

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

DECEMBER CALENDAR

DEC 1-8—JUDY ON VACATION

DEC 2—FAITH IN ACTION 10 AM; UNITED CENTER MEETING 12 NOON

DEC 3—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM

DEC 4—FINANCIAL POLICY MEETING 2:30 PM; JACKSON PERSONAL CARE PANTRY 5 PM; NAACP MEETING 6 PM

DEC 7—WORSHIP AT FIRST CONG. UCC, 120 JACKSON STREET 10 AM

DEC 9—CENTERING PRAYER 5:30 PM

DEC 10—SJUCC COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM

DEC 14—CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING DURING COFFEE HOUR

DEC 16—SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING 11 AM TO 3 PM

DEC 17—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM

DEC 19—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM – 12 NOON

DEC 20—PRIVATE PARTY IN COMMUNITY ROOM UNTIL 5:30 PM;
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DANCE 7-9 PM

DEC 21—UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST 10 AM

DEC 23—COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

DEC 24—TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM

DEC 25—CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED

DEC 28—SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DEC 31—NEW YEAR'S EVE; OFFICE WILL CLOSE EARLY

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

JACKSON PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY EVERY THURSDAY 5-6:30 PM



December 2025

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for all
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Mission Updates

Our **November Food Pantry** served 140 people, representing 370 family members. 2800 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner on November 25 served 35 persons.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve families, providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. In November we served 52 families and 76 children, and 24 children received winter coats or snowpants. 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 November 1 person received utility assistance and 1 received rent assistance. The emergency food pantry provided 20 sacks of food, and 31 people used our church showers.

- Contributed by the Church Office

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter**, we had fun with 13 kids in the month of November. Volunteers are always welcome.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 155 guests during the month of November. 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 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 January 28. 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** in November was a huge success with over 200 attendees! The next dance will be December 20 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

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS



How healthy are you? Some of us have age-related aches and pains, while some have more serious issues. Sometimes health is complicated – like during pregnancy. Many of us stay healthy by playing golf and pickleball, practicing yoga, riding bikes, and eating a nutritious diet. Good health is both a gift from God and a gift we give ourselves.

Congregations are the same; some are healthy and some are not. Churches can have aging problems, financial trouble, unhealthy relationships, pastor problems, and building issues. How do we become – or continue to be – a healthy congregation?

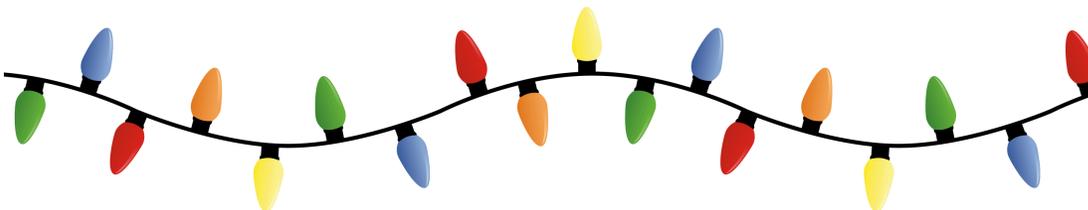
I recently learned all about Healthy Congregations during a course I completed this fall. The Healthy Congregations program formed in 1993 when Dr. Peter Steinke published a book entitled “How Your Church Family Works.” Based upon Murray Bowen’s Family Systems Theory, the program treats the congregation as a family - which is exactly what it is. In this course I learned about triangulation, self-differentiation, sibling position, emotional cut-off, and more. I attended class every Wednesday for seven weeks, with two hours of weekly homework, including two presentations each student developed and shared.

It was both tough and productive. I learned more about myself than I expected, which will help me to become a better pastor. By sharing what I learned with you, we will become a healthier congregation. Our own Healthy Congregations class will begin in January, either onsite or online, one evening each month. We’ll explore how we respond to anxiety and change, relate to money, and develop strong leaders. We’ll study how our congregation practices forgiveness, and how we take care of our spiritual health. We are the church, and everything we do to keep our bodies, minds, spirits, and relationships healthy translates to how we care for our church body.

As we look ahead to 2026, I am feeling hopeful, passionate, and excited for our joint witness congregation here at Partnership Place. We’re in good shape already, and we’re about to become even healthier.

Let’s start with 50 pushups. Ready?

Pastor Judy



God heals the
brokenhearted and
binds up their wounds.
Psalm 147:3

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

DECORATE COOKIES

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

DONATE CHILDREN'S
CLOTHES & PULLUPS

SIGN BIRTHDAY CARDS

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

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



Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Sunday
December 21

Wear your sweater
to church,
and we'll vote
for the winner!



Thank YOU for Thanksgiving Food Items

Our church collected 88 boxes of mashed potatoes, 87 boxes of stuffing mix, 72 jars/packets of gravy, 70 cans of green beans, 66 cans of sweet potatoes, 72 cans of cranberry sauce, and 10 cans of soup, for a total of 465 items! All these items were distributed at the November food pantry. Thank you for making the holiday special for those in need.

-Contributed by Pat Baumgartner



Gifts for Headstart

The Faith in Action team purchased gifts for 17 students who attend preschool at Partnership Place. If you would like to sponsor a gift or help wrap gifts on December 2, please see Michele Wilson.



Centering Prayer

Every month several dedicated individuals join together in the slow, centering movement of Tai Chi and then pray silently in our sanctuary. This month we will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 5:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us for this quiet time of grounding and prayer.



Christmas Cookies

On Sunday, December 14, we will decorate Christmas cookies during coffee hour. Cookies and decorations will be provided by the Nurture Committee – and we get to keep the cookies we decorate! Thank you to the Nurture Committee for this fun event.



Poinsettia Orders

Please order poinsettias by December 8. The cost is \$14 each, with color choices of red, white, and pink. Order forms are available at the church office.



Craft Show News

Our first annual Partnership Place Craft Show was a respectable success! On Saturday, November 15, seventeen vendors sold their wares from 12-5 PM. Thank you to all who contributed, set up, cleaned up, sold items, and came to shop!

– Cindy Osborne



Ring the Bell

Our congregation will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at Jackson Crossing on Tuesday, December 16th from 11 AM until 3 PM. This is a volunteer opportunity for 2 people per hour. Please sign up in the Community Room and contact Kathy Johns for details.

UCC Stewardship Update

Dear friends, as of Monday, November 24, 2025, the SJUCC Stewardship Team has received 12 pledge cards totaling \$38,460 for 2026. We are very grateful for this generous commitment as we begin shaping the 2026 operating budget. Although the requested deadline for pledge cards was Sunday, November 23, we will gladly accept additional pledges from anyone still considering an intention to share.

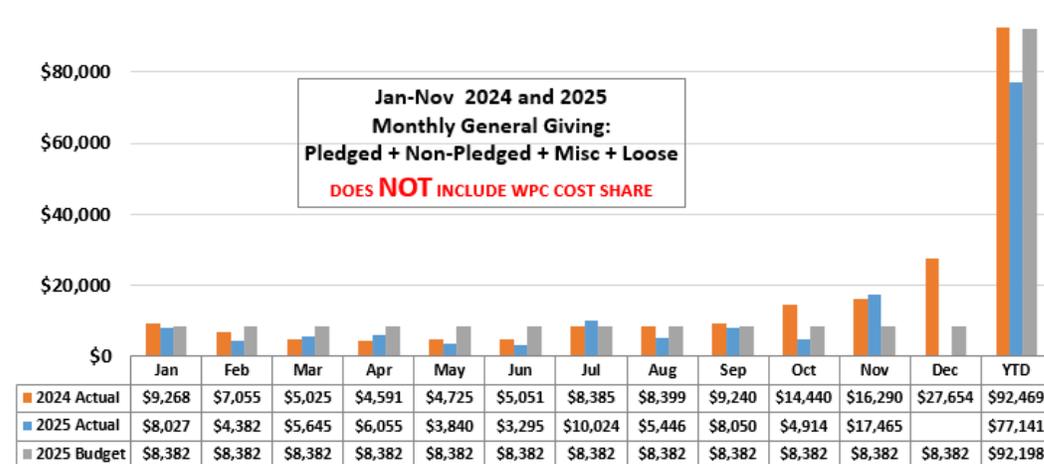
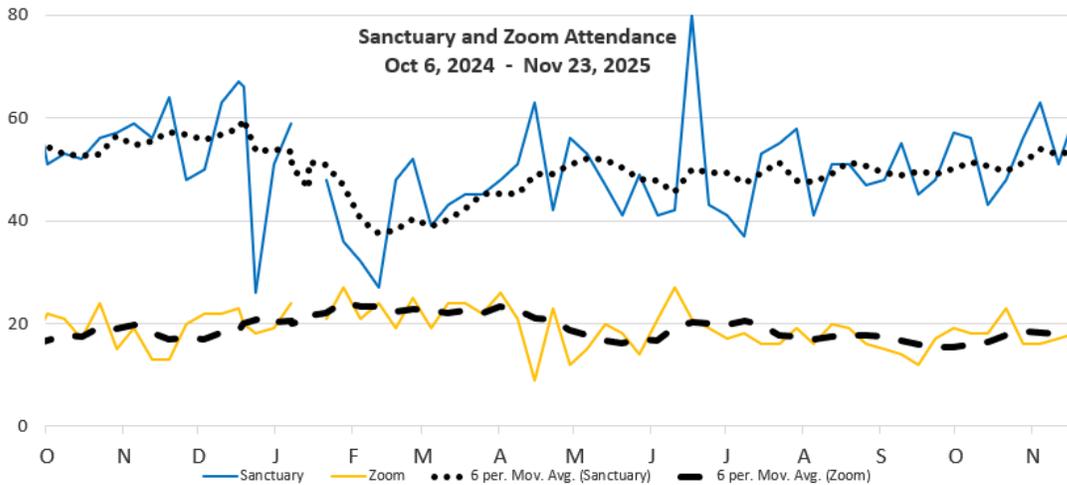
In Stewardship and Service,

Bert Steck

WPC Stewardship Update

We've received pledge cards from 92% of our pledging members, and we're right in line with our giving from last year. Thanks for being such faithful stewards of God's gifts!

Contributed by Andy Rieman



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, Gene Johnson, Michele Wilson, Bert Steck, Cindy Osborne, Jeannine Havens, and Carl Robinson.

Our next meeting will be held on January 14.



Advent Events

Dec 7 - Worship at First Congregational UCC at 10 AM

Dec 14 - Decorate Christmas cookies at coffee hour

Dec 21 - Ugly Christmas sweater contest 10 AM

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight service 7 PM

Dec 28 - Service of Lessons and Carols



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