

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

APRIL CALENDAR

- APR 1—INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS ACTIVITIES 5:15PM
- APR 2—MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL 7PM
- APR 3—SHERMAN MACCREADY SERVICE 11AM; VISITATION 10AM
- APR 3—GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 6PM
- APR 5—EASTER BREAKFAST 9AM; EASTER WORSHIP 10AM
- APR 7—FAITH IN ACTION 10AM; CENTERING PRAYER 4PM
- APR 12—FIRST STEPS BRUNCH FOR NEW ATTENDEES AND VISITORS 11:15AM
- APR 14—NURTURE COMMITTEE 12PM; COMMUNITY DINNER 6PM
- APR 17—FELLOWSHIP MOVIE AND DINNER 4PM DETAILS TO COME
- APR 17—FOOD PANTRY & BABY SPRINKLES 10AM-12PM
- APR 19—FRIENDSHIP DAY! INVITE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER TO CHURCH
- APR 19—FIRST BAPTIST CELEBRATION 4PM
- APR 21—INTERFAITH SHELTER FAMILY ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY ROOM 5:15PM
- APR 23—WPC TASK FORCE MEETING 1PM
- APR 25—EASTER DANCE 7-9PM
- APR 26—PASSOVER CLASS FOLLOWING WORSHIP 11:15AM
- EVERY WEDNESDAY—YARNS-ARTS-CRAFTS 10AM-12PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM
- EVERY THURSDAY—JACKSON PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY 5-6:30PM

April 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

- April Calendar
- Mission Updates
- Contact Information
- From the Pastor's Screen
- Be the Blessing
- Friendship Day
- Sock Update
- Passover Class
- Emergency Shelter
- Palm Sunday Path
- Attendance
- WPC Update
- Partnership Board
- NHL Update



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Mission Updates

Our **March Food Pantry** served 95 people representing 208 family members. 2200 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner on March 10 provided a hot meal to 45 persons.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve families by providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. The March Baby Sprinkle served 23 families representing 37 children. Thanks to all who helped! 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 March one person received rent assistance and two persons received utility assistance. The emergency food pantry provided 12 sacks of food, and 15 people used our church showers (not counting the emergency shelter residents).

- Contributed by the Church Office

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter** in March, we had a total of 4 kids and one adult for crafts. The Interfaith Family activities here at Partnership Place were cancelled due to the Red Cross shelter in the Community Room. Our next family night is April 21 at 5:15 PM.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 142 guests during the month of March. 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. In April, rain ponchos are appreciated. Please bring donations to the church office. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

The **Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church** will be May 27. 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 would like to help.

The **Community Dance** in March was cancelled due to the Red Cross shelter. The next dance will be the Easter dance on April 25 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.

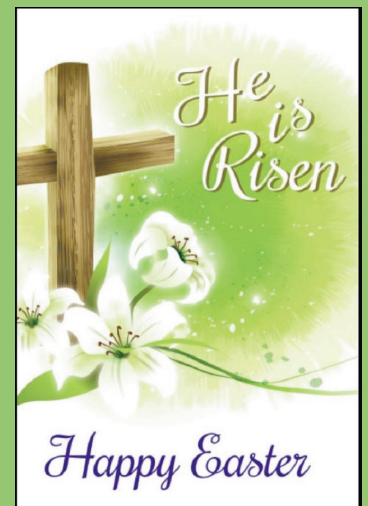


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From the Pastor's Screen

TROUBLE

Some days everything just goes wrong.

One day last week, my husband and I took our two big dogs to the park for a quick walk before the evening rain set in. As we got out of the car, my dog Jackson took off at a full run, forgetting that his lead was firmly in my hand. He nearly jerked my arm out of the socket and somehow got his leash caught in the closing mechanism of the car door. As I struggled to free the leash, my fingers got pinched. Almost in tears, I called for my husband to help, but he couldn't hear me because of some nearby equipment noise. Without warning, the leash fell from the door latch. I pushed the door closed, and we caught up with Keith and his dog Remi.



After two miles we had worked up a sweat trying to control our exuberant dogs. Remi and Jack kept chasing after squirrels as we struggled to keep them on the trail. Then Remi jumped into a watery bog, and when I pulled him out, his creamy fur was black with mud. He smelled horrible and gave a great shake, splattering me with muck.

Then the wind blew, the temperature dropped at least 10 degrees, and it started to rain. Instead of sweating, we were freezing. With relief we finally made it back to the parking area only to find that the car door was standing open and the inside of the car was wet. Jack's leash had jammed the door latch, and the door wouldn't close. Keith climbed in the backseat with the dogs and held the door while I drove home. Even though we were cold and wet, we had to keep the windows open because of the swampy, wet-dog smell. Meanwhile, I imagined driving to church on Easter Sunday with bungee cords stretched across the backseat of my hillbilly car, holding the door shut.

Sometimes our plans backfire and everything goes wrong. Tempers flare, cars break down, and our bodies hurt. After our misadventure, these words came to mind: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Yes, we will have trouble. Some trouble is small; some is overwhelming. Sometimes we get into "good trouble" when we call attention to the injustice of the world, and sometimes trouble finds us. Trouble is certain.

So are Jesus' words. We have the spirit of Christ in us – the spirit that overcomes the world. Jesus said, "So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." Trouble, you won't steal my joy. Joy is promised! Dogs can be bathed, cars repaired, rain-soaked clothes can dry. Bodies can heal. Trouble won't win, because our joy in Jesus is certain, too.

Joy-full,

Pastor Judy

"So you have pain now;
but I will see you again,
and your hearts will
rejoice, and no one will
take your joy from you.
... In this world
you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have
overcome the world."

John 16:22,33 NIV



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!

Socks Rock!

Thanks to everyone who made the Faith In Action mission project, "Save A Sole", a success!

This year we collected 213 pairs of socks of all kinds (about twice as many as last year). Our plan is to distribute them to our neighbors by hanging them on our clothesline throughout the year. Thank you again for your generosity.

-- Pat Baumgartner

American Red Cross Emergency Shelter

Following the Reed Manor fire on March 12, Partnership Place became the emergency shelter for as many as 38 persons. Facility Manager Carl Robinson was the first "yes" the Red Cross received when they called for help, and Red Cross volunteers stated that our building was the perfect place for the shelter. Partnership Place offered the Community Room, kitchen, three restrooms and showers, as well as one classroom and the prayer room for private meeting spaces.

Others offered their support too. First Presbyterian held a clothing drive. Wendy from Together We Can Make a Difference laundered clothing, towels, and blankets. Volunteers from Partnership Place provided rides and laundry services. Carl cleaned every morning and every evening for twelve straight days and continued the clean-up afterward. With help from DHHS, Community Action Agency, Jackson Interfaith Shelter and others, all displaced residents were relocated.

Passover Class April 26

You're invited to join a class on Passover led by Evelyn, our resident expert. Come learn about the meaning and traditions behind this important holiday: What is Passover? What is a Seder? Why is matzah eaten during this time? And what connections, if any, does Passover have to Christianity? Whether you're curious, unfamiliar, or just looking to deepen your understanding, all are welcome to attend. We will meet in the Fellowship Room on April 26 at 11:15AM.

Just Mercy Book Study Concludes

On April 12 we will conclude our book study of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. We will meet following worship at 11:15 AM in the Fellowship Room. Many thanks to Michele Wilson for offering this valuable discussion.

Friendship Day

Friendship Day is Sunday, April 19. Everyone is encouraged to invite a friend to worship.

Sometimes all people need is an invitation – and maybe they've been waiting for you to invite them. We have a warm, wonderful community waiting to welcome them!

Reach out to your friends and family, and let's see if we can fill our sanctuary for worship on Friendship Day!



Kathy and Katrina Johns, Julie Warfield, and Judy Goodrow joined hundreds of marchers for the Palm Sunday Path in Lansing on March 29.

WPC Monthly Report

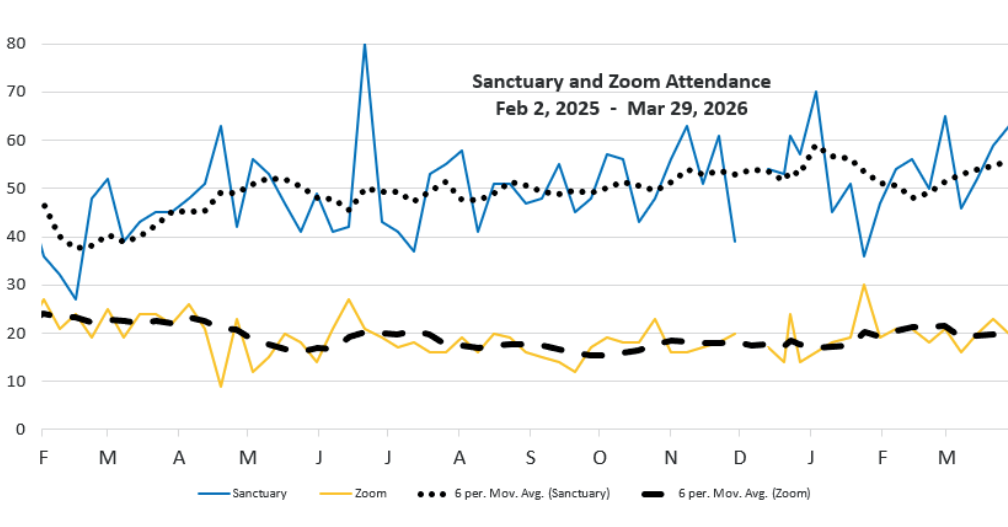
Westminster numbers for March 1-22 (4 Sundays):

- Attendance (in person & online) 90
- Pledge/envelope income \$4,500.00
- Expenses \$9,010.90

NOTES:

- Our monthly cost-sharing payment to St. John's is \$8,800.
- When Rev. Kristin Stroble moderates session in person, she is paid \$150 + mileage (total of \$210.90).
- Session meets in odd-numbered months.

Contributed by Bette Watkins



The surest sign that God is alive in you is joy.

Robert Barron



With Rev. David Schell at the Palm Sunday Path in Lansing. Thanks to Katrina Johns for being our photographer!

Partnership Board

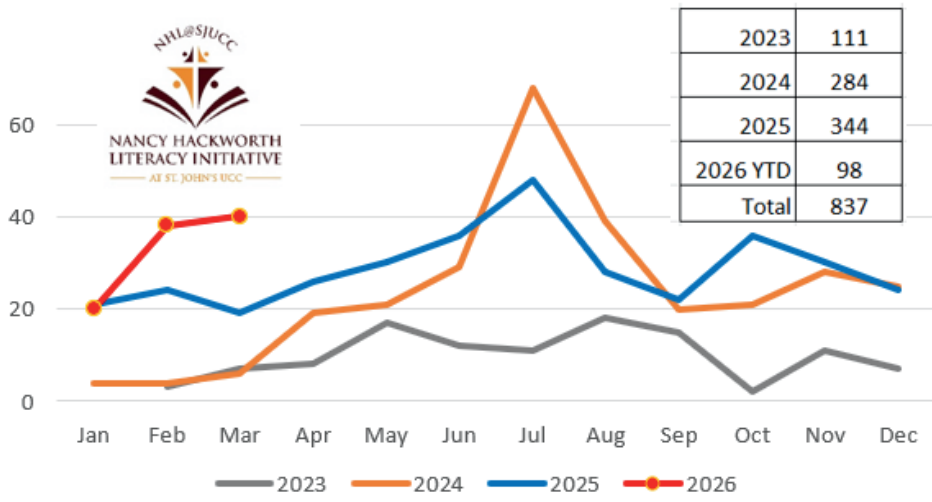
The Partnership Board is made up of the WPC Session and the SJUCC Council.

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 May 13.

Literacy Coaching Sessions Provided Thru Mar 2026



The NHL@SJUCC continues to make a strong impact in our community, providing nearly 100 literacy coaching sessions in the first quarter of 2026. We're also excited to welcome two new students this month—Hendrix and Marlie!

Contributed by Bert Steck

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