

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

JULY CALENDAR

- 1—CENTERING PRAYER AND YOGA 5:30 PM
- 2—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM
- 8—WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4 PM
- 9—PARTNERSHIP BOARD 5:30 PM; SESSION & COUNCIL MEET AFTER
- 13—WORSHIP AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 10 AM
AT 201 S. JACKSON STREET
- 16—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM
- 18—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLE 10AM-NOON
- 20—USHER TRAINING FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- 22—FAITH IN ACTION MEETING 10 AM; COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM
- 23—INTERFAITH SHELTER DINNER CHURCH 4:15 PM
- 24—PERSONAL CARE PANTRY 4:30 PM
- 27—PARTNERSHIP PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY 2-5 PM
- EVERY WEDNESDAY—YARNS AND CRAFTS 10 AM-NOON

FBC
JXN

Let's make friends! We have been invited to worship with First Baptist Church at their location on Sunday, July 13, at 10 AM. Zoom will be available. Please plan to attend. For more information visit: <https://www.fbcofjackson.org/>

July 2025

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a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Mission Updates

Our **June Food Pantry** served 120 people, representing 180 family members. 4000 pounds of food were distributed. The Community Dinner was cancelled in June due to weather.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve young families, providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. In May we served 35 families and 66 children. We are able to provide more diapers with the assistance of the TANF program through the state of Michigan. We are in need of toddler to size 6 clothing, especially girls size 3 and 4, and boys size 6. We are grateful to God to be able to work with these children and moms.

- Contributed by Donna Benedict

The **Samaritan Fund** provided assistance for 21 utility payments totaling \$1,575 and one rent payment totaling \$100 in April. Seven individuals received emergency food, and 13 unhoused people used our church showers.

- Contributed by Michele Wilson

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter**, on June 18 we did crafts and provided snacks for three children (although it felt like six children!) If you would like to help out, contact Michele Wilson or Cindy Osborne. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 297 guests in June. If you would like to help with this worthwhile ministry, please sign up in the Community Room.

- Contributed by Margo and John Fenstermaker

The June **Community Dance** was attended by 150 persons. After our summer break, the next dance will be Saturday, September 27, from 7 - 9 PM. Donations of food and funds are always welcome. Come join the fun! Contact Linda Miller for more information.

Our **Clothesline Ministry** provides clothing items throughout the year. Many thanks to Bob Neustifter and Gloria Frederickson for this ministry.

The next **Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church** is scheduled on July 23. This ministry occurs on the last Wednesday of every other month. Volunteers from Partnership Place serve the meal and participate in a brief worship service led by Dawn Depner. Join us!

Contact Information

To receive the Zoom link for Sunday services, please visit partnership.place and click "Subscribe". You will receive the Partnership Place Weekly Digest with the Zoom link.



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From the Pastor's Screen

DANDELION SEEDS

'Tis the season for dandelions! Those who are serious about their lawns hate those pesky flowers. One dandelion flower will produce 40 to 100 seeds, and each seed has a handy little parachute to carry it adrift to fertile ground. My high school friend Julia Richardson wrote a children's book called *Little Dandelion Seeds the World*. She explains that dandelions are found on every continent – even Antarctica. With seeds traveling on pant legs, fur, streams, and even in bird poop, the dandelion just keeps spreading.

Dandelions have been used for food, tea, and medicine for centuries. They've only been called "weeds" in the recent past. They're tasty (I've heard) in salads, they can be made into pesto, and the roots can be roasted for coffee or tea. Some folks enjoy dandelion wine; some say that dandelions promote healthy soil. When I was on a hiking trip, a dandelion leaf served as a makeshift band-aid for a blister. I wrapped the leaf around my toe, and I was good to go for the rest of the hike. Toddlers love the bright yellow flowers, and no one stops them from picking as many as they want.

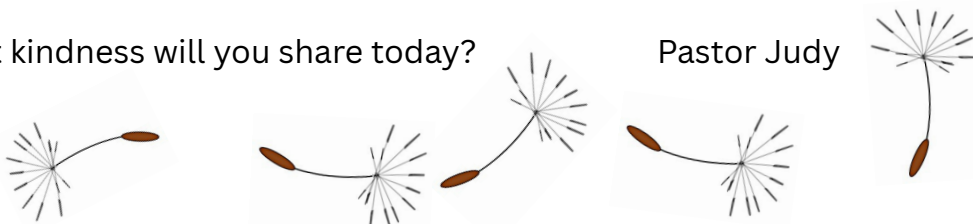
Can you remember blowing on the fluffy head of a dandelion? Poof! Watching those seeds fly is delightful. Every seed is an exact clone of the parent plant. And how they take root, all over the world, in all kinds of soil, is a mystery.

If we were like dandelions, every fluffy seed could be an act of kindness. Imagine how we might change the world! Our seeds of love, peace, and encouragement would float into the clouds or atop a stream. They would be carried on luggage, clothing, pets, and even hair. Every act of kindness would multiply, just like the dandelion, producing more kindness, love, and compassion. We could create peace and joy all over the world, on every continent. If only we were dandelions. If only we shared the love of God like a dandelion shares its seeds.

Lately, it feels like the world has gone a bit mad. Wars are continuing, new wars are beginning. People are being arrested and imprisoned without due process. Our nation is divided, and people are afraid. What can we do? Let's look to the dandelion. Let's spread seeds of kindness everywhere we can, whenever we can, however we can.

What kindness will you share today?

Pastor Judy



The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

Mark 4:26-27 NRSV



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

DONATE CHILDREN'S
CLOTHES & PULLUPS

PULL WEEDS

SIGN BIRTHDAY CARDS

VISIT THE LITTLE BOOKHOUSE

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

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

NHL@SJUCC Gears Up for a Busy Summer

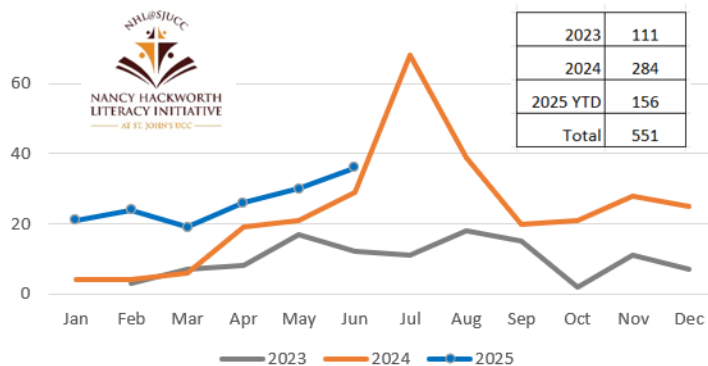
The NHL@SJUCC is looking forward to an exciting and impactful summer at Partnership Place as 17 students from three local school districts have enrolled in the program. With the dedicated support of four tutors, we will provide individualized reading sessions designed to strengthen literacy skills and build confidence among these young learners.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Hackworth family, along with individual donations totaling over \$1,000 made in memory of Darryl Hackworth, the NHL@SJUCC is not only able to sustain this vital work in 2025—but will also be positioned to continue supporting traditionally underserved students into 2026.

Heartfelt thanks and blessings go out to our volunteers, tutors, and all those who support this meaningful church mission.

Yours for Literacy,
Bert Steck

Literacy Coaching Sessions Provided Thru June 2025



Judaism Class

Have you ever watched Part Two of a series without having seen Part One? You might have been a little confused. You could probably follow the narrative just fine, but there was a lot of missing context.

Jesus, the disciples, the authors of the New Testament, and the early Church were all Jews. Since the First Century, Judaism and Christianity have grown in very different directions. It might be difficult for modern Christians to fully appreciate the Jewish context of New Testament texts.

In order to deepen your appreciation of Biblical texts and foster a healthy and loving relationship with our Jewish community, Evelyn, our resident Jew, will be offering a class about Judaism. The class will introduce you to core Jewish concepts and answer some of the most common questions people have about Judaism. What did Judaism look like for Jesus? What does it look like today? How do Jews practice? What are their holidays like?

The class will be held after worship on August 3, 10, 17, and September 7.

Ridgeway Update

Our realtor received an offer on the Ridgeway property! The purchasers do want inspections done, and the offer is contingent upon the results of these inspections. Presbytery will still need to approve the sale. Session is excited about the offer and looks forward to receiving more information as the process moves forward.

Contributed by Bette Watkins



Courtyard Memorial

The Memorial Garden at Ridgeway moved to the courtyard at Partnership Place on June 25. John Carey-Young of C&R Exterior Wash cleaned the cement, and the Building & Grounds Team worked on the landscaping. Please stop by the courtyard and enjoy this quiet, sacred space.

Important Notice Regarding St. John's Mid-Year Donation Statements

Dear Friends,

Due to our transition to a new accounting system, the mid-year donation statements that are typically sent to all donors will not be mailed out next month.

However, if you would like to receive a mid-year statement, we are happy to provide one upon request. Please contact:

Bert Steck, Financial Secretary
St. John's UCC
734-476-6664
albertsteck8@gmail.com

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

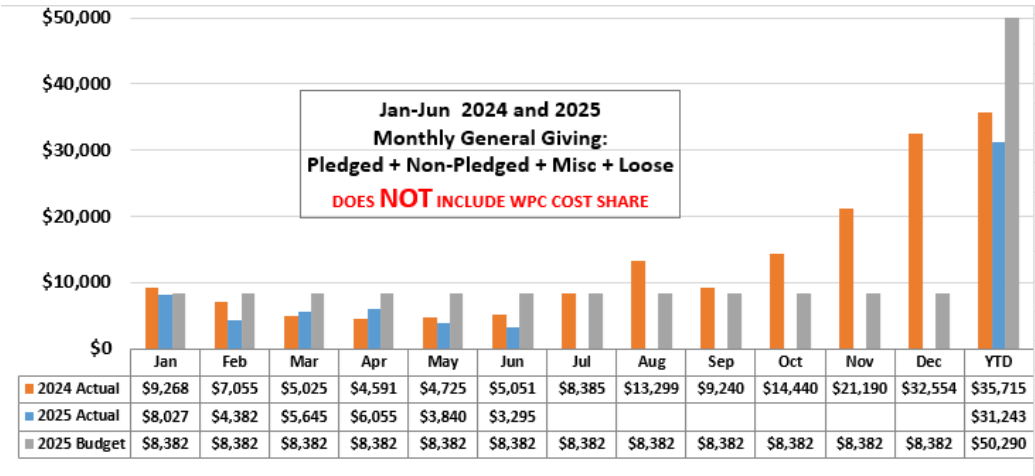
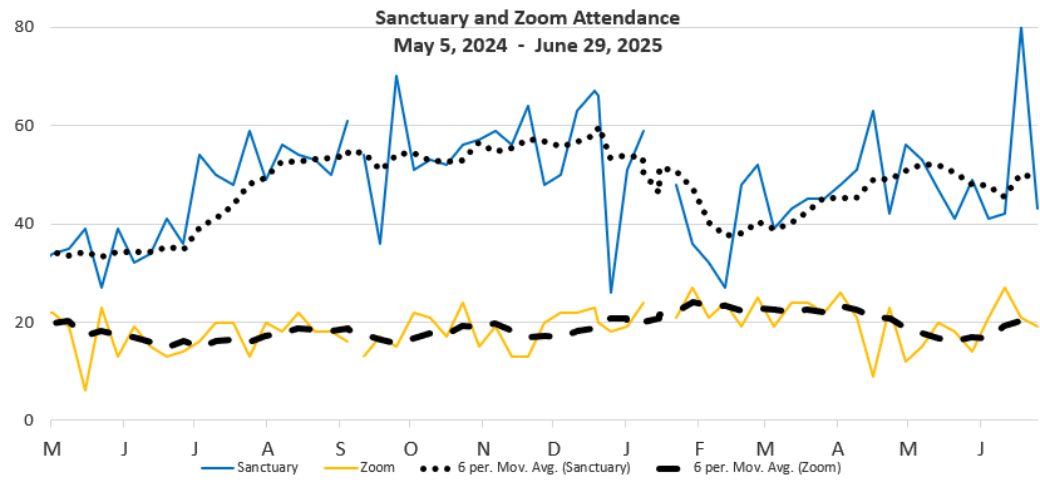
Partnership Board

The Partnership Board is made up of the WPC Session and the SJUCC Council.

Westminster has installed three new Session members: Sandy Clark, Kathy Johns and Andy Rieman. They join Pat Baumgartner, Dennis Johns, Gary Kenworthy and Bette Watkins.

St. John's Council members are Gary Reasoner, Eric Canter, Eugene Johnson, Michele Wilson, Bert Steck, Cindy Osborne, and Jeannine Havens.

The Board, Session, and Council will meet on July 9.



Charts contributed by Bert Steck



Meet Marva

Marva Haywood came to us through the Dungytreesi Heritage foundation as an AARP employee. You may see Marva in our office Monday through Thursday, 10 AM to noon. She is the friendly voice you'll hear on the telephone each morning. Please stop by, say hello, and make her feel welcome!

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