

The SJUCC Finance Committee is inviting Scholarship Fund grant requests. If you are interested in a grant, please send a written request using the applicable form to the St. John's UCC Finance Committee. Forms can be obtained from the church office or emailed upon request.

The committee prioritizes applicants for ministry and full-time Christian vocations, as well as those dedicated to helping humanity and caring for the sick, handicapped, and underprivileged. Here's the order of preference per our constitution if all qualifications and needs are equal:

1. Members of St. John's United Church of Christ.
2. Members of the Michigan Conference of the UCC.
3. All other Christians - including our WPC friends!

We also consider members of St. John's United Church of Christ preparing for other vocations. The highest priority is given to those preparing for ministry unless there's a greater need in another humanitarian area.

Because no grants have been awarded since October 2022, we will consider applications for those who may have been enrolled in eligible education/training programs since that time.

These are general guidelines, and we will give serious consideration to all applicants. Please complete the applicable form and submit your request to the church by Friday, August 16, 2024. Our plan is to award scholarships in September 2024.

Thank you,
Bert Steck
SJ Finance Committee Lead

Contribute Your News

Partnership Press is a contribution-based newsletter for all the organizations who reside here at Partnership Place. If you have news to share, please email your articles by the end of the month to the church office or to one of the pastors. Partnership Press will go to print during the first week of each month.



Thank you from Evelyn

Thank you all for your cards, congratulations, and well wishes at my graduation party and afterward. I am overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of love and support you have shown me. This church family has been such a blessing to me; there is nowhere I'd rather be!

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evelyn Park'.

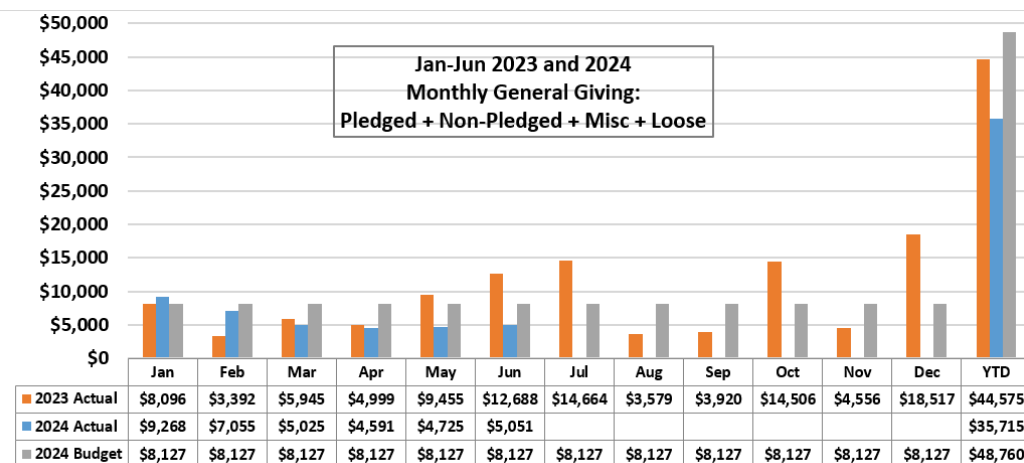
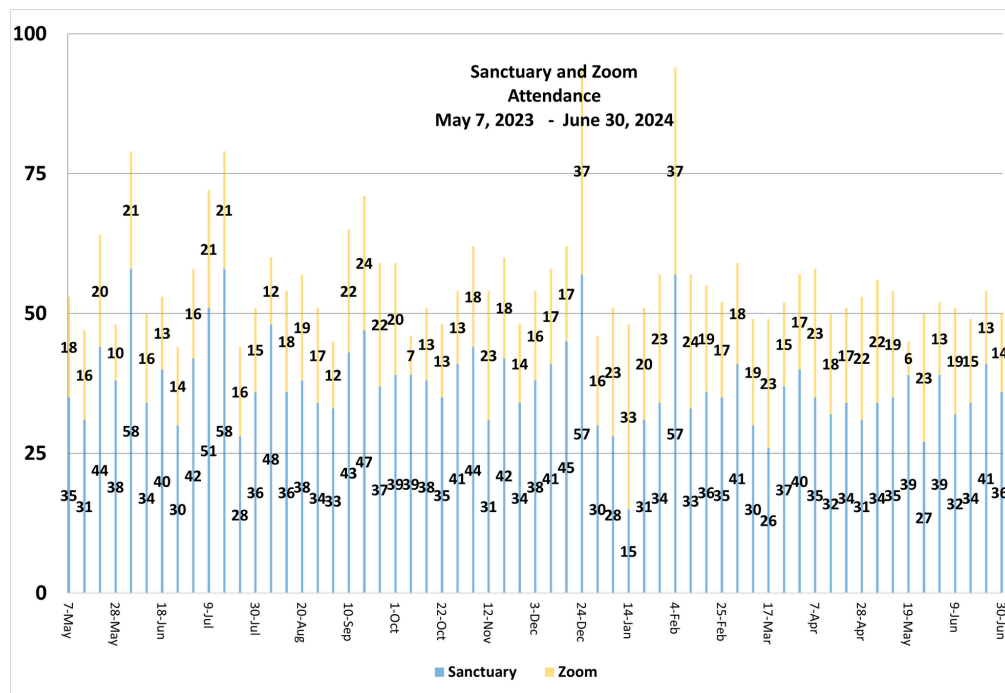
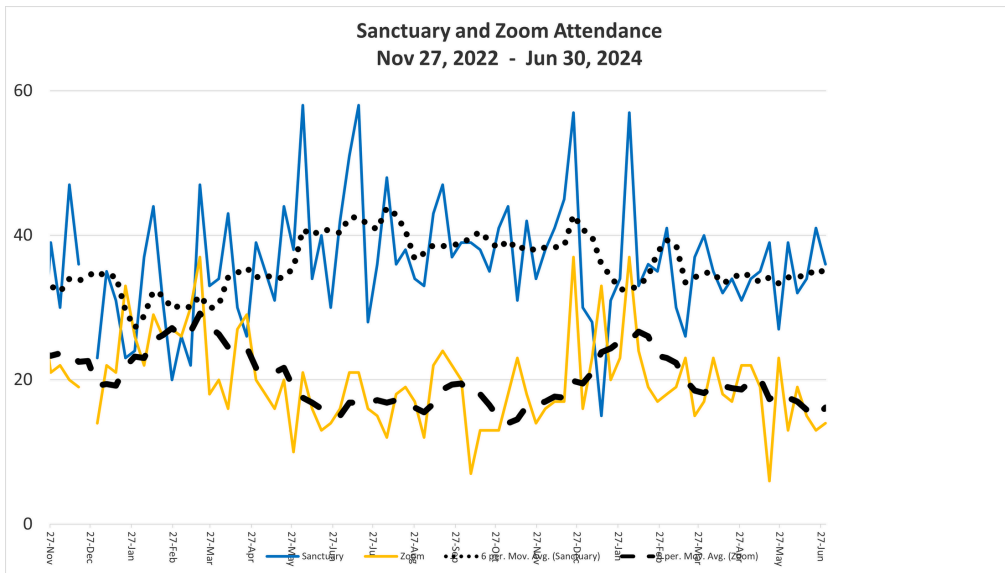
Evelyn Park
Office Administrator
evelynrosepark.com



The Community Room has new lights, and our brickwork is being repaired. It's feeling hopeful and energetic here at Partnership Place!

Attendance and Giving

Thoughtful Thinkers



Last month WPC and SJUCC contracted with Potentials Coaching and Consulting to help navigate our church collaboration. The first step was enlisting “Thought Partners” from each church who would be willing to meet with our consultants, Claire and Trace, to identify each church’s strengths, identity, values, and vision.

Bob Spiess and Bette Watkins will represent WPC, while Allen Schroeder and Michele Wilson will represent SJ.

We are moving forward with joy and intention! Our August newsletter will provide more details about the process, how it will look, and what we can expect.

Stay tuned!

SJ Charts contributed by
Bert Steck,
Financial Secretary

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