



PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- OCT 1—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM
 - OCT 2—PERSONAL CARE PANTRY 4:30 PM AT PARTNERSHIP PLACE
(JPCM MEETS EVERY THURSDAY); NAACP MEETING 6 PM
 - OCT 4—MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING
 - OCT 5—UCC AND PRESBYTERIAN SPECIAL OFFERINGS COLLECTED;
CHILI AND CORNBREAD LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP
 - OCT 6-13—JUDY'S READING WEEK, NO OFFICE HOURS
 - OCT 7—CROP WALK FUNDRAISER AT CULVER'S 4-8 PM
 - OCT 8—SJUCC COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM ZOOM ONLY
 - OCT 12—CROP WALK 1 PM; NAACP FREEDOM FUND 6 PM
 - OCT 14—UC4C MEETING 12 PM; CENTERING PRAYER 5:30 PM
 - OCT 15—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM
 - OCT 17—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM - 12 NOON
 - OCT 17—SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
 - OCT 19—SJUCC FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 - OCT 21—COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM
 - OCT 25—COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9 PM
 - OCT 26—STEWARDSHIP DRIVE BEGINS
 - OCT 27—ARC BLOOD DRIVE
 - OCT 31—TRUNK OR TREAT 5:30 PM
- CRAFTS EVERY WEDNESDAY 10AM TO 12PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM

Upcoming Events

On Saturday, November 15, Partnership Place is hosting a craft show. Also in November we will collect Thanksgiving food. Watch for details!

October 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- October Calendar
- Mission Updates
- Contact Information
- From the Pastor's Screen
- Be the Blessing
- Ridgeway Sale
- Trunk or Treat
- Scholarships
- Welcome, JPCM
- Emergency Food
- Partnership Board
- UCC Contributions
- Attendance



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Mission Updates

Our **September Food Pantry** served 114 people, representing 335 family members. 4000 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner on September 23 served 50.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve young families, providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. In September, we served 53 families and 84 children. Thanks to all who donated and volunteered! We continue to need children's clothing size 2 through 6 and diapers size 4 through 6 as well as pull ups.

- Contributed by Donna Benedict

The **Samaritan Fund** will soon have new administrators! Kathy and Katrina Johns, assisted by Marva Haywood, will be reopening the fund soon. Fourteen individuals received emergency food, and 30 unhoused people used our church showers in September.

- Contributed by the Church Office

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter**, we had 6 kids for the month of September. I guess the weather was too nice to be indoors, but sometimes it is nicer to have a small group to better connect one on one with kids. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 258 guests during the month of September. If you would like to help with this worthwhile ministry, please sign up in the Community Room.

- Contributed by Margo and John Fenstermaker

Our **Clothesline Ministry** provides clothing items throughout the year. Many thanks to Bob Neustifter and Gloria Frederickson for this ministry. Socks and rain ponchos are always needed. Please bring donations to the church office.

At the **Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church** volunteers from Partnership Place served the meal and provided worship on September 24. Led by Dawn Depner and Polly Wild, this ministry occurs on the fourth Wednesday, every other month. The next Dinner Church will be November 26.

The **Community Dance** on September 27 was a huge success! The next dance will be October 25, 7-9 PM. Free food, music, and fun for everyone! Many thanks to Linda Miller and her team.

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

Every autumn I clean out the birdhouses my husband and I put up in the field years ago. They were once for bluebirds, but as time passed, the field became woods. Now wrens have claimed the birdhouses, and every year they fill them with twigs. When the wrens leave for the winter, I walk along the path, opening the houses and pulling out the old nests.

Imagine my surprise when I began cleaning one of the birdhouses and saw several sets of eyes looking at me! I screamed and jumped backward as mice began to jump kamikaze-style out of the birdhouse.

A week later I noticed moss sticking out of the hole of another birdhouse I had cleaned. I opened it with caution. Sure enough, several more sets of eyes were peeking out of the moss. More mice!

Then I uncovered the gas grill to make dinner. When I opened the grill's lid, I let out a blood-curdling scream – a fat little mouse was sitting inside the grill! Underneath the grates was a big pile of dryer-vent fluff. The mouse had created a cozy place for the winter.

The mice know winter is coming, but they don't worry. They act. They build up their nests each day to prepare.

Today many of us are worried about the future. What will happen in the coming weeks, months, and years? We have little control of future events, and it can be frightening. Worry will consume us if we allow it.

Let's remember what Jesus told his disciples. "And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ... Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ... But strive first for the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

What does it look like to "strive" for the kingdom of God? It might look like taking care of your 'temple,' your body, and giving yourself the rest and care that you need. It might look like feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, praying, and worshiping. It might look like limiting the amount of news you consume and spending more time working for justice. It might look like writing letters, going on walks, reading good books, and making music. Maybe we need to create and collect moments of goodness and beauty and love, so that when the tough times arrive, our spirits are safe and protected.

Let's learn a lesson from the mice. We know things are changing, and change can be difficult. Instead of worrying, let's create spiritual 'nests' – collections of acts of kindness and moments of joy, like soft moss and warm fluff. Let's notice beauty every day and find comfort in the words of Jesus.

Snuggle in! Pastor Judy



Jesus said, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Matthew 6:34 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

DONATE CHILDREN'S
CLOTHES & PULLUPS

SIGN BIRTHDAY CARDS

VISIT THE HOSPITALIZED

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

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



Ridgeway Sale Complete

The sale of Westminster's property on Ridgeway was finalized on August 6, 2025. The sale took just over 4 months from listing to closing...thank the Lord for wonderful works! The proceeds of the sale will be in escrow for Westminster's use; as funds are needed, session will make a written request to Presbytery, and the funds will be sent to us. The money can be used for all things promoting the work of WPC, including signage letting the community know we are at Partnership Place. The only thing for which the money CANNOT be used is capital improvements on the building at 801 S. Mechanic, since we do not own the building/property. As the last chapter of our story on Ridgeway closes, we look forward to continuing our partnership and work with SJUCC!

Contributed by Bette Watkins

Scholarship Fund Grant Requests

The SJUCC Finance Committee is inviting Scholarship Fund grant requests. If you are interested in a grant, please send a written request using the application form to the St. John's UCC Finance Committee. Forms can be obtained from the church office or emailed upon request. The committee prioritizes applicants for ministry and full-time Christian vocations, as well as those dedicated to helping humanity and caring for the sick, handicapped, and underprivileged. Here's the order of preference per our constitution if all qualifications and needs are equal:

1. Members of St. John's United Church of Christ.
2. Members of the Michigan Conference of the UCC.
3. All other Christians - including our WPC friends!

We also consider members of St. John's United Church of Christ preparing for other vocations. The highest priority is given to those preparing for ministry unless there's a greater need in another humanitarian area. These are general guidelines; we will give serious consideration to all applicants.

Please complete the application form and submit your request to the church by Sunday, October 19, 2025. See Evelyn or Marva in the church office for applications. Our plan is to award scholarships on either October 26 or November 2.



Contributed by Bert Steck and the Finance Committee

Trunk or Treat!

Our second annual Partnership Place Trunk-or-Treat will be Friday, October 31 in our parking lot. Adults are invited to dress up, bring candy and games for the kids, decorate your trunk, and have fun!

Please arrive no later than 5:30 PM so we can get the cars parked before the kids arrive. Candy donations are welcomed – so if you can't attend, you can participate by bringing wrapped candy to church throughout the month so we have plenty to share.



Welcome, JPCM

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry has officially moved to Partnership Place! We are so pleased to welcome them. JPCM will utilize the classroom across from the Community Room. They distribute personal care items every Thursday beginning at 4:30 PM. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Sign up in the Community Room.

Emergency Food Pantry

Our Emergency Food Pantry has been fully stocked – and then quickly depleted! Thanks to grant funds from the UCC Covenant Association, the pantry can be restocked quickly. Please see Donna Benedict if you would like to purchase food for this needed ministry. Current needs are cereal and shelf-safe milk, instant mashed potatoes or au gratin potatoes, canned or frozen meats, and any pull-top ready-to-eat foods.



Children's Halloween Costumes

At the October 17 Baby Sprinkles, we will be giving out Children's Halloween costumes, both new and gently used. Please bring donations to church this month. If you can help that day, please see Donna Benedict. Volunteers are always needed and welcome!

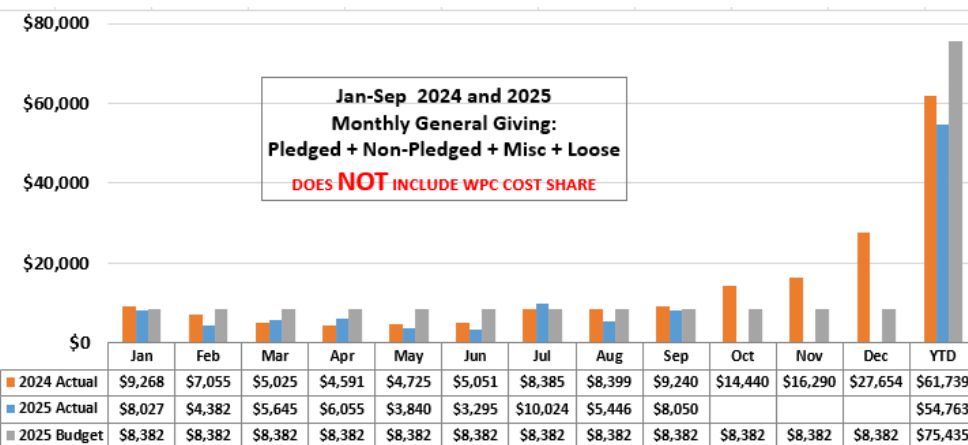
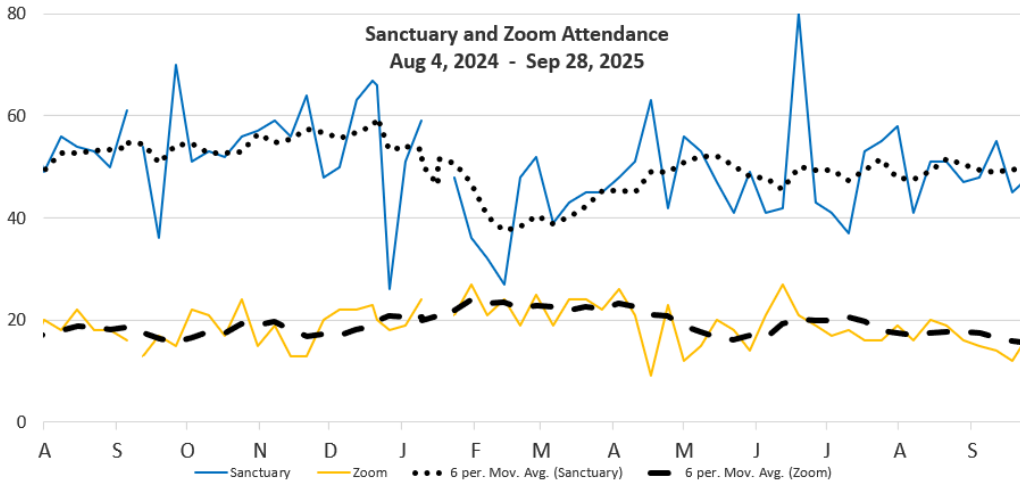
Partnership Board

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

Westminster Session members: Sandy Clark, Kathy Johns, Andy Rieman, Pat Baumgartner, Dennis Johns, Gary Kenworthy and Bette Watkins. Rev. Kristin Stroble serves as the Moderator.

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

The Board met on September 10 and discussed Trunk or Treat, hosting a craft show, and how to display the Pride Flag. Next meeting will be held on November 12.



Chili Lunch Oct. 5

Many thanks to Heather Farquhar and Jessie Martin, who will provide a chili and cornbread meal for us on October 5 following worship. Gluten-free bread will be available. If you would like to help with coffee hour on October 26, please sign up in the Community Room.

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