



# PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## March 2025

### *IN THIS ISSUE*

- March Calendar
- Mission Updates
- Contact Information
- Save a Sole
- From the Pastor's Screen
- Ash Wednesday
- New Website
- Lenten Book Study
- Sunday School
- Winter Warmth
- Attendance/Giving
- Partnership FAQs
- Nancy's News
- Prayer
- It's Just Dinner



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

### *MARCH CALENDAR*

- 2 - SJUCC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP
- 4 - CENTERING PRAYER WITH YOGA AT 5:30 PM
- 5 - KIDS ACTIVITIES AT JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER AT 5:15PM
- 5 - ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN AT 6:30PM
- 9 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!
- 9 - BOOK STUDY BEGINS FOLLOWING WORSHIP "HOW WE LEARN TO BE BRAVE"
- 12 - PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING AT 5:30PM
- 16 - LUCK OF THE IRISH POTLUCK AFTER CHURCH (NO BOOK STUDY)
- 20 - PERSONAL CARE PANTRY AT FIRST BAPTIST AT 4:30PM
- 21 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM TO 12PM
- 25 - COMMUNITY DINNER 6PM
- 26 - INTERFAITH CHURCH DINNER AT 5PM
- 29 - COMMUNITY ST. PATRICK'S DANCE 7 TO 9PM
- 30 - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, SPECIAL OFFERING COLLECTED
- EVERY WEDNESDAY - YARNS & CRAFTS 10AM-12PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM

# Mission Updates



Our **February Food Pantry** served 128 people, representing 286 family members. 4000 pounds of food were distributed. The Community Dinner served 36 people on February 25. We need donations of plastic shopping bags; please bring in your donation.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

At the February **Baby Sprinkle**, we served 58 packs of diapers to 47 families and 74 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 2 rental assistance payments and 3 utility payments in February. 9 individuals received emergency food, and 10 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 61 guests on February 20 and continues to serve the Jackson community every Thursday. 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 **Valentines Community Dance** was attended by 210 persons from our community! Many thanks to Linda Miller and her team for their tremendous outreach. The St. Patrick Dance will be Saturday, March 29 from 7 - 9 PM. Donations always welcome.



## Save a Sole

Our March outreach project is Save a Sole. We are collecting new & gently used socks for children through adults. Please bring your donations to church any time this month. The socks will be distributed to those in need.

Contributed by Pat Baumgartner

# 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.



St. John's UCC &  
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517-784-7580

[wpcjackson@gmail.com](mailto:wpcjackson@gmail.com)  
[partnership.place](http://partnership.place)  
517-787-4017



*Sunday, March 9*

Rev. Judy Goodrow  
260-668-9173

[judy.goodrow@partnership.place](mailto:judy.goodrow@partnership.place)  
[kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com](mailto:kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com)

# Collecting Lent

## A TIME TO GIVE UP ... OR A TIME TO COLLECT?

Lent is upon us, and many of us practice fasting during this season. Traditionally it is a time Christians give up something to draw closer to God. We pay special attention to our faults and failures, asking for grace and forgiveness, as we unite with Jesus in his suffering. The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and end on Holy Thursday (Sundays are excluded); they remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted. It has become a time of reflection and repentance in the Christian church.

However, the word *Lent* doesn't imply fasting or suffering. I discovered that *Lent* is derived from an old English word meaning *spring season*, which points us to new life. This gave me something to ponder.

Then I received a letter from a pastor-friend, who also challenged me to think differently about Lent. He noted that during difficult times, it might be a better practice to collect something instead of giving up something.

What do you think? Should we give something up, like television, social media, chocolate, or alcohol? Or should we intentionally collect what we want more of in our lives? What would it look like to collect hope? Or acts of charity? Or time spent with people we love? What if we collected moments for gratitude or hours of volunteer service?

My friend said he wanted to "collect" time with his son, so they spent the day together. It doesn't sound like a typical Lenten activity, but it does sound like something he and his son needed and treasured. During these days of uncertainty, with many of us grappling with a constant, low-level fear, maybe this year Lent can represent not a "giving up" but a "collecting" of all that is good.

Imagine a storage unit in our hearts, filled not with objects but with memories, moments, and glimpses of the divine ... a reservoir of hope and joy that will allow us to persevere through the coming months.

As we collect God's goodness, we might find we have unintentionally given something up. Perhaps we will give up pessimism and anxiety, judgment and closed hearts. Maybe this year Lent will truly mean spring – a time of new growth, new beginnings, and the resurrection of God's love in our hearts.

Let's pass the collection plate!

 Pastor Judy

Peace I leave with  
you; my peace I  
give to you.  
I do not give to  
you as the world  
gives. Do not let  
your hearts be  
troubled, and do  
not let them be  
afraid.

John 14:27

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!





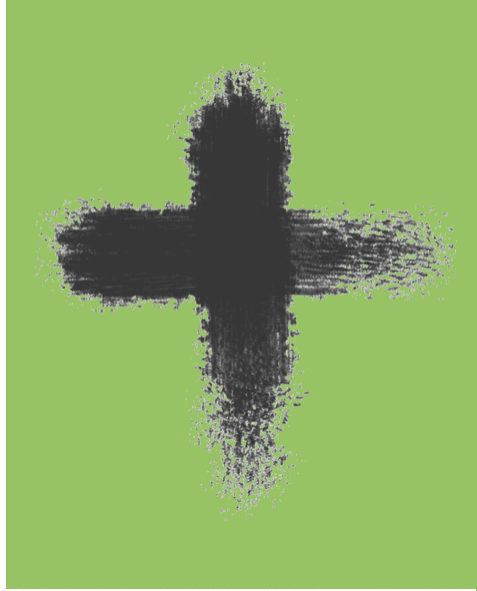
*Ash Wednesday*

Worship together with  
 First Congregational UCC,  
 Jackson First Presbyterian,  
 Westminster Presbyterian,  
 and St. John's UCC

March 5, 2025  
 6:30 PM

120 N. Jackson Street Jackson, Michigan

All are invited to join together for a combined worship service at 6:30 PM on Ash Wednesday. We will meet at First Congregational UCC, with Pastor David Schell preaching. The service will close with the imposition of ashes. Join us for this contemplative beginning of Lent.



## *Partnership Place website*

We hope you visited our new website!

The new website represents both our congregations and 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.

- Contributed by Evelyn Park

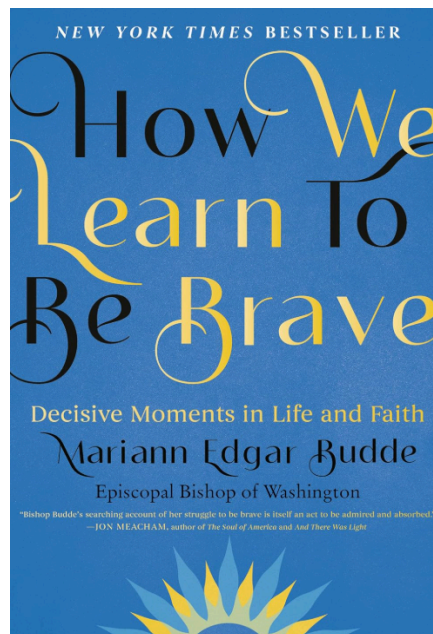


## *Winter Warmth Ministry*

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.

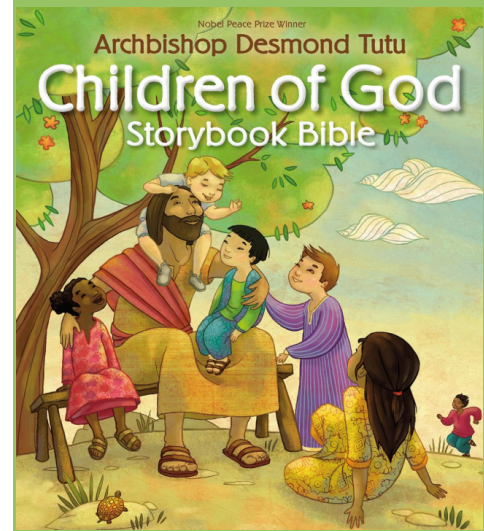
## *Lent Book Study*

Beginning Sunday, March 9 we will be studying "How We Learn to Be Brave" by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Please sign up in the Community Room so we can order the books. We will meet following worship each Sunday in the Prayer Room. Everyone is welcome to attend these discussions.

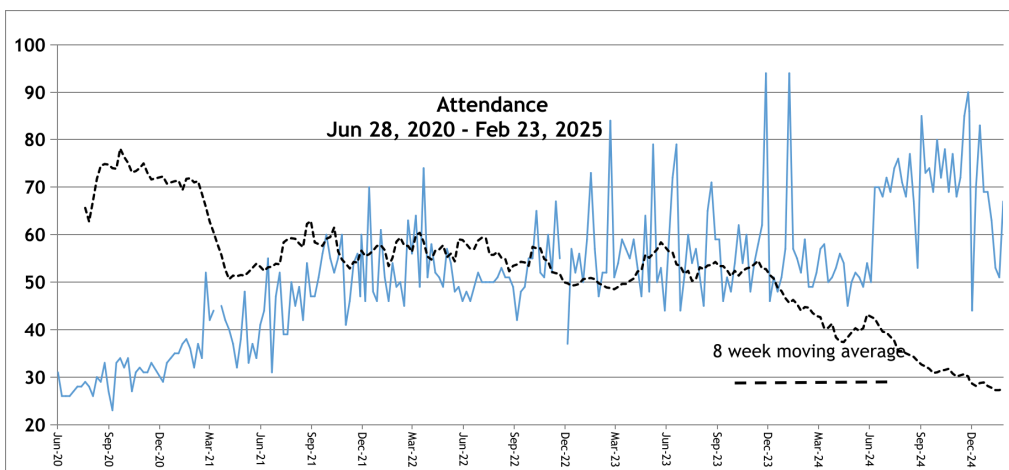
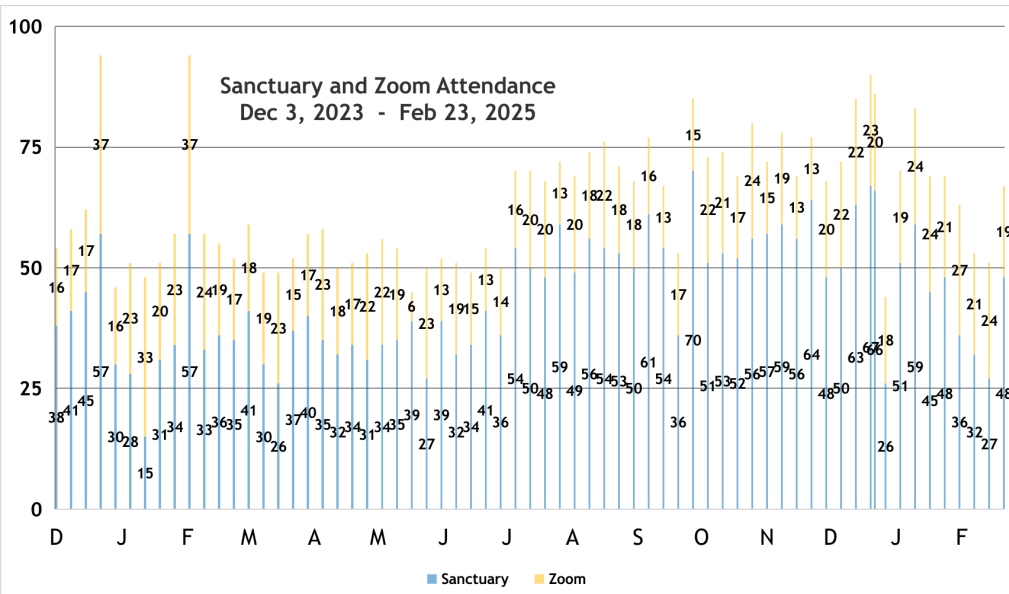
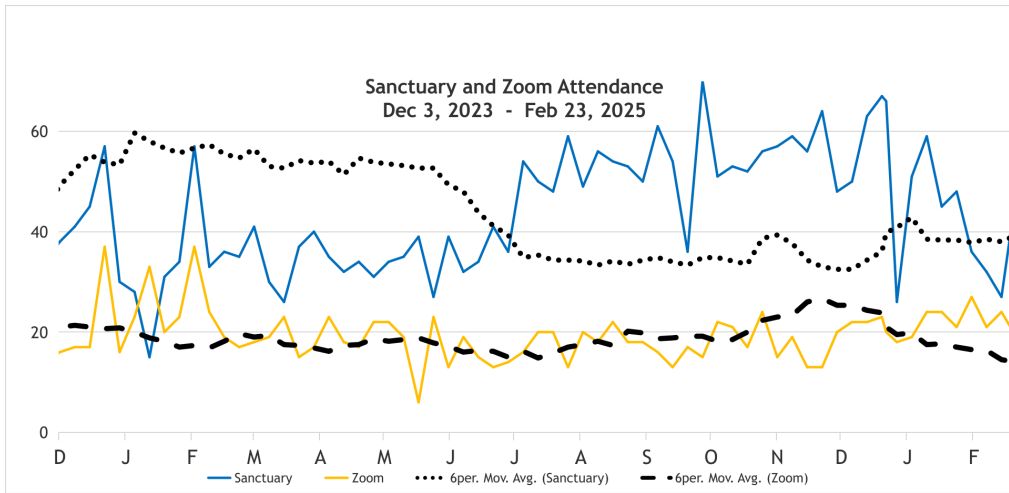


## *Sunday School Returns*

Sunday School is coming back on April 27! We need at least 2 more teachers so that each team will only teach once a month. Volunteers will be deeply appreciated. We will meet together on Tuesday, March 18 at 10 AM in prayer room to plan. If you would like help, please contact Pat Baumgartner from the Nurture Committee.



# Attendance Charts

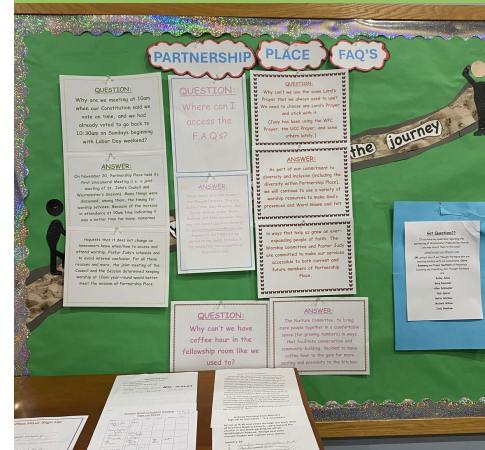


Contributed by Bert Steck, SJ Financial Secretary

# 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 are archived on our website. If you need to revisit a question and answer, you can find them all by clicking on 'Pages' and 'FAQ's' at partnership.place.



One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you ..."

Acts 18:9-10a



# Nancy's News

- The Partnership Board met January 8. Actions included formally accepting the name Partnership Board and electing John Fenstermaker the moderator of the board. The Partnership board is made up of the council of SJUCC and the session of WPC.
- The WPC Session met January 28 and accepted the financial projection for 2025 as stated in the SJUCC budget. Westminster anticipates paying SJUCC about \$102,000 as its share of expenses for the coming year.
- The Nurture Committee is looking for a leader for a men's social group. Contact Pat Baumgartner.
- Fellowship opportunities coming up:
  - St Patrick's potluck on March 16 after church
  - Lenten fish fry at Our Lady of Fatima at 4:30 on March 28
  - Lenten fish fry at Queens Church at 5 PM on April 11

-Contributed by Nancy Connell, Communications Chair

## It's Just Dinner



The Welcoming Committee is organizing "It's Just Dinner," a way for members of the congregations to get to know each other better. The get togethers may be dinner, lunch, coffee break, or whatever, and they could be in a person's home, in a coffee shop, or some other place that a group decides. The gatherings will be held during Lent. To sign up to host one -- or to attend one -- contact Lynn Kenworthy at [gipkenplace@yahoo.com](mailto:gipkenplace@yahoo.com).

-Contributed by Nancy Connell, Communications Chair

## How to reach our staff



Here are our updated email addresses:

Evelyn Park	<a href="mailto:stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com">stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com</a>
Evie Meeks	<a href="mailto:evelyn.meeks@partnership.place">evelyn.meeks@partnership.place</a>
Carl Robinson	<a href="mailto:tadd66@live.com">tadd66@live.com</a>
Pastor Judy	<a href="mailto:judy.goodrow@partnership.place">judy.goodrow@partnership.place</a>
	<a href="mailto:kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com">kjgoodrow3kids@gmail.com</a>

## Need Prayer?



We will soon be offering prayer following worship. Someone will be available to pray individually in the sanctuary with anyone in need after each Sunday worship service. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for details.

Contributed by Jan Janke



Kids' Activity bags are now available in the sanctuary. Children and parents are welcome to pick up an activity bag to help occupy young minds during worship. Please return the bag to the back of the sanctuary following the worship service. Many thanks to Cindy Osborne for her contributions!

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Love God ♥ Love People ♥ Serve Both



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