

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

NOV 2—ALL SAINTS DAY OBSERVED; NICOLE GAITHER FROM SERENITY
SOBER LIVING PRESENTATION FOLLOWING WORSHIP

NOV 4—FAITH IN ACTION 10 AM; CENTERING PRAYER 5:30 PM

NOV 5—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM

NOV 6—PERSONAL CARE PANTRY 5 PM AT PARTNERSHIP PLACE
(JPCM MEETS EVERY THURSDAY); NAACP MEETING 6 PM

NOV 9—SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED DURING WORSHIP

NOV 11—WORSHIP MEETING 4 PM; WELCOMING MEETING 5:30 PM

NOV 12—PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM WITH SESSION AND
COUNCIL MEETINGS FOLLOWING

NOV 15—CRAFT SHOW 12-5 PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

NOV 19—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM

NOV 21—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM – 12 NOON

NOV 23—REV. MICHAEL YOUNG PREACHING/BEGIN ADVENT DECORATING

NOV 22—COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9 PM

NOV 25—COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

NOV 26—INTERFAITH DINNER CHURCH 4:30 PM

NOV 27—THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED

NOV 30—HANGING OF THE GREENS WITH POTLUCK TO FOLLOW

CRAFTS EVERY WEDNESDAY 10 AM TO 12 PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM

PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY EVERY THURSDAY 5-6:30 PM

November 2025

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a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Mission Updates

Our **October Food Pantry** served 108 people, representing 265 family members. 2400 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner on October 21 served 40 persons.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve young families, providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. In October we served 57 families and 79 children. At least 25 children received Halloween costumes. 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** continues to assist with rent and utilities. In October five persons received utility assistance and two received rent assistance. Thirteen individuals received emergency food, and 44 unhoused people used our church showers.

- Contributed by the Church Office

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter**, we had fun with eleven kids in the month of October. Volunteers are always welcome.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 237+ guests during the month of October. 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. Hats, scarves, gloves, and socks are needed. Please bring donations to the church office.

Our next **Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church** will be November 26. At least three volunteers are needed to serve the meal and share in worship. This ministry occurs on the fourth Wednesday, every other month. Please see Dawn Depner if you can help.

The **Community Dance** on October 25 was a huge success! The next dance will be November 22 from 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

In 2017 I left the church I served to be a social worker. I was a little burned out, but after two years I felt God calling me back to ministry, quietly but insistently. I left my social work job and jumped into search and call.

I knew exactly what I wanted: a full-time pastorate, with a parsonage, within a two-hour drive from home. I wanted a church of at least 200 members that had an amazing website, a capable office staff, and a strong commitment to the LGBTQ community. I looked in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, but no church seemed to fit my expectations.

After searching for months, I began to compromise. Maybe part-time would be okay. Maybe a small church would be best. Meanwhile, a pandemic was upon us, so I went to work at my local hospital, registering patients in the ER, double-masking and trying not to bring the virus home with me. On weekends I perused the ministry listings, exploring church websites. Eventually I downgraded my expectations from full-time to part-time, with no parsonage, no website, and no staff. "Give me anything, God. I'll take a dying congregation if that's where I'm needed, and I'll gently lay their church to rest," I prayed.

That's when my eyes were opened, and I noticed a church in Jackson, Michigan. I knew almost immediately that this was the congregation I was looking for (although it took them *months* to figure that out), and then I had to wait for the interim to complete his contract. Nothing happened as I expected, nor as I had originally planned. It was the same for the congregation; they thought they would attract a young, gay pastor. Instead, they got a straight, white, midwestern farm girl ... and I got an incredible congregation.

At first it was rough. The church was closed because of the pandemic, and the congregation's heart was wounded from conflict. St. John's was on life support for a while. Things took a positive turn when Westminster Presbyterian came to visit. A beautiful partnership evolved, and I found another congregation to love.

Look at us now! We have energy, vitality, and mission. We have meaningful worship, an active prayer chain, and a Sunday school. What happened?

YOU happened. Every time God whispers an idea or gives a nudge, YOU respond. You all are the life of Partnership Place. With every potluck, committee meeting, and mission event, YOU are here. It is your response to God's invitation that breathes new life into our church. I am amazed by all of you, and I thank God for YOU.

With Deep Gratitude,

Pastor Judy

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-5 NRSV

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

BRING THANKSGIVING FOOD

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!

Thanksgiving Food Donations

As we prepare for the time of stewardship, this year the Faith in Action Committee is inviting you to share your blessings with our extended community family by collecting Thanksgiving food and donating it to the Community Food Pantry. Because turkeys are provided by so many other community organizations, Partnership Place will be focusing on collecting the other Thanksgiving "fixins." We are asking this generous congregation to bring two food items each week for the next 3 weeks: Nov. 2 - boxed mashed potatoes and turkey gravy, Nov. 9 - boxed stuffing & cranberry sauce, and Nov. 16 - green beans and sweet potatoes. If it is more



convenient, you can bring all of your donations at one time. For anyone who is unable to shop and would like to make a financial donation for food, please donate by Nov. 16 and mark your donation for the "Thanksgiving Mission". These food items will be distributed at the food pantry on November 21. This is our opportunity as a worshipping community to share our blessings and fulfill God's call for us to help feed the hungry at this special time of year. Thank you.

Pat Baumgartner

Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawls in our sanctuary are available to anyone to use for themselves or to give to someone they are concerned about. These shawls are hand made by members of Partnership Place to share the comfort that so many of us need during difficult times. They have been prayed over by members of our congregation, asking for God's presence, strength, healing, wisdom, hope, and peace. We hope these shawls will be a reminder that, in someone's time of need, the thoughts and prayers of many people surround them.

Pat Baumgartner



Craft Show News

Our first annual Partnership Place Craft Show will be Saturday, November 15, from 12-5 PM.

Crafters and food vendors will be selling their products in the community room. Our church will have a concession stand to sell snacks and beverages. We are still taking applications for vendors.

If you're looking for something FUN to do, volunteer! Help with setup or cleanup, sell snacks, and get some Christmas shopping done. There's a sign-up sheet in the community room.

– Cindy Osborne



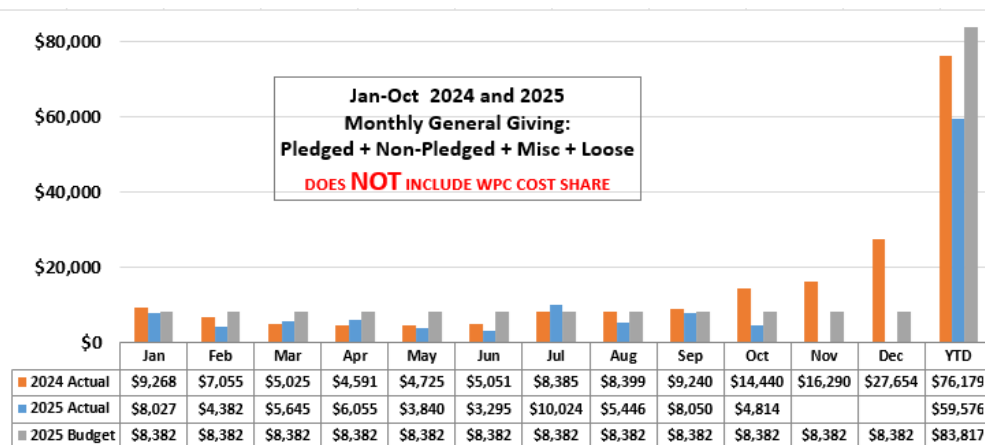
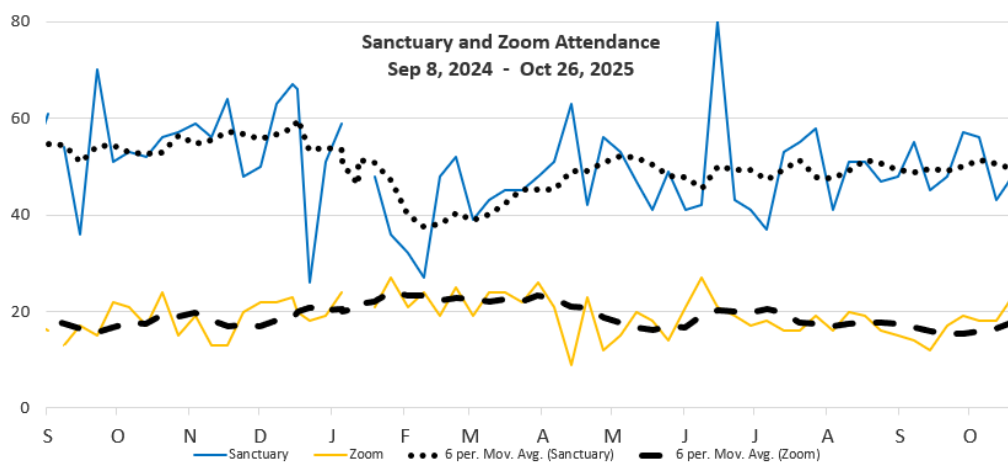
Thank you to all who donated candy for Trunk or Treat!

Antiracism: A Journey of Truth and Transformation

On November 23 we will welcome Rev. Michael Young as our morning preacher. Mike spent many years as a member of St. John's UCC before his ordination and call to Leslie UCC. Mike serves as the chair of PIMAT (Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team) for the Michigan Conference UCC. He will share a message that will help us move beyond "not racist" to become an ally of antiracism. He will offer a presentation immediately following worship to engage us in conversation. Please plan to be present for this challenging discussion.

Scholarship Awards

On November 9 during worship the Finance Team will award scholarships. Five of our six recipients will be present in worship onsite, and one will participate on Zoom. This year, the awards total \$6000! Plan to join us for worship on November 9, and let's celebrate with our students!



Charts contributed by Bert Steck

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.

Our next meeting will be held on November 12.



Hanging of the Greens

It's almost Advent - time to prepare for the Light of the World! Advent begins this year on November 30. We will begin decorating Partnership Place on November 23 following coffee hour. Everyone will be put to work bringing the Christmas decorations out and setting them up. On November 30 we will celebrate our traditional Hanging of the Greens during worship with a potluck to follow. Please mark these two Sundays on your calendar and help us prepare for the Advent season!

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