

# PARTNERSHIP PRESS



@Partnership Place



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**St. John's**  
United Church of Christ

## *NOVEMBER CALENDAR*

NOV 3 - ALL SAINTS DAY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

NOV 4, 11 - STAFFING MEETING 5 PM ZOOM

NOV 5 - ELECTION DAY, POLLS OPEN ALL DAY.  
ELECTION DAY COMMUNION SERVICE 6 PM FIRST BAPTIST

NOV 6, 27 - INTERFAITH CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM

NOV 9 - GAME NIGHT 4-6 PM; BRING SNACKS TO SHARE

NOV 10, 17, 24 - WHY? BOOK STUDY 11:30 AM PRAYER ROOM

NOV 13 - SAUERKRAUT SUPPER 5:30 PM; CALVARY BRASS 6:30 PM

NOV 16 - SANTA'S EARLY WORKSHOP 1-4 PM

NOV 15 - THOUGHT PARTNERS MEET WITH REV. LAWRENCE  
RICHARDSON AND REV. KRISTIN STROBLE VIA ZOOM

NOV 20 - UNICAMERAL JOINT WITNESS BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM

NOV 21 - JACKSON PERSONAL CARE 4:30 - 6:30 PM

NOV 22 - FOOD PANTRY, BABY SPRINKLES & KIDS' CLOSET  
10 AM -12 NOON

NOV 24 - ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOV 26 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

NOV 28 - THANKSGIVING DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

NOV 30 - COMMUNITY DANCE 7 - 9 PM

## November 2024

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a just  
world  
for all  
[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

# Mission Updates

Our **October Food Pantry** served 144 persons representing 373 family members. 4000 pounds of food were distributed. Seventy persons were served at our Community Dinner on October 22.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our October **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 October, 13 individuals received emergency food, and 14 unhoused people used our church showers. The **Samaritan Fund** provided assistance for 2 evictions and 1 utility payment. In addition, 9 children were served at the **Interfaith Shelter** kids' activities. Fourteen members participated in the **Crop Walk**, walking in Nebraska, Jackson, and Ionia, and raising \$843. Three members also participated at Culver's Crop Walk event, raising an additional \$564.

- Contributed by Michele Wilson and Cindy Osborne

During the first four Thursdays of October, the **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 276 guests.

- Contributed by Margo and John Fenstermaker

## Santa's Early Workshop

Our Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet team is happy to announce a toy giveaway. On Saturday, November 16, from 1-4 PM all the toys that have been collected over the past several months will be available for families in need -- just before the gift-giving season.

Toys for infants to toddler ages, clean and in working order, new and gently-used will be displayed in the Community Room for parents and grandparents. If you would like to help with this project, please contact our church office or text Judy at 260-668-9173.



## How to Contact us

To receive the Weekly Digest, please visit [stjohnsjx.com](http://stjohnsjx.com) and click "Get Emails" to subscribe.

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# From the Pastor's Screen

## SAIL AWAY

What's your favorite kind of boat? Some of us like cruise ships, and some like rowboats. Some hoist the sails, while others start up the engine. My favorite is probably the kayak, especially when the day is crisp and the water cool.

When I met with Rev. Ben Rumbaugh, a member of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, he noticed how often I used a boat illustration when I described our church. "We were a cruise ship at one time," I told him. "Now we're more like the SS Minnow." With our smaller size, we no longer need porters, waiters, and deckhands. If we pretend to be a cruise ship, it feels like we're dragging an anchor.

Rev. Ben asked, "Are you more like a sailboat or a rowboat?" The difference, according to author Joan Gray, is our attitude. A rowboat describes most churches. We power through by our own strength. We often feel exhausted as we try to fix every problem. We tend to think "if only we had ..." A youth group? A Sunday School class? The benefit of all that rowing is that we remain in control. We may not move far nor fast, but we are the captains of this vessel.

A sailboat describes a new kind of church. There's no rowing, no striving, and little control. We hoist the sail, and the Spirit of God moves us where God wants us to be. It's an easier ride, if we can live in the tension of not knowing all the answers ... if we can live with uncertainty while we trust in God ... if we will listen carefully to the Spirit. What is God saying to our church?

Maybe, for a moment, we can lift the oars from the water. Breathe in, breathe out. There is still so much work to be done, but first, let's wonder -- how will we move with a sail instead of oars? Can we depend upon the Breath of Life to move us? Let's take a moment to enjoy the beauty of gliding on the Living Water.


Feel that breeze?

Pastor Judy

## Hangings of the Greens



It's almost Advent! On Sunday, December 1, we will celebrate the hanging of the greens during our morning worship service, with an all-church potluck to follow. Plan to be here for a warm and beautiful beginning to our Christmas season together.



For all who are led by  
the Spirit of God are  
children of God.

Romans 8:14 NRSV

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE!

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

PLEDGE YOUR GIFTS FOR  
2025

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!



## *Why? Book Study*

On November 10 we will begin our book study “Why?” We will discuss the following in four sessions: Why do the innocent suffer? Why do my prayers go unanswered? Why can’t I see God’s will for my life? We will learn about the ultimate “why” -- why God’s love prevails. Pat Baumgartner and Pastor Judy will lead this study.

Books cost around \$10. The Kindle version is around \$4. We will meet on November 10, 17, 24, and December 8 at 11:30 AM. Get your coffee hour snacks and join us in the prayer room for some great conversation.

## *Partnership Questions?*

The recommendations from our consultants have been emailed and mailed, and paper copies are available. Everyone will have access to the Joint Witness Agreement, the recommendations, and the first round of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s).

We expect more questions to arise once everyone has time to review the documents, and we want each question to be answered. To keep everyone informed, we have created a new email address just for Partnership questions: [jointwitnessproject@gmail.com](mailto:jointwitnessproject@gmail.com).

Our consultants will answer all questions, and updated versions of the FAQs will be released bi-monthly.

## *Fall Fellowship Ahead*

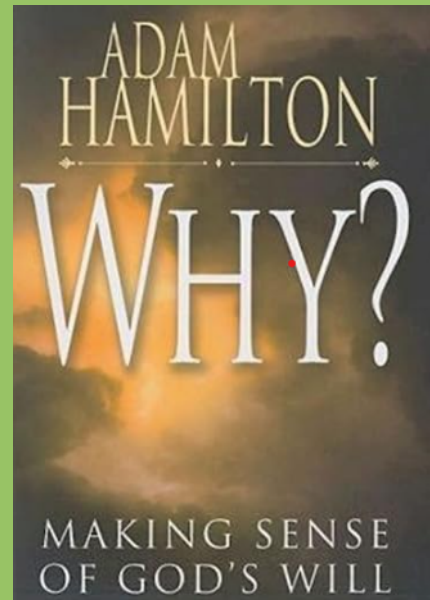
November 9: **Game Time** from 4-6PM. Bring some games and a snack-type finger food to share. Meet in the Community Room.

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 are in the Community Room. Signing up helps us with our planning and set-up.

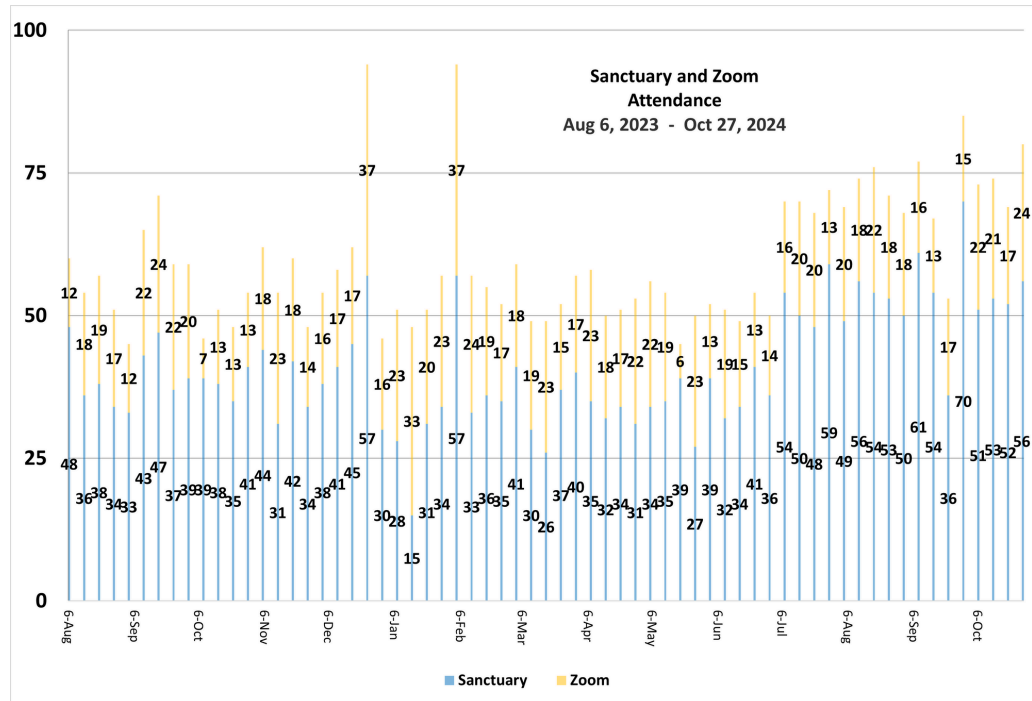
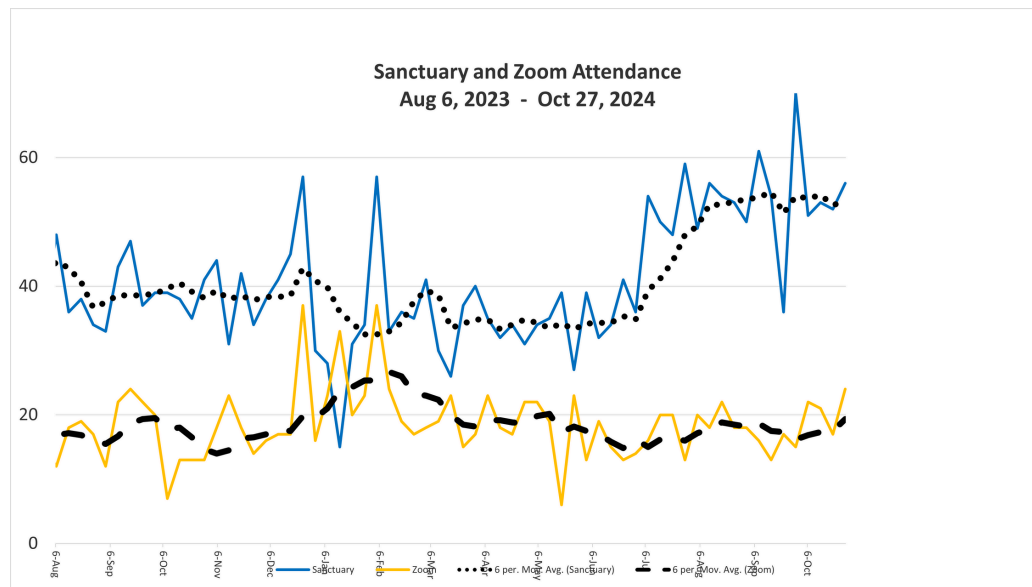
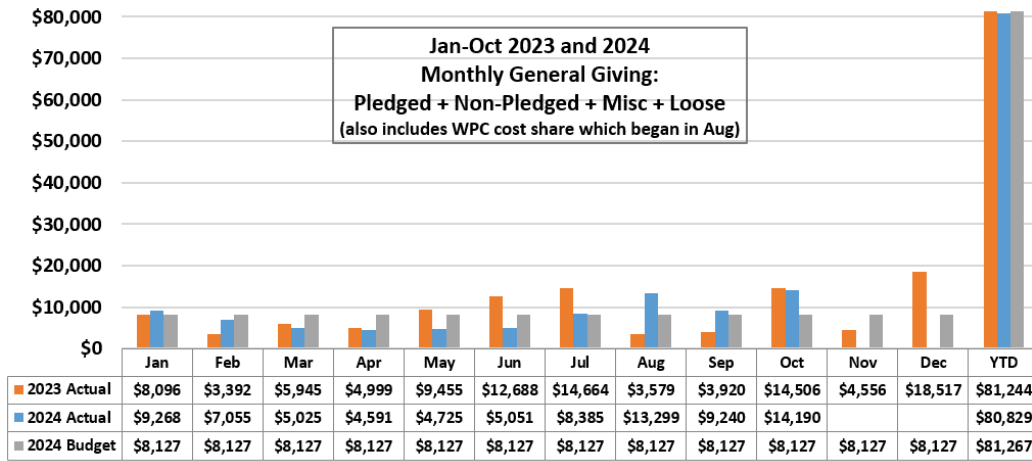
- Contributed by Bette Watkins



## *Winter Warmth Ministry*

We are collecting warm hats, scarves, mittens, and socks for our outdoor clothesline. Each week these necessary items are clipped to the clothesline, so those in need can help themselves. We appreciate and depend upon your donations. Please bring some winter warmth to the church office!

# Financials & Attendance



Contributed by Bert Steck, SJ Financial Secretary

# Pastor's Wish List

All I want for Christmas ... is **Somebody!**

**Somebody** to organize the Prayer Chain for our congregations' prayer needs via email, text, or phone.

**Somebody** to serve as Administrator of the Samaritan Fund (must have computer skills) to assist community members with eviction and utility shutoff notices.

**Somebody** to schedule Zoom and on-site greeters, ushers, acolytes (candle lighters), and coffee hour for each Sunday.

Are you **Somebody**? If you can help, send a text to 260-668-9173 or email to [pastor@stjohnsjx.com](mailto:pastor@stjohnsjx.com).

- Judy



Our Nebraska Crop Walking team: Emily, John, and Jonah Trantum, and Michele Wilson with Darren, Rachael and Jamie Hubbard. They bravely walked in the beautiful weather!

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