

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

AUGUST CALENDAR

AUG 4 - WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10 AM

AUG 6 - ENNEAGRAM 4 PM; CENTERING PRAYER 5 PM; POLLS OPEN

AUG 7 - CHILDREN'S HOUR @ INTERFAITH SHELTER 5:15 PM;
THOUGHT PARTNER MEETING 6 PM

AUG 11 - WORSHIP

AUG 15 - JACKSON PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY 4:30-6:30 PM

AUG 16 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12 PM

AUG 17 - MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE DOUBLE MATCH DAY AT 3333 E.
MICHIGAN AVENUE, JACKSON

AUG 18 - WORSHIP 10 AM

AUG 20 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

AUG 25 - WORSHIP 10 AM



Our consultants will be joining us early in September! Please mark your calendar for September 7 & 8, and watch for news about the special events planned for their weekend visit. See Page 6 for more information.

August 2024

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a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Mission Updates

In July, 21 individuals received emergency food and 19 people used our church showers. The Samaritan Fund provided assistance for 6 evictions and 6 utility payments.

Contributed by Michele Wilson

Our July Baby Sprinkle and Kids' Closet was held on July 19 and served 36 families, representing 74 children.

Contributed by Donna Benedict

Our July Food Pantry served 146 persons representing 378 family members. 3500 pounds of food were distributed. Fifty-two persons were served at our Community Dinner on July 23.

Contributed by Carl Robinson

Jackson Personal Care Ministry

Thirteen years ago, Westminster Presbyterian Church was looking for new mission opportunities. Church members who volunteered at Love INC were aware that although there were several food pantries in the Jackson area, there were no ministries that offered personal care products. Several churches, including St. John's United Church of Christ, joined Westminster to plan for such a ministry, and in June of 2012, we opened the doors of the Jackson Personal Care Ministry.

The ministry is housed in the First Baptist Church on the corner of Cortland and South Jackson Streets and is staffed by several churches, including St. John's and Westminster. If you are interested in learning more about the pantry, feel free to stop in any Thursday from 4:30-6:30. You can park behind First Baptist in the bank parking lot off Washington Avenue and come in through the back door.

If you would like to volunteer at the pantry, we will have a sign-up sheet at St. John's. We need three to four volunteers each week, and the volunteer duties are very easy. One person acts as a greeter at the door, one directs guests to where they will sign in, and one sits at a table and hands out bags of personal care items such as toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap and razors.

Submitted by Margo and John Fenstermaker

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Pastor Jake's Corner

"The best-laid plans of mice, men, and ministers, . . ."
". . . sometimes go to pot." There is no script for relocating a church, and certainly no timeline. Simply noting how many of you are making huge investments of time and energy into WPC's move from Ridgeway Road to Mechanic Street is an inspiration. One wonders how many things in how many cabinets and rooms have been discovered during the past four or six weeks.

Westminster PC has provided me with my first experience of beginning a pastor transition ministry at a church in the process of a physical transition across town. The usual guidelines of interim ministry do not apply.

Eight or ten or so WPC leaders have been shouldering and planning much of the move. A bit of redo has occurred when surprises have appeared. The short version of a much-longer story is that we together are on a revised program timeline. My proposal to Session last Wednesday was that we slow down the original plan for the interim work to allow the WPC relocation move to be completed, and everyone to catch their breath.

My proposal is that we begin the interim transition work following the Christmas-New Year's holidays, with a plan to complete the first two Developmental Tasks (reviewing WPC's history of pastor relationships and discovering our new identity) between New Year's and Lent. This schedule will allow us to use the Easter church-shopping window for a public hard-startup for WPC's presence at Partnership Place. Also, this schedule supports creating the Partnership's identity on the Jackson map, rather than having a limited WPC-only benefit. This timing will allow the new Partnership Place joint ministry and mission with St. John's UCC to benefit mutually from programming and publicity. Win-win on all fronts. A big win is that this timeline puts to rest any race with the clock or calendar.

Between now and New Year's, the best way to meet me at church is to schedule an appointment in advance. I will be making a focused effort to be at church sometime on Tuesday to have direct communication with Pastor Judy. That time will vary, depending on both of our calendars. My plan is to have one other half-day in the church office, Thursday being the initial goal. As the old movie line once said, "E.T., phone church." Better yet, you can call me at 596.2275 to be sure of my schedule. That hardline has a working voicemail. I am looking forward to our visits together and to our unfolding future.

Peace and joy, Jake

Where there is no
guidance,
a nation falls,
but in an abundance
of counselors
there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14



BE THE BLESSING
SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

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!

Boundary Training

Invitation from Pastor Jake

An invitation to ALL of Partnership Place has come to us from Our Presbytery of Lake Michigan. Led by Lisa Schrott and Bill Pinches, boundary training will be held on Saturday, August 24 from 9 AM to noon, beginning with breakfast at 8:30 AM at the First Presbyterian Church in Holt, Michigan.

Boundary Training equips leaders to recognize possible ethics violations and/or predators. Having such a trained corps is protection for our congregation and a great legal advantage. I have checked with The Rev. Ben Rumbaugh, who is the Committee on Ministry Liaison to WPC for the interim period, and he confirmed that officers of St. John's UCC would be very (as in enthusiastically) welcome to attend and benefit from this event.) I strongly encourage elders from both of our partnering congregations to take advantage of this helpful training (and free breakfast!). The more we network, the stronger we become.

Since this event is a freebie, it is a really good deal for us all. Please send to me your request to be placed on the attendance list from Partnership Place (SJUCC/WPC) by Sunday, August 11, about one-and-a-half weeks from now. I will create a list and send it to Holt for registering our Partnership Place group.

I will produce a MapQuest-type directions page for PP-Holt First Pres, available by email and hard-copy at church. Since 127 has bountiful construction, the route will be "alternate." 127 north is North West Street extension; the Holt exit is marked clearly, just before I-96. Directions will work for either route. The Church Address is 2021 N Aurelius Road, Holt MI 48842.

Looking forward to seeing you there!
Peace and joy, Jake k2gat1dx@yahoo.com 517.596.2275

Weekly Digest Announcements

The SJ church office sends out a weekly email of events, announcements, and meeting zoom links. If you would like to receive the Weekly Digest, please visit stjohnsjx.com and click "Get Emails" to subscribe.

Building & Ground News

The emergency brick repair for our building has been completed. Quotes for roof replacement have been collected and are being reviewed. The interior work continues with the replacement of the basement hallway lights.

Submitted by Carl Robinson

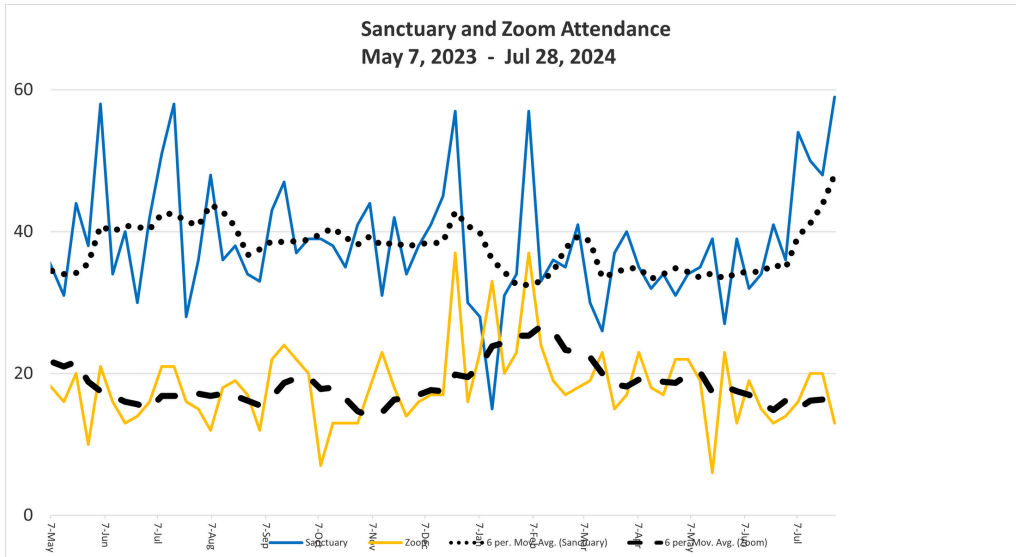


Monthly Calendar

To help keep everyone informed of our activities here at Partnership Place, the office will post a calendar in the office window showing every meeting and event scheduled for the month. If you need help remembering what is happening when, just check the posted calendar!

Attendance and SJ Giving

From the Pastor's Screen



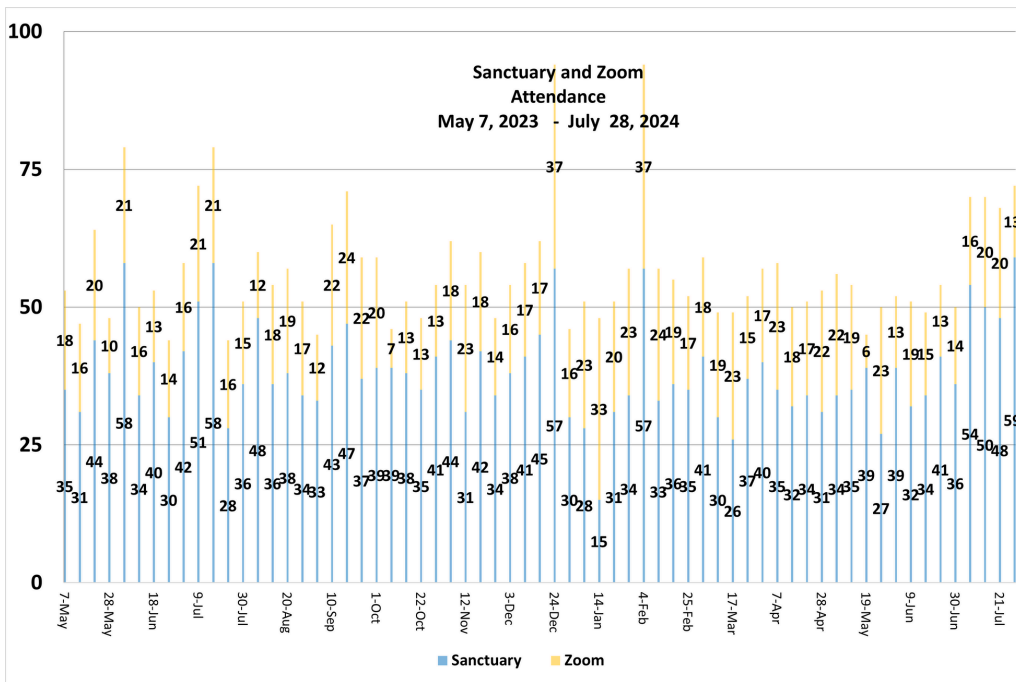
Close your eyes. Breathe in. Pause. Breathe out. Take a minute, take a break, take time.

You're doing great!

I am beyond proud of our two congregations. You have cooperated, organized, compromised, shared, sorted, cleaned, and moved. You've had meaningful conversations and endured long meetings. Through it all you've been joyful, hopeful, energetic, and filled with grace. You've remained both curious and accommodating, and I cannot remember a time when my heart was so full.

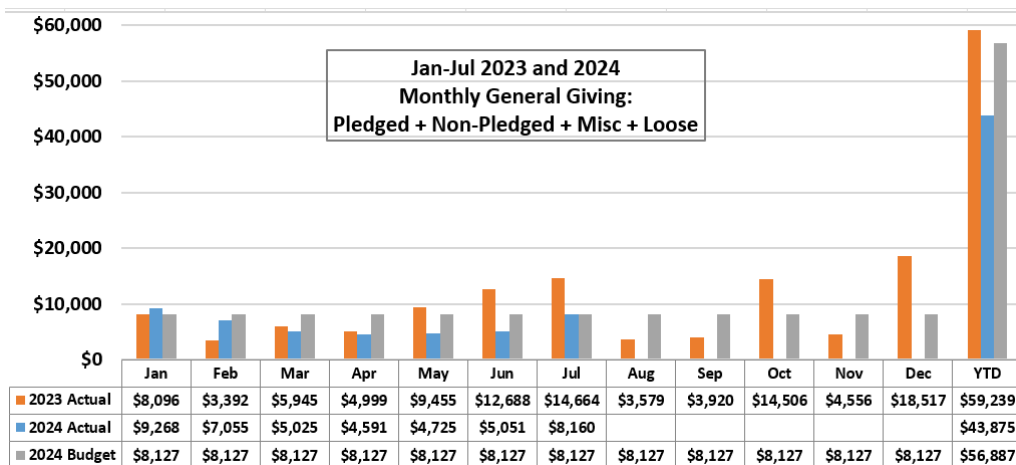
You are the Body of Christ.

Whether you've been the working hands, the weight-bearing back, the running feet, the compassionate heart, or some other unmentionable delicate part, you are all serving as the Body of Christ.



Thank you. Thank you for showing a divided world that there is hope for a united future. Thank you for displaying the acceptance we proclaim. Thank you for hanging on through all the bumps and curves to come.

Wrap your arms around yourself as best you can and squeeze. You are loved! You are here for a purpose. You are the joy of my heart.



SJ Charts contributed by Bert Steck,
Financial Secretary

Much Love,
Judy



Scholarship Application

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 is 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 is 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; we will give serious consideration to all applicants.

Please complete the application 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 (734-476-6664) Finance Committee Lead

“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



Potentials Consulting

In September we will meet with our consultants on-site. Claire Bamberg (UCC) and Trace Haythorn (PCUSA) will spend Saturday and Sunday, September 7 and 8, here at Partnership Place.

Claire is the founder of Potentials Coaching and Consulting. She and Trace have worked with many congregations who have partnered together in worship and mission. They will help us envision what kind of church we want to become and plan out the steps needed to achieve our goal.

We are grateful to the national UCC for the \$5,000 Genesis Grant award which provides funding for this unique undertaking.

Please plan to be present during this important weekend!

Meijer Simply Give

Support the Partnership Place Food Pantry

Each year the food pantry at Partnership Place receives approximately \$5,000 from the Meijer Simply Give program. This program supplies food pantries in communities across the Midwest.

You can support our Food Pantry by taking a card from the display in the Fellowship Room. Purchase it for \$10 or more at the Meijer location on East Michigan in Jackson. Our food pantry will receive the donation.

Meijer is offering **Double Match Days** on Saturday, August 17 and Saturday, September 14. For every \$10 card you purchase, Meijer will match it, so your gift will earn double for our Food Pantry.

This program runs from June 30 to September 28. Thank you for your support!



Kitchen Clean-up

The Partnership Place kitchen has been cleaned, and the WPC dishes/kitchen items have been merged with those of SJ. Many thanks to Carl, Janet, Kathy, & Libby for all of their hard work in moving unneeded items to the Community Room, washing out cupboards and drawers, returning items to cupboards and drawers, and labeling! Some items may not be where you are accustomed to finding them, so please check out the labels on doors and drawers to help you locate things.

The surplus items in the Community Room are available to anyone until August 15. Remaining items will be set out for those attending the Food Pantry and Community Dinner in August.

Submitted by Bette Watkins



Diaper Drive in August

We need diapers! Every month we provide diapers to families in need. One package of diapers and baby wipes are provided per child to every family.

The Baby Sprinkle program here at Partnership Place is running low on diapers sized 4, 5, and 6, and we always need baby wipes.

Our monthly cost for diapers is nearly \$700. Financial contributions are always welcome; mark your donation "Diaper Drive." Please bring your monetary or diaper donations to church each Sunday in August.

Let's restock our Baby Sprinkle supply!



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Affix Address
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a just
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Love God ♥ Love People ♥ Serve Both

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