

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

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WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 – HANGING OF THE GREENS; POTLUCK DINNER
- 4, 18 – INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM
- 5 – UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING 12 NOON
- 8 – “WHY?” BOOK STUDY 11:30 AM
- 9 – MISSION MEETING 10 AM
- 10 – WELCOMING COMMITTEE MEETING 5:30 PM
- 11 – SJUCC COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM
- 14 – BUNCO GAME NIGHT 4 PM
- 15 – ST. JOHN'S UCC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:15 AM
- 17 – CAROLING AT JACKSON MEDICAL CARE FACILITY 2:30 PM
- 19 – CENTERING PRAYER MEETING IN THE SANCTUARY 5 PM
- 20 – FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM TO 12 NOON
- 21 - COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DANCE 7-9 PM
- 22 – BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 7 PM
- 24 – COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM; CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7 PM



December 2024

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Mission Updates

Our **November Food Pantry** served 185 persons representing 456 family members. 4300 pounds of food were distributed. Forty-six persons were served at our Community Dinner on November 26.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

At **Santa's Early Workshop**, we had a fun toy give away November 16 providing toys to 42 children. We were prepared for more children. We shared some toys with the Priceless Toy Store and also gave out toys at the November **Baby Sprinkle**. This was the largest turnout for the Baby Sprinkle yet. We served 72 families, gave out 97 packs of diapers and provided 3 outfits of clothing as well as toys to 162 children. It was fun for parents, workers and especially for the children who attended. Thanks so much to all the volunteers and donors! Since this mission has continued to grow, we need donations of diapers size 3, 4, 5, and 6 and also wipes. Thank you!

- Contributed by Donna Benedict

The **Samaritan Fund** provided assistance for 2 evictions and 2 utility payments in November. 16 individuals received emergency food, and 10 unhoused people used our church showers.

- Contributed by Michele Wilson

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 265 guests during the month of November (this number includes the last week of October.)

- Contributed by Margo and John Fenstermaker

Jackson Interfaith Shelter

Saturday, November 23rd was the 50th Celebration Dinner and program for the Jackson Interfaith Shelter. The theme was "Celebrating the Past, Cultivating the Future". Founded by Beverly Garges in 1974, its first location on E. Michigan, to the current location on S. Blackstone, was made possible by the community of Jackson. St. John's UCC was an early supporter of Interfaith Shelter and continues today along with Westminster Presbyterian. Their current project is to build a large two-story shelter to house traditional and non-traditional families. It was inspiring to hear about all who partner with the shelter and once again how the community is making it possible for Interfaith Shelter to continue God's work.

- Contributed by Cindy Osborne

On November 27 under the leadership of Dawn Depner, WPC and St. John's served a meal and provided a worship service for the Jackson Interfaith Shelter residents. Many thanks to Dawn for continuing this important ministry. In addition, 10 children were served at the Interfaith Shelter kids' activities during the month of November; thanks to Cindy Osborne and Michele Wilson for this ministry.

How to Contact us

To receive the Zoom link for Sunday services, please visit stjohnsjx.com and click "Get Emails" to subscribe. You will receive the Partnership Place Weekly Digest with the Zoom link and more.



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*Allen Schroeder, Kate Turner,
Joe Turner, Cindy Osborne,
Harry Wilson and Michele
Wilson at the Interfaith
50th Anniversary Event.*

From the Pastor's Screen

REST AND REFRESH

Thank you all for the shower of cards and good wishes during the month of November. You are a blessing to me!

This Advent season, let's slow down. Let's get refreshed, enjoy the days we have, and keep our focus on Christ. The work will get done - maybe not today. And that's okay. Much love, Pastor Judy



Trunk or Treat fun on October 31. 228 children received treats.



At our first annual Trunk or Treat on October 31, 228 kids received treats. It was a fun evening and great to see all the kids. Thank you to everyone who participated and for the generous donations of candy. Thank you also to Cindy Osborne for this wonderful idea!

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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

PLEDGE GIFTS FOR 2025

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

SIGN UP TO BE A GREETER

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING, AND REACH OUT WITH LOVE!



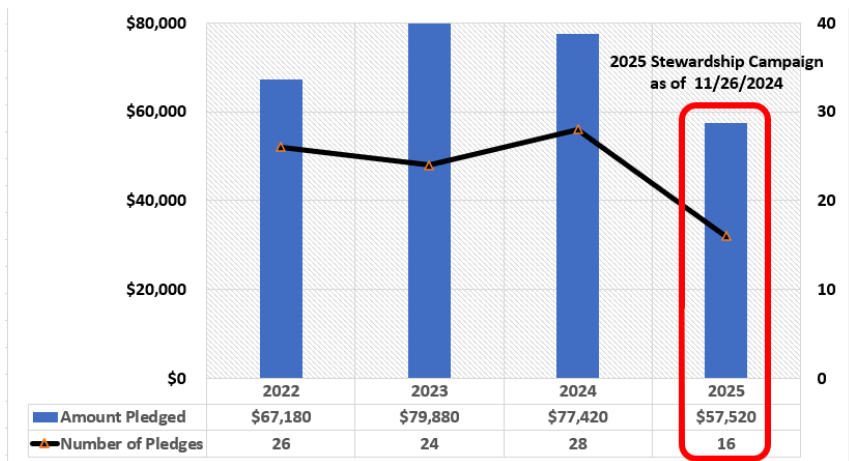
The Calvary Brass performs following the Sauerkraut Supper on Nov 13.

Poinsettia Orders

Please order poinsettias by December 8. The cost is \$12 each, with color choices of red, white, and pink. Order forms are available at the church office.



SJUCC Stewardship Update



Dear St. John's UCC Friends,

As we wrap up November and head into December, we want to thank everyone who has already pledged to the 2025 Stewardship Campaign. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

So far, we've received 16 pledges totaling about \$57,000. Last year, we reached 28 pledges totaling about \$74,000. As we begin planning for 2025, your continued support is crucial. If you're able, please consider making a pledge. Every dollar helps as St. John's continues making a difference. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Blessings, Bert Steck, SJUCC Financial Secretary/Finance Team Lead

Meijer Simply Give

Thank you to all who participated in the Meijer Simply Give fundraiser. We will receive \$1,480 from Meijer for the food pantry.

Also, thank you to all who contributed to the Emergency Food Pantry.



Nancy Hackworth Literacy Update

The Nancy Hackworth Literacy Initiative (NHL) keeps on growing. We've added a new tutor, Cindy Spiess, and two new students. Additionally, in January, the NHL will provide literacy enhancement events for Head Start Preschool. We want to encourage members of the church to get involved with us! If you have any family members or friends interested in visiting the library, please inquire at the church office to schedule a time. --Contributed by Sara Vowler

Endorsement from Julie H., mom of NHL student Paige H:
 "This year my daughter has improved two grade levels ... The NHL experience has exceeded my expectations!"

Literacy Coaching Sessions Provided Thru Nov 2024

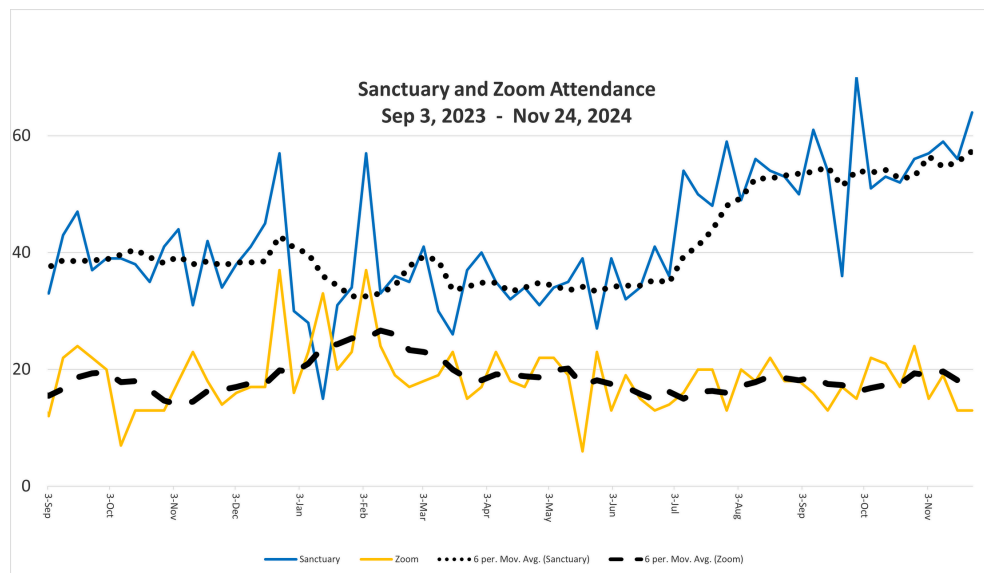
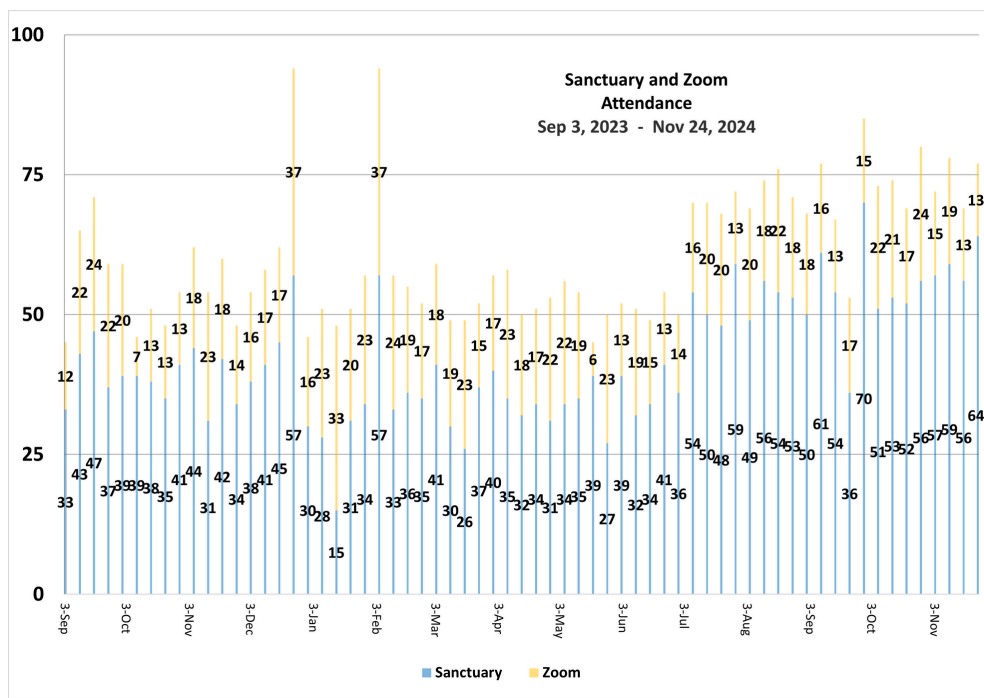
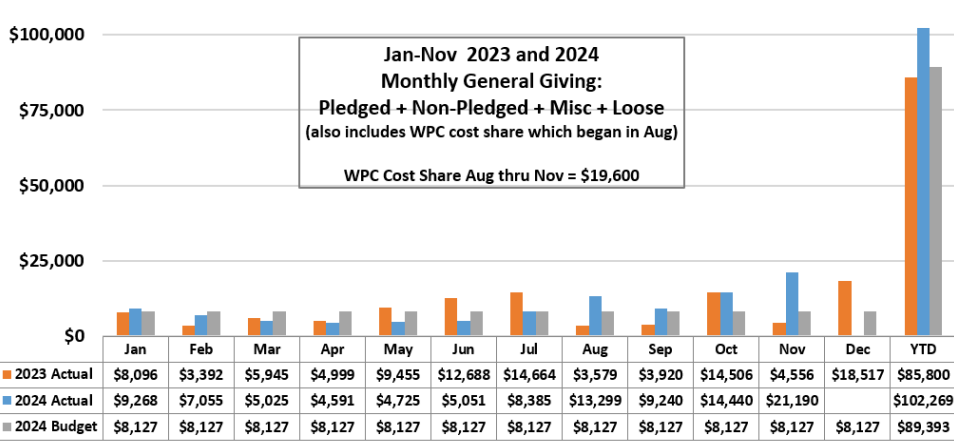


Winter Warmth Ministry

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



Get Centered

Close your eyes, take a deep breath, hold, release. Let go of the holiday busyness ... and embrace Advent holiness.

Centering Prayer is a silent prayer time that creates space for stillness. This month we will meet on Thursday, December 19, at 5 PM in the sanctuary. After a time of discussion, we will light candles and sit in silent contemplation for 30 minutes, using a centering phrase or image. It won't be exciting, but it will be grounding and peaceful. Join us!



Come to me,
all you who
are weary
and burdened,
and I will give you
rest.

Matthew 11:28

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