

PARTNERSHIP PRESS



@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

OCTOBER CALENDAR

OCT 6 - WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

OCT 9 - WPC SESSION 5 PM; SJUCC COUNCIL 5:30 PM

OCT 13 - WORSHIP 10 AM; JACKSON CROP WALK 1 PM

OCT 16, 30 - INTERFAITH CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM

OCT 17 - JACKSON PERSONAL CARE 4:30 - 6:30 PM

OCT 18 - FOOD PANTRY, BABY SPRINKLES & KIDS' CLOSET
10 AM -12 NOON

OCT 19 -- POTLUCK & MOVIE 5-8 PM

OCT 22 - WORSHIP MEETING 4 PM; COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

OCT 26 - COMMUNITY DANCE 7 - 9 PM

OCT 31 -- TRUNK-OR-TREAT 5:30-8PM



Trunk-or-Treat October 31

Our first annual Partnership Place Trunk-or-Treat will be Thursday, October 31 in our parking lot. Adults are invited to dress up, bring candy and games for the kids, decorate your trunk, and have fun! Please arrive no later than 5:30 PM so we can get the cars parked before the kids arrive. Candy donations are welcomed -- so if you can't attend, you can participate by bringing wrapped candy to church throughout the month so we have plenty to share.

October 2024

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a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Mission Updates

Our **September Food Pantry** served 156 persons representing 396 family members. 2800 pounds of food were distributed. Forty-six persons were served at our Community Dinner on September 24.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our September **Baby Sprinkle and Kids' Closet** was held on September 20 and served 46 families, representing 75 children. Additional families were served throughout the month.

- Contributed by Donna Benedict

In September, 6 individuals received emergency food and 10 unhoused people used our church showers (many thanks to Kate Turner, chief towel washer). The **Samaritan Fund** provided assistance for 2 evictions and 7 utility payments. In addition, eight children were served at the **Interfaith Shelter** kids' activities.

- Contributed by Michele Wilson

In September, the **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 258 guests.

- Contributed by Margo and John Fenstermaker

Through September 2024, the **Nancy Hackworth Library and Literacy Initiative** has provided 321 literacy coaching sessions! We are making a difference.

- Yours for literacy - Bert Steck



Scholarships Awarded Sept. 29

Scholarships were awarded to Sara Vowler, Randy Vowler, Noah Wood, Akaysha Dempsey-Owens, Kate Turner, and Evelyn Park. Congratulations, students! Many thanks to our scholarship team: Harry Wilson, Gene Johnson, and Bert Steck for sifting through the applications.

How to Contact us

To receive the Weekly Digest, please visit stjohnsjx.com and click "Get Emails" to subscribe.

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From the Pastor's Screen



SPIDER STICK

I love this time of year, especially early morning walks with my dogs, except for one small thing: Spider webs.

Imagine a beautiful, wooded path with two energetic dogs bounding ahead of you. The early dawn sky is heavy with gray clouds, and the air is still and cool. You walk along, enjoying the beauty of nature ... when suddenly you faceplant directly into a spider web stretching invisibly across the path. Your body reacts before your brain does. You frantically dance around, trying to get the webs - and the spider - off your face, hair, and clothes. Ugh!

When I told my son about the spider webs, he said, "Just carry a spider stick." A spider stick?

A spider stick is a long branch that is thin enough to carry easily. I wave the stick in front of me as I walk, and the stick gathers the spider webs before my hair does. Sometimes I have my spider stick in one hand and a flashlight in the other for those predawn and late-night walks. It has saved me from many sticky entanglements.

It works so well I'm wondering why we don't have spider sticks for all the hardships of life that surprise us. Wouldn't it be handy to have an early warning system that trouble is ahead -- before you're pulling webs out of your eyelashes?

Over the past several weeks I've walked into plenty of webs -- spider and otherwise. I was surprised to find I had two "spider sticks" ready to help: Claire Bamberg and Trace Hayworth. Our consultants found me tangled in webs more than once and carefully set me free. They will soon be sharing their recommendations with our congregations, and with their guidance we will begin to carefully unwind from ideas and plans that were just too sticky.

These "spider sticks" will help us avoid unwanted surprises. I hope you will embrace their proposals and wield them into our future.

Let's stick together!



- Pastor Judy

Halloween Costumes Available

The Baby Sprinkles ministry has been collecting children's Halloween costumes. Costumes will be available for those in need on Friday, October 18 from 10 AM to 12 PM. If you would like to help with this event, please contact the church office.



Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor. 3:17 NRSV



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

SIGN UP TO DRIVE THE VAN

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING
FROM WORSHIP

... AND REACH OUT WITH
LOVE!



Jake says “Bible study is about to happen!”

The Bible Study Leadership Survey results are in. The overwhelming choice was Adam Hamilton’s book, Why?

We will discuss, “Why do the innocent suffer,” “Why do my prayers go unanswered?” “Why is God’s will so hard to understand.” (back cover summary) Scot McKnight, author of *A Community Called Atonement*, writes, “For me, the one thoughtful pastor who offers wisdom for our deepest questions is Adam Hamilton. This book is a rare gift and the kind of book that needs to be close at hand for all Christians.”

Why? is a four-session study, so our fall event will be quite short. The meeting time frame will be forty-five minutes to one hour, depending on our discussion.

Registration pages will be available at our church this coming Sunday. I will be ordering books in two weeks and announcing our preferred meeting time. Will you please complete a registration form at church or contact me at k2gat@yahoo.com or **517.596.2275**? I will order our books on Monday morning, October 14. Participants’ books are ten dollars, if you are comfortable to reimburse the church.

Looking forward to great times together! Happy week, Jake

Fun Fellowship Ahead!



October 19: **Potluck** (5 PM) & **Movie** (6 PM) at Partnership Place.

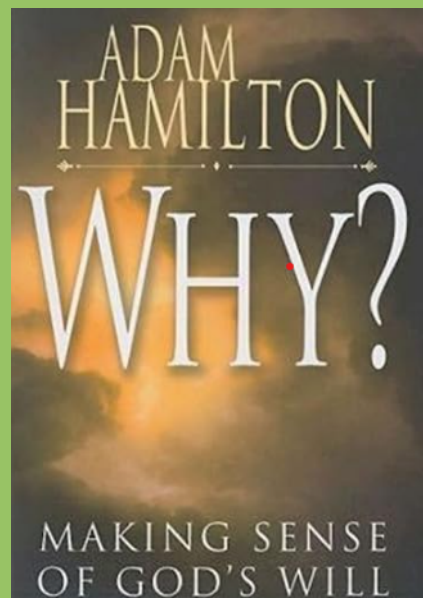
November 9: **Game Time** from 4-6PM! Bring some games and a snack-type finger food to share. Meet in the Community Room.

November 13 (Wednesday): **Sauerkraut Supper** fundraiser. More info will be coming from the sauerkraut supper planning team.

December 14: **Bunco** comes to Partnership Place! 4 PM in the Community Room. Bring a snack-type finger food to share.

Mark your calendars for the fall fellowship activities! Sign-up sheets will be out in the Fellowship room behind the sanctuary (signing up helps us with our planning and set-up).

- Contributed by Bette Watkins



Love, INC. Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for Love INC’s fundraiser on Saturday, October 12.

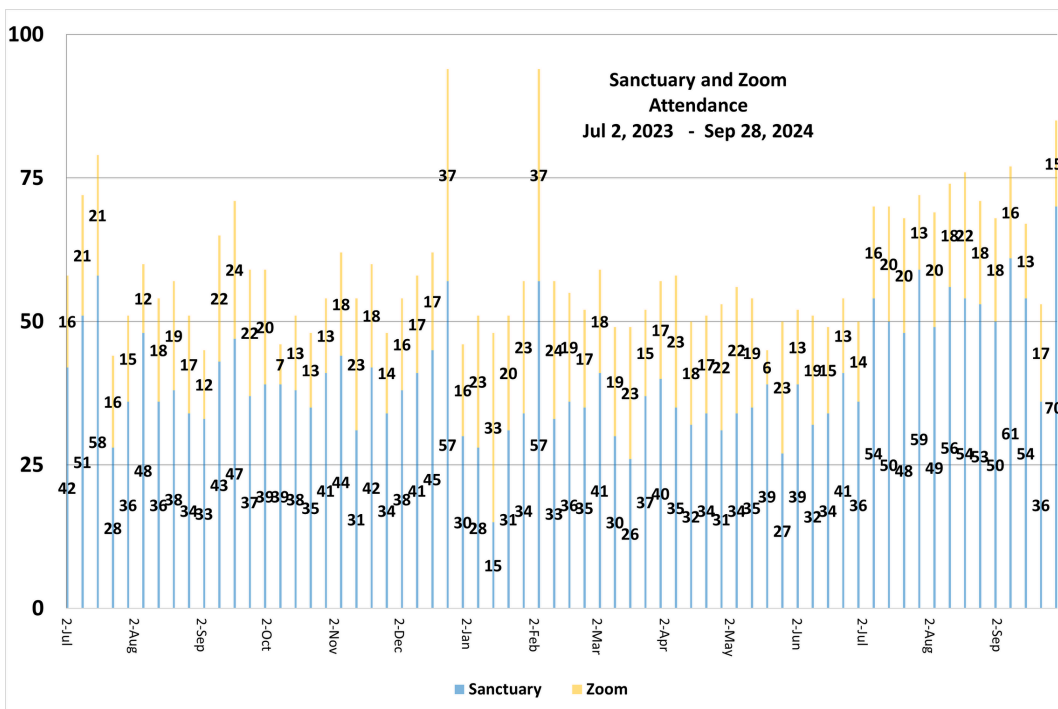
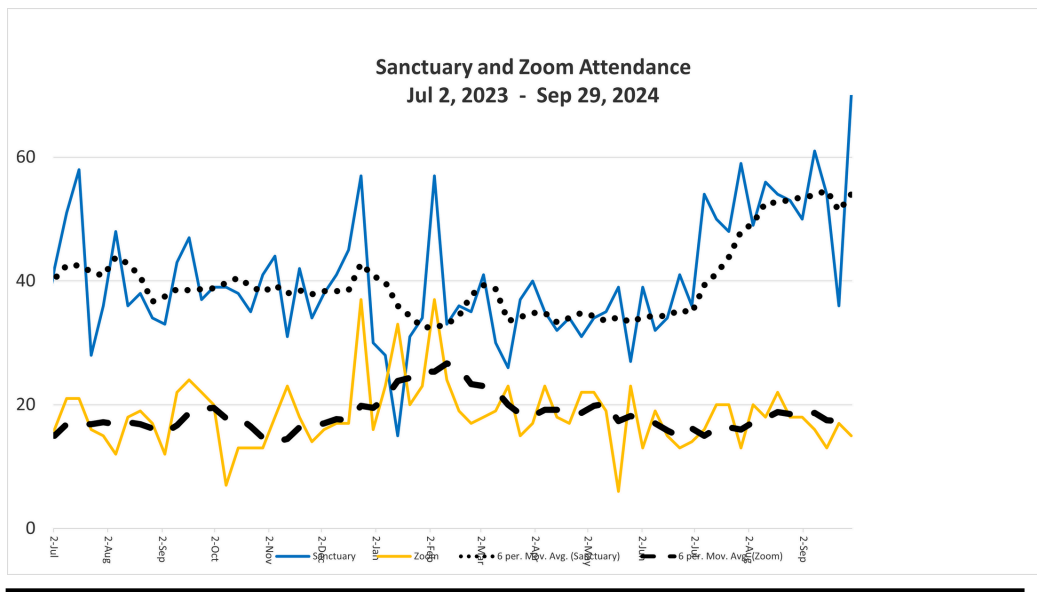
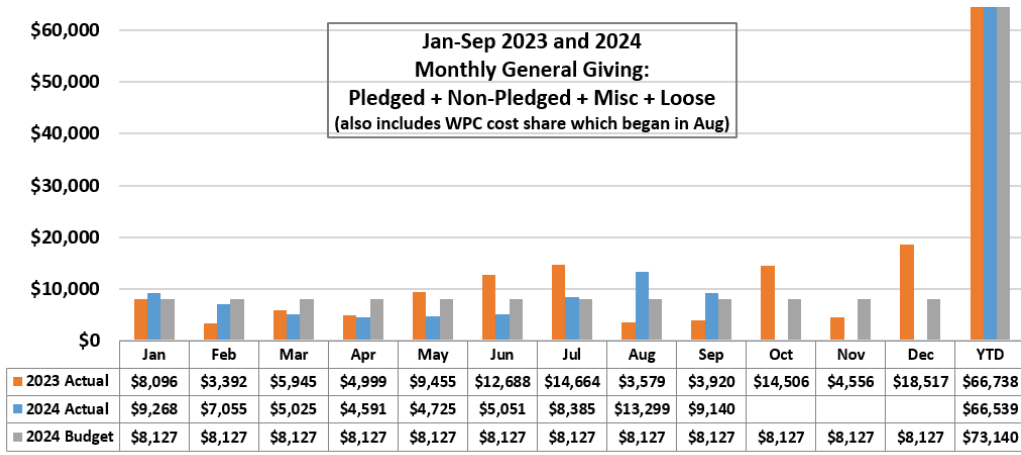
“Love in the name of Christ” helps residents obtain ID cards and birth records, household items, bus fare, utility assistance and more.

The fundraiser will be held at Grace Church, 2692 Dettman Road, Jackson. Doors open at 4:30 PM, with dinner served at 5:15 PM and the auction at 6 PM. Rev. Ed Ross will be the auctioneer.

For more information, please see Pat Baumgartner.



Financials & Attendance



Contributed by Bert Steck, SJ Financial Secretary

Thank you

A huge thank you to the joint nurture team and everyone who helped with preparations, set up, serving, and clean up for our September 8th lunch and round-table discussions!

All of this help allowed the event to run smoothly, and the kitchen and community room were cleaned up afterwards. "Many hands make light work" is so true!

- Contributed by Bette Watkins



Our consultants, Trace Hayworth and Claire Bamberg (center), with our Thought Partners: Michele Wilson, Bette Watkins, Allen Schroeder, and Bob Spiess



Harry Wilson, Dawn Depner, and Michele Wilson raise funds at Culver's for the Jackson CROP Walk.

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