

# PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## February 2025

### *IN THIS ISSUE*

- February Calendar
- Mission Updates
- Contact Information
- Hearts of Love
- Poetry Selection
- Red Cards
- New Website
- Active Living
- Sunday School
- Winter Warmth
- Attendance/Giving
- Partnership FAQs
- Ridgeway Update
- Session Notes



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

### *FEBRUARY CALENDAR*

- 4- WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4PM
- 5- YARNS AND CRAFTS 10AM-12PM & JACKSON INTERFAITH KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15-6PM
- 8 - JOHNNIE E. JOHNSON MEMORIAL SERVICE 1 PM
- 9- SOUPER SUNDAY CROCKPOT POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP
- 11- NURTURE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10AM & WELCOMING MEETING AT 5PM
- 12- YARNS & CRAFTS 10AM-12PM & UCC COUNCIL MEETING 5:30PM
- 19- YARNS AND CRAFTS 10AM-12PM & JACKSON INTERFAITH KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15-6PM
- 20- PERSONAL CARE PANTRY 4:30PM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
- 21- FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM
- 22- VALENTINES DANCE 7-9PM
- 25- UNITED CENTER FOR CARING MEETING AT 12PM & COMMUNITY DINNER AT 6PM
- 26- YARNS AND CRAFTS 10AM-12PM



## Mission Updates

Our **January Food Pantry** served 115 persons representing 256 family members. 4500 pounds of food were distributed. The Community Dinner was canceled due to extreme cold weather.  
- Contributed by Carl Robinson

At the January **Baby Sprinkle**, we served 39 families and 58 children. We continue to welcome donations of diapers size 4, 5, and 6, baby wipes, and children's clothing size 2 through 6.  
Thank you!  
- Contributed by Donna Benedict

The **Samaritan Fund** provided assistance for 1 utility payment in January. Twelve individuals received emergency food, and 4 unhoused people used our church showers. We still need someone to serve as administrator of this important mission. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Evelyn Park in the office.  
- Contributed by Michele Wilson

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 296 guests during the month of January. If you would like to help with this worthwhile ministry, please let us know at [jfense@icloud.com](mailto:jfense@icloud.com).  
- Contributed by Margo and John Fenstermaker

The **Community Dance** was attended by 201 persons from our community! Many thanks to Linda Miller and her team for their tremendous outreach. The Valentine Dance will be Saturday, February 22 from 7 - 9 PM. Donations are always welcome.

## Hearts of Love

Our February outreach project, Hearts of Love, invites you to perform both random and intentional acts of kindness throughout the month and share them with the congregation. Describe your loving actions on the individual cut-out hearts and place them on the ficus tree in the fellowship room. Each week, participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences during worship. Let us show our love for God and our community by filling our tree with Hearts of Love.

- Contributed by Kathy Johns



## Contact Information

To receive the Zoom link for Sunday services, please visit [partnership.place](http://partnership.place) and click "Subscribe". You will receive the Partnership Place Weekly Digest with the Zoom link.



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Friends Ann and John at the January dance

Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

[kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com](mailto:kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com)

# What Comes Next

BY ROSEMERRY WAHTOLA TROMMER

Love relentlessly, she said,  
and I want to slip these two words  
into every cell in my body, not the sound  
of the words, but the truth of them,  
the vital, essential need for them,  
until relentless love becomes  
a cytoplasmic imperative,  
the basic building block for every action.  
Because anger makes a body clench.  
Because fear invokes cowering, shrinking, shock.  
I know the impulse to run, to turn fist, to hurt back.  
I know, too, the warmth of cell-deep love—  
how it spreads through the body like ocean wave,  
how it doesn't erase anger and fear,  
rather seeds itself somehow inside it,  
so even as I contract love bids me to open  
wide as a leaf that unfurls in spring  
until fear is not all I feel.

Love relentlessly.

Even saying the words aloud invites  
both softness and ferocity into the chest,  
makes the heart throb with simultaneous  
urgency and willingness. A radical pulsing  
of love, pounding love, thumping love,  
a rebellion of generous love,  
tenacious love, a love so foundational  
every step of what's next begins  
and continues as an uprising,  
upwelling, ongoing, infusion  
of love, tide of love, honest love.



## Red Cards

In response to the recent increase in ICE raids and deportations nationwide, we have ordered Red Cards from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). "All people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution. The ILRC's Red Cards help people assert their rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a home." Please contact the office if you would like some. The cards are available in several languages, including Spanish and Arabic. We should have our supply soon. -- Evelyn Park



And the peace of  
God, which  
surpasses all  
understanding, will  
guard your hearts  
and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4 : 7

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

SIGN UP TO BE A GREETER,  
USHER OR CANDLE LIGHTER

SUPPORT OUR MISSIONS

SIGN BIRTHDAY CARDS

PRAY

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



## *Important Documents*

For anyone in our community who holds a green card, work pass, or other status documents, make sure they are all up to date and you know where they are. Following January 20, 2025, conditions may change. Scrutiny may be more prevalent. Peace of mind may improve if we are all prepared. Do it now, so we won't worry later.

- Contributed by Sandra Harkness

## *Partnership Place website*

Our website has been updated!

Evelyn has redesigned our website from the ground up to reflect our new identity as a partnership between St. John's UCC and Westminster Presbyterian at Partnership Place. The new website can be found at <https://partnership.place>. The old domain names, [stjohnsjx.com](http://stjohnsjx.com) and [wpcjackson.org](http://wpcjackson.org), now redirect to [partnership.place](https://partnership.place), so anyone looking for us at those addresses will still be able to find us.

Thanks to the Website Committee, Bette Watkins, Cindy Spiess, and Cindy Osborne, for their invaluable assistance.

- Contributed by Evelyn Park

## *Active Living Program*

Several of our members have enrolled in the Jackson Recreation Department's Active Living Program in anticipation of attending some of the great activities they offer such as day trips, classes and luncheons. Annual membership is \$10.00 per person. See Kathy Johns for membership forms and more information if interested.

-Contributed by Kathy Johns

## *Sunday School Teachers*

We will soon be offering a Sunday School class. Teachers will share a bible story and craft; children will participate after the children's message during our worship time. Everything you need will be provided. If you would like to pair up and help, please contact Pat Baumgartner from the Nurture Committee.



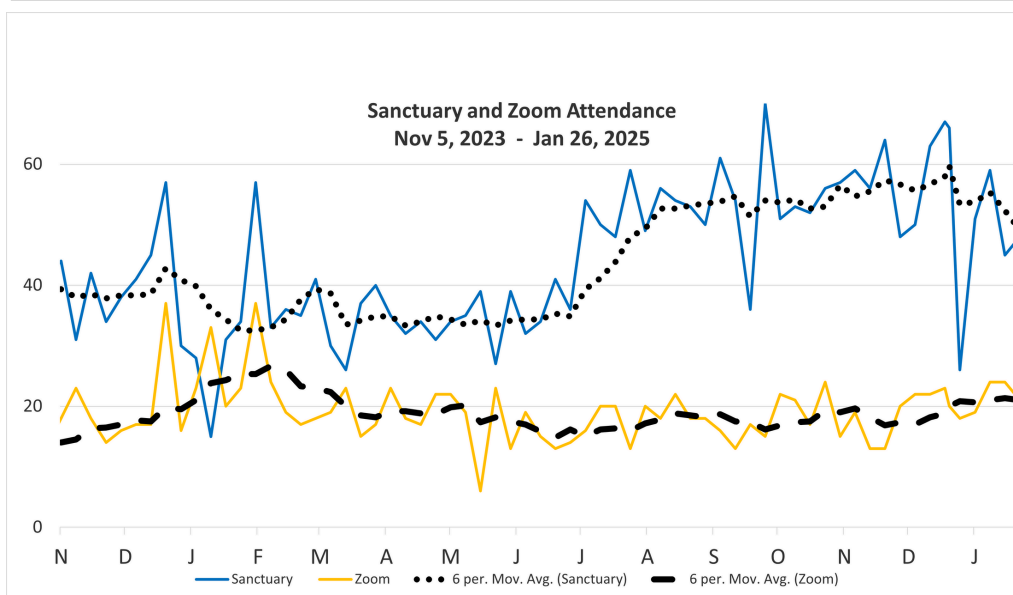
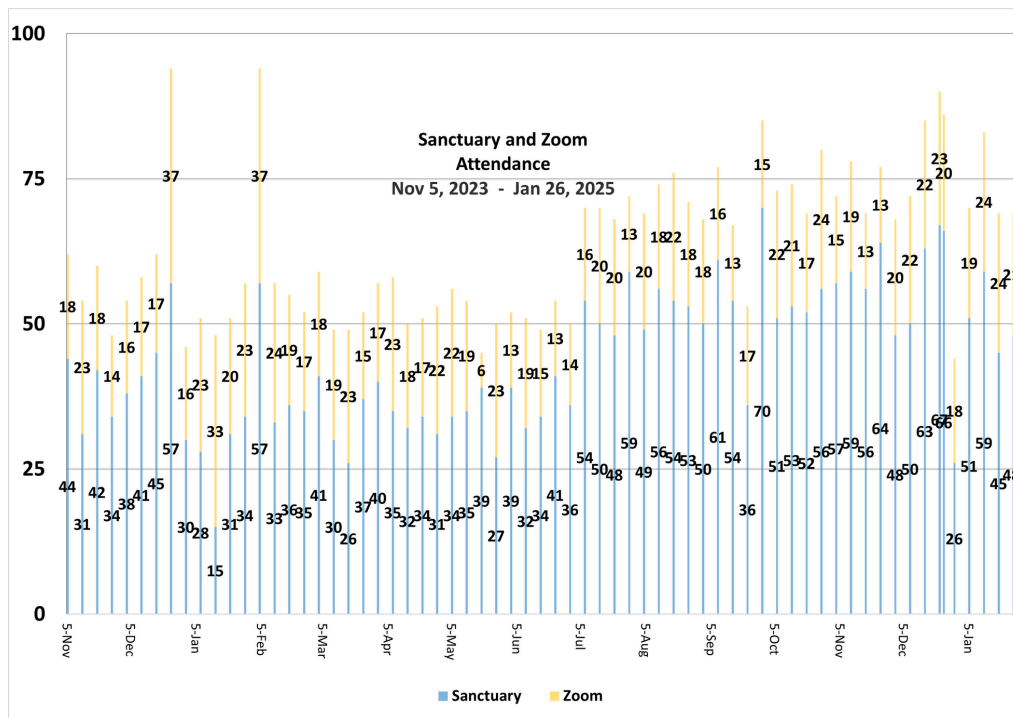
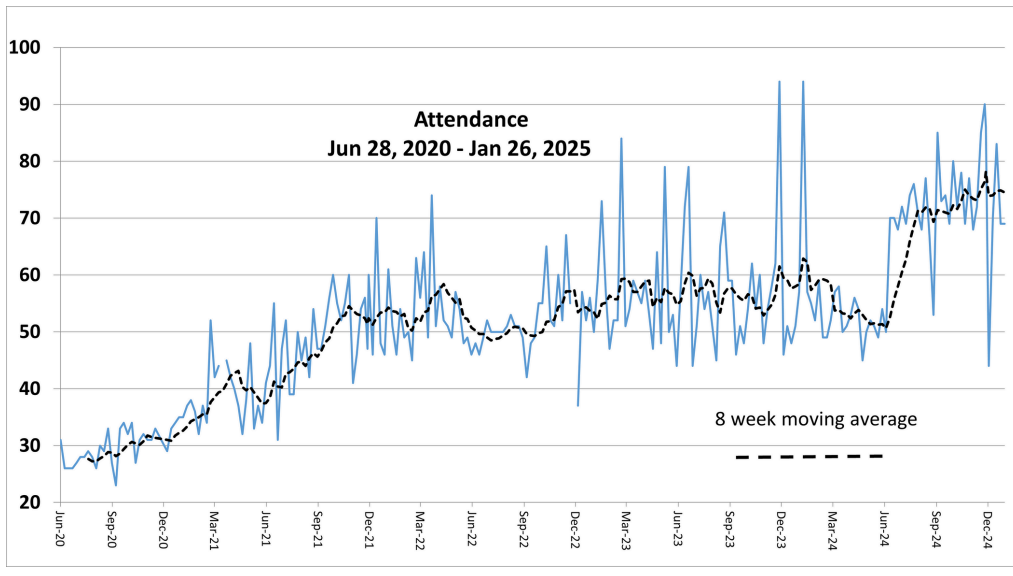
## *Winter Warmth Ministry*

We continue to collect 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 warm items to the church office





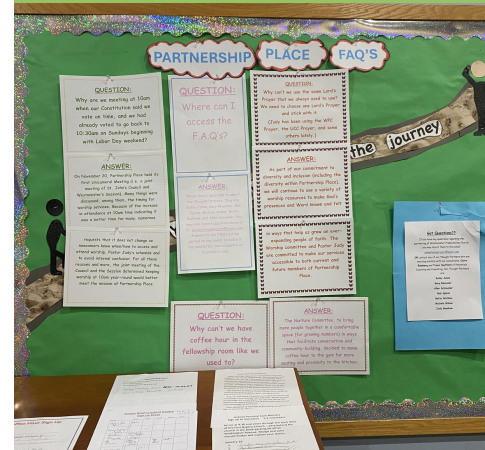
# Attendance Charts



# Partnership FAQ's

Please continue to add your questions to the list in the Community Room and/or email your questions to:

jointwitnessproject@gmail.com.



All questions from 2024 are archived on our website. If you need to revisit a question and answer, you can find them all by clicking on 'Pages' and 'FAQs' at partnership.place.



Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

# WPC Update on Ridgeway

In late January, session had a Zoom meeting with Cal Bremer and Beth Dyer from Presbytery regarding the sale of the building and property on Ridgeway. Patriot Realty, based in Grand Rapids, is the company used by Presbytery for selling church properties, and they have done well at moving church properties. Session, Presbytery, and Patriot Realty are working out the wording on a couple of resolutions that are required to be in place for the realty company to market our Ridgeway property. Patriot Realty has asked for a 12-month listing, so we don't need to go through the process of re-listing after 6 months. The average amount of time to sell a property has been around 200 days. Most of the items we can use at Partnership Place have already been brought over, and WPC's building and grounds team will be working with Carl from SJ to finish that task in the near future. Look for an email from Marty and Pat Baumgartner regarding a date/time for interested persons to go to the Ridgeway location to see if there is anything left at the building they would like to have.

NOTE: Items that are attached to the walls are considered part of the building. They are to be left in place and sold with the building.

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## Other WPC session notes:

- Session has received a letter of resignation from Libby Rieman, so the nominating committee will be meeting to find a replacement for the rest of her session term.
- Voted to continue in office: Cindy Spiess as Clerk of Session; Bette Watkins as Treasurer; Pat Baumgartner as President of the corporation which allows her to sign the listing agreement and other papers necessary for the sale of the Ridgeway building.
- The finance teams from both churches have been working on the 2025 contract for Pastor Judy. When that is in place, the rest of the 2025 cost sharing can be figured so we have a monthly amount we'll pay to SJ for our portion of the shared costs.
- When the 2025 cost sharing is in place, we can schedule our next Town Hall meeting.

Please feel free to contact any session member if you have questions or concerns. Questions can also be written on the sheet just inside the community room, where the sign-up sheets are located.

Submitted by Bette Watkins

# Photos wanted

Whenever our church gets together, please snap a pic or two and send them to Evie in the church office at [stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com). Evie will maintain a photo folder for us so we can look back over each year to celebrate our special moments.



*Evelyn Park and her assistant*



*John and the Community Dinner crew serving*



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