

# PARTNERSHIP PRESS



@Partnership Place



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## *FEBRUARY CALENDAR*

FEB 1—WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FEB 3—FAITH IN ACTION 10 AM

FEB 3—CENTERING PRAYER 5:30 PM

FEB 4—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM

FEB 5—NAACP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 6 PM

FEB 10—COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM - DESSERTS NEEDED

FEB 15—BABY SHOWER FOR KATE & JOE AT 12 PM; PLEASE SIGN UP  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

FEB 17—INTERFAITH FAMILIES MEET IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM 5:30 PM

FEB 18—ASH WEDNESDAY COMBINED WORSHIP HERE 6 PM

FEB 20—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM - 12 PM

FEB 21—COMMUNITY VALENTINE'S DANCE 7-9 PM

FEB 22—JUST MERCY BOOK STUDY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

FEB 24—HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS ZOOM MEETING

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

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



## February 2026

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a just  
world  
for all  
ucc.org

# Mission Updates



Our **January Food Pantry** served 70 people representing 149 family members. 1800 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner was rescheduled to February 10 and will now be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve families by providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. The January Baby Sprinkle was cancelled due to illness, but three families coordinated diaper pickups at the church office. 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 December one person received rent assistance and one person received utility assistance. The emergency food pantry provided 22 sacks of food, and 23 people used our church showers.

- Contributed by the Church Office

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter**, we had a total of eight kids for crafts in January. One date was cancelled due to extreme cold.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 191 guests during the month of January. 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. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

The **Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church** was January 28, and the next dinner church will be March 25. 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 or Judy if you can help.

The **Community Dance** in January was cancelled due to weather. The next dance will be the Valentine's dance on February 21 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](http://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

## COME TOGETHER

The Beatles' song *Come Together* has been playing in my mind on repeat. "*Come together, right now, over me.*"



The lyrics are pretty strange. Each stanza appears to describe one of the band members. Ringo is the funny guy: "got to be a joker he just do what he please." George has "monkey finger" which I hope means he has the dexterity needed to play all kinds of stringed instruments. John Lennon has "Ono sideboard," while Paul McCartney is the one who's "got to be good-looking 'cause he's so hard to see." They're all different, yet the refrain is a call to come together.

I can imagine Jesus singing along.

Jesus could be looking at our nation today, singing, "*Come together, right now, over Me,*" at a time when it feels impossible to do anything except divide. We surround ourselves with people who think like we do, in opposition to those who don't. The moral fabric that once held our nation together has not only frayed – it has snapped. Our social and political structures are collapsing.

I think Partnership Place has something to say about this.

Once, there were two congregations who had no future. If they had stayed in their separate camps, there would have been an end to both churches. These two groups found common ground. They came together to be a new congregation. St. John's and Westminster have changed in deeply meaningful ways. The old structure is gone, the new has come! The work continues, because we can't pour new wine into old wineskins. Those old wineskins will burst, so we are creating new ones.

That's a good image for what's happening in our nation. The old wineskins are bursting before our eyes.

It hurts my heart to see people imprisoned, shot, and deported – to see U.S. citizens waving guns while communities are crying out in protest. The new wine of inclusion is causing the old structure to break. While the destruction is terrifying, it is motivating us.

In places far and wide, people are coming together. Communities are forming. We are working for justice. We are worshiping, praying, marching, making phone calls, and sending money. We are loving our neighbors. We are creating new wineskins.

Meanwhile, I can imagine Jesus singing, and grooving, and smiling, "*Come together, right now, over Me.*"



We're all in this together -

Pastor Judy

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made.

Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.

Matthew 9:16-17 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 & DIAPERS

SIGN BIRTHDAY CARDS

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

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

## *Dinner and a Concert*

The Fellowship Committee is planning an outing on February 20. We will be having dinner together before seeing a concert. Dinner will be at the Crazy Cowboy downtown at 4:30 PM. Then, at 7 PM, we will go to the County Tower Ballroom to see the Symphony Candlelight Motown Concert. You can visit [jacksonsymphony.org](http://jacksonsymphony.org) for more information and to purchase tickets. Please sign up in the Community Room, and/or contact Kathy Johns with any questions or concerns.

## *Coffee Hour*

On January 18, we commemorated poet Robert Burns. Heather Farquhar provided Cottage Pies for coffee hour, and Harry Wilson provided scones. Ian and Harry played Scottish tunes.



## *Faith in Action*

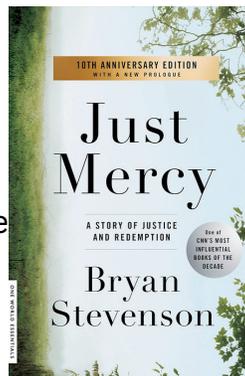
### **Our partnership with Jackson Interfaith Shelter continues to grow!**

We are excited to welcome Jackson Interfaith Shelter families with children to the Partnership Place Community Room on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:15 PM. This time together offers space for children to play while parents relax, connect, and build community. Friends from Partnership Place are warmly invited to join in this time together with our JIS neighbors. While these gatherings support families during a time of transition, they also help introduce them to a caring community beyond the shelter. Please join us for our first gathering on **February 17 at 5:15 PM** in the Community Room.

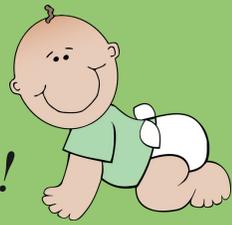
### **We have received a grant from the Michigan UCC Conference**

**Prophetic Integrity Team** to host a book study focused on racial justice. We will read and discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. We will meet on Sundays following worship beginning **February 22**. If you are interested in participating, please contact Michele Wilson. Books are provided thanks to the generosity of the grant.

-Contributed by Michele Wilson



## *It's a Baby Shower!*



On Sunday, February 15, we will “shower” Kate & Joe with gifts to welcome their baby. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the Community Room. They do not have a gift registry, so please provide gift receipts. We'll gather at 12 PM.

## *Lord's Prayer*

During the Sundays of Lent, we will use the “debts and debtors” version of the Lord's Prayer. Following Lent, who knows? Maybe we'll “trespass” for a while. 😊

Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day  
our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our  
debtors,  
And lead us not  
into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
And the glory forever.  
Amen.

# Ash Wednesday Service February 18

Our combined Ash Wednesday Service will be celebrated here at Partnership Place on Wednesday, **Feb. 18 at 6 PM**. We will begin the season of Lent worshiping with First Presbyterian and First Congregational UCC. Other congregations have been invited to worship with us as we remember that “we come from love, and to love we will return.” Please plan to attend to show our community friends a warm welcome.



You are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

We are ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:3b,6b NRSV

## WPC 2025 Budget vs Actual

WPC 2025 Budgeted Income	\$130,950
WPC 2025 Actual Income	<u>\$162,083*</u>
Surplus	\$31,133
WPC 2025 Budgeted Expenses	\$113,609
WPC 2025 Actual Expenses	<u>\$112,822**</u>
Underspent	\$787

\*This income includes \$25,760 from the Ridgeway proceeds.

\*\*This number includes \$99,135 in cost-sharing payments to St. John's for Westminster's portion of 2025 daily expenses.

-Contributed by Bette Watkins



## 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 and Nancy Connell is the Clerk.

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

Our next meeting will be held on March 11.

## Healthy Congregations



Our Healthy Congregations meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, from 6PM to 7PM on ZOOM. We will discuss what a healthy congregation looks like. A healthy congregation accepts differences (rather than denying them), focuses on strengths (rather than weaknesses), and focuses on mission (rather than other issues like tradition, the minister, or survival of the church). This meeting will be ZOOM only. A second class will be offered onsite if there is enough interest. Everyone is welcome! Watch for the Zoom link in our weekly emails.

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