

# PARTNERSHIP PRESS



@Partnership Place



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## *MARCH CALENDAR*

- MAR 1—JUST MERCY BOOK STUDY 11:15AM
- MAR 3—FAITH IN ACTION 10AM; CENTERING PRAYER 4PM
- MAR 4—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15PM
- MAR 6—MITTEN PROJECT MINISTRY LEADER/TEACHER TRAINING  
12:30-2:30PM ON ZOOM
- MAR 8—WPC 60TH ANNIVERSARY; JUST MERCY BOOK STUDY 11:15AM
- MAR 10—WORSHIP MEETING 4PM; COMMUNITY DINNER 6PM
- MAR 11—SJUCC COUNCIL 4:30 PM, PARTNERSHIP BOARD 5:30PM, SESSION  
MEETING 6:30PM
- MAR 15—JUST MERCY BOOK STUDY 11:15AM; ONE GREAT HOUR OF  
SHARING OFFERING COLLECTED
- MAR 17—JACKSON INTERFAITH FAMILIES MEET AT PARTNERSHIP PLACE 5:30PM
- MAR 18—JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER FAMILY CENTER GROUNDBREAKING 3PM
- MAR 20—FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM
- MAR 21—ST. PATRICK'S DAY COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9PM
- MAR 22—JUST MERCY BOOK STUDY 11:15AM
- MAR 24—HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS 6PM ON ZOOM
- MAR 25—JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER DINNER CHURCH 4:30PM
- MAR 29—PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH CALVARY BRASS; PALM SUNDAY  
PATH 3PM LANSING (SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 5)
- EVERY WEDNESDAY—YARNS-ARTS-CRAFTS 10AM-12PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM
- EVERY THURSDAY—JACKSON PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY 5-6:30PM



## March 2026

### *IN THIS ISSUE*

- March Calendar
- Mission Updates
- Contact Information
- From the Pastor's Screen
- United Center for Caring
- Be the Blessing
- Upcoming Events
- Mission Opportunities
- Book Study Continues
- Palm Sunday Path
- Healthy Congregations
- Partnership Board



a just  
world  
for all  
[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

## *Mission Updates*

Our **February Food Pantry** served 84 people representing 179 family members. 2300 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner on February 10 provided a hot meal to 20 persons.  
- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve families by providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. The February Baby Sprinkle served 31 families representing 54 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** continues to assist with rent and utilities. In February one person received rent assistance and one person received utility assistance. The emergency food pantry provided 22 sacks of food, and 29 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 February. Twelve persons participated in the Interfaith Family activity here at Partnership Place on Tuesday, Feb. 17. A good time was had by all! Next family night is March 17 at 5:30 PM.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 184 guests during the month of February. 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** 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 February was a huge success! The next dance will be the St. Patrick's dance on March 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.



St. John's UCC &  
Westminster  
Presbyterian  
801 S. Mechanic  
Jackson, Michigan 49203

[stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccjackson@gmail.com)  
[partnership.place](http://partnership.place)  
517-784-7580

[wpcjackson@gmail.com](mailto:wpcjackson@gmail.com)  
[partnership.place](http://partnership.place)  
517-784-7580

To reach our office staff:  
[evelyn@partnership.place](mailto:evelyn@partnership.place)  
[marva@partnership.place](mailto:marva@partnership.place)



Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

[judy.goodrow@partnership.place](mailto:judy.goodrow@partnership.place)

# From the Pastor's Screen

## COPING WITH LENT

Lately, anxiety seems to be filling all the empty spaces ... which creates the perfect invitation to Lent! Lent invites us to acknowledge the anxiety, stress, fear, failure, and sin in our everyday lives. We don't deny or hide it. We own it. So of course, Lent is never a good time.



In spite of Lent's invitation to fasting and repentance, I've been feeling happy. I see more good in the world and feel more hope. When one of my many failures comes back to haunt me, I give myself some grace. "I learned from that mistake," I say. Why this change, especially during Lent? ... when the days of February drag on and spring feels so elusive?

I feel better because I'm walking in nature more. I'm reading good books (often about dragons, elves, and orcs). Rituals soothe my soul during our Sunday worship. I light a single candle on my windowsill each evening. I limit my exposure to social media, and I call a friend when I need help. I lean on the Spirit in prayer. These are my coping skills.

We all have coping skills – thoughts and actions we use to manage our emotions. Some are unhealthy; we can act like an ostrich and bury our head in the sand, or like an opossum and play dead. We may medicate to dull the pain. During Lent, we're invited to try healthier responses. What works for you? How do you cope with anxiety?

When we look to the world, we feel anxious. When we look to God, we feel peace. God exchanges our pain for new life.

Looking up for Lent --

Pastor Judy



## United Center for Caring

The United Center for Caring (UC4C) is an independent 501(c)(3) community organization launched here in 2002. Its purpose is to enhance the lives of children, families, and individuals in the Jackson community. During the 1970s and 1980s, the area around South Mechanic Street and Morrell was marked by transitional housing, substandard conditions, high crime. Food insecurity, safety, and vulnerable youth were major concerns. Since that time, quality housing has increased while crime rates have decreased. The UC4C was instrumental in these gains. Goals for 2026 include launching a Memory Support Group, adding a community reflection journal to the orchard across the street, and exploring creating a community support center focused on neighbor-to-neighbor support. There's more information available in the Community Room.

- Contributed by Harry Wilson

And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard  
your hearts and your  
minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 NRSV



*Sunday, March 8*

**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!

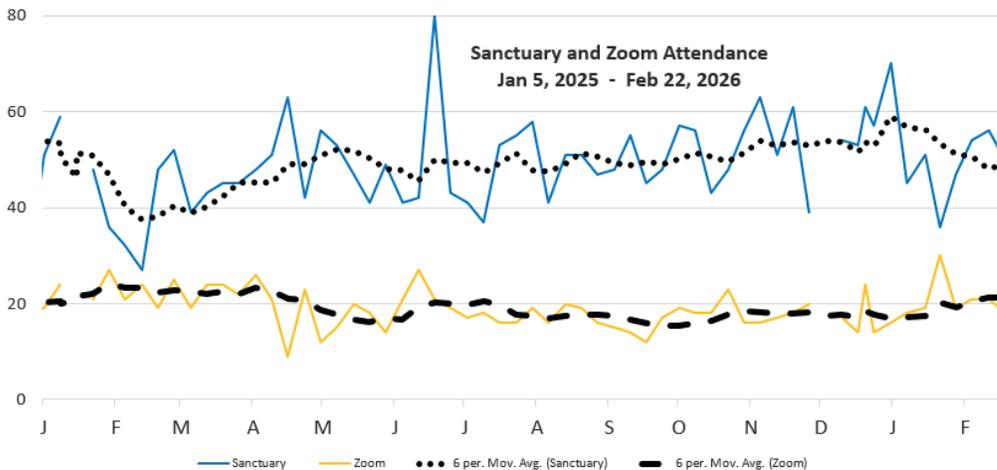
## Meals-on-Wheels

The Fellowship Committee is inviting us to support Meals on Wheels on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, American 1 CU, Ganson St., Jackson. We will sample soups and desserts from local restaurants, with entertainment provided by Mat Walch. There will also be silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$30 each, or \$50 for two when purchased by March 9 (\$35 each after March 9). For tickets, call 517-788-4364 or visit their website at [www.mealsonwheels-jacksonmi.com](http://www.mealsonwheels-jacksonmi.com). Please sign up in the Community Room. -Contributed by Kathy Johns.

## Save-a-Sock

A long-standing mission that Westminster brought to Partnership Place is collecting and providing new and gently used socks to our neighbors in need in Jackson. Together last year our congregations collected a little over 100 pairs of socks for the John George Home and Aware Shelter. Once again, we will be collecting socks for children, teens, and adults, both male and female, during the month of March. Please put your donations in the basket in the Fellowship Room. We all know how good and comforting a warm, clean, soft, and dry pair of socks makes us feel. Let us share that feeling with our neighbors.

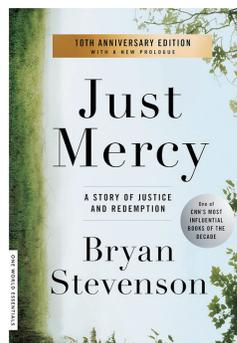
-- Pat Baumgartner



## Just Mercy Book Study Continues

During Lent we are reading and discussing *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. We meet on each Sunday following worship at 11:15 AM in the Fellowship Room. If you would like to join in, please contact Michele Wilson. Books are provided.

-Contributed by Michele Wilson



## One Great Hour

Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on March 15 by both the UCC and PCUSA. This offering supports disaster relief, education, economic development, and essentials like food, water, and shelter around the world. Please plan to support this important outreach. Mark your check or envelope for OGHS and help support global missions.



One the third Tuesday of each month, the Jackson Interfaith Shelter families are invited to play together in our Community Room. In February, 4 adults and 4 children attended along with staff and volunteers. Pictures provided by Michele Wilson.

# Palm Sunday Path

The Palm Sunday Path is a call to action for Christians across the United States, emphasizing the need to stand against the politics of hate, greed, and injustice. This movement aims to mobilize tens of thousands of Christians to march in various locations, including Lansing, Michigan. The event was created by a UCC church in Minnesota, motivated by the biblical account of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, where he symbolically contrasted his humble leadership with the power of the Roman Empire. If Partnership Place would like to participate, we will need to carpool to Pilgrim UCC in Lansing on Palm Sunday afternoon. We'll walk to the Capitol, about one mile. There will be a one-hour inspirational program at the Capitol. Participants are encouraged to carry palm branches or scripture-specific signs such as "Feed the Hungry" and "Welcome the Stranger." No political signs will be allowed.

If we choose not to participate on site, we can sponsor a port-a-potty or donate items for first aid and hospitality stations along the route. All participants will need to register for emergency contact purposes.

Please follow the Michigan Conference UCC Palm Sunday Path Facebook page. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Community Room for those who are interested.

'Hosanna!  
Blessed is the one who  
comes in the name  
of the Lord-  
the King of Israel!  
Jesus found a young  
donkey and sat on it;  
as it is written:  
'Do not be afraid,  
daughter of Zion.  
Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!'

John 12: 12b-15 NRSV



## 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, March 24, from 6PM to 7PM on ZOOM. We will discuss the quality of Self Differentiation and discuss the difference between an anxious congregation and a healthy one. This meeting will be ZOOM only. A second class may be offered onsite if there is enough interest. Everyone is welcome! Watch for the Zoom link in our weekly emails.



### Pianist Wanted

Meaningful, flexible work one or more Sundays a month.

Partnership Place in Jackson, MI is seeking a piano player to support our inclusive and vibrant worship ministry. Diverse music styles.

To learn more or to submit cover letter and resume: [stjohnuccjobs@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnuccjobs@gmail.com)

Partnership Place  
801 S Mechanic St.  
Jackson, MI 49203 517-784-7580



Partnership Place  
801 S. Mechanic Street  
Jackson Michigan 49203

Postage

[info@partnership.place](mailto:info@partnership.place)

[partnership.place](http://partnership.place)  
517-784-7580



Affix Address  
Label Here

Love God ♥ Love People ♥ Serve Both

Partnership  Place



[partnership.place](http://partnership.place)

