

PARTNERSHIP PRESS

@Partnership Place



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. John's
United Church of Christ

MAY CALENDAR

- MAY 3--CALVARY BRASS JOINS US FOR WORSHIP
- MAY 3--JUST MERCY FILM AND PIZZA 11:30 AM
- MAY 5—FAITH IN ACTION 10AM
- MAY 5—CENTERING PRAYER 4PM
- MAY 6—INTERFAITH KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15PM
- MAY 10--MOTHERS DAY, MEN SERVE COFFEE HOUR
- MAY 12—WORSHIP MEETING 4PM
- MAY 13—SJUCC COUNCIL 4:30PM
- MAY 13— PARTNERSHIP BOARD 5:30PM
- MAY 13— SESSION MEETING 6:30PM
- MAY 15—GAMES & POTLUCK 2PM
- MAY 17—CLEANUP DAY & POTLUCK
- MAY 19—INTERFAITH FAMILY ACTIVITIES 5:15PM
- MAY 22—BABY SPRINKLE & FOOD PANTRY 10AM-12PM
- MAY 23—COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE 7-9PM
- MAY 25—MEMORIAL DAY, OFFICE CLOSED
- MAY 27-30—UCC CLERGY RETREAT
- MAY 31—GUEST PREACHER KC STECKELBERG
- EVERY WEDNESDAY—YARNS-ARTS-CRAFTS 10AM-12PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM
- EVERY THURSDAY—JACKSON PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY 5-6:30PM

May 2026

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Mission Updates

Our **April Food Pantry** served 85 people representing 187 family members. 200 pounds of food were distributed. The community dinner on April 14 provided a hot meal to 42 persons.

- Contributed by Carl Robinson

Our **Baby Sprinkle** continues to serve families by providing diapers, wipes, and clothing from newborn to size 6. The April Baby Sprinkle served 25 families representing 35 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 April one person received rent assistance and 7 persons received utility assistance. The emergency food pantry provided 15 sacks of food, and 17 people used our church showers.

- Contributed by the Church Office

At the **Jackson Interfaith Shelter** in April, we had a total of 3 kids and one adult for crafts. Five parents and six children participated in the Interfaith Family activities here at Partnership Place on April 21. Cindy Osborne, Cindy Spiess, and Atalie from Jackson Interfaith organized the activities. Our next family night is May 19 at 5:15 PM.

- Submitted by Cindy Osborne

The **Jackson Personal Care Ministry** served 171 guests during the month of April. 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. In May, we will begin hanging the "Save a Sole" socks that were collected in March. 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** on April 25 was a huge success, with Bob & Gloria as Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny. The next dance will be the Country Western dance on May 23 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.

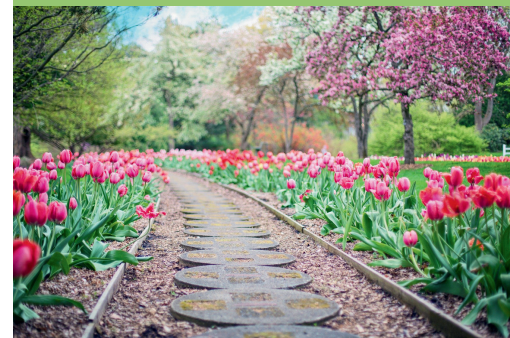


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From the Pastor's Screen

VIOLET DETOUR

Every day I walk my two big dogs on a path through our little woods. My husband created the path just for me so I could avoid walking on the road, and I enjoy it several times every day. This spring part of the path was flooded from the heavy rain and snow melt, so I looked for ways around the water. I found an animal trail that wound through the trees, and the dogs and I started following this new path.



In April my husband and I cleared away more of the brush and branches, so the trail was easier to maneuver. The path that was forged by deer and racoons was now part of our system of walking trails. I loved the new path with its winding curves and towering trees.

Last week I rounded a curve on the path and was startled by the view. Violet blooms stretched from both sides of the trail far into the woods. The entire floor of the forest was covered with wild violets. The sunlight dappled through the treetops, highlighting the lavender carpet of flowers. This beautiful display must have been there every year, but I had never seen it -- until I followed the animal trail.

If there hadn't been a flood, I wouldn't have needed a detour. Because I couldn't take the familiar path, I discovered something so beautiful it first took my breath away and then gave me peace.

We generally don't like detours. We don't like it when we can't keep traveling on our usual route. When we're driving, we're never happy to see orange cones. When we're worshipping, we don't enjoy change.

Church is peaceful because it gives us stability and ritual that we find soothing, but church must also change. Sometimes God has something different planned for us. A detour pops up, change happens, and we might be tempted to grumble and complain. Instead, maybe we can look at every change as an adventure. Where might this new path lead? What surprises might God have for us all?

Maybe God will lead us to rediscover the ancient paths, so we can find rest for our weary souls. The prophet Jeremiah invites us to stand at the crossroads. Pause for a moment. Look for the opportunities. Where is the Spirit leading you today? Whichever way we wander, God has promised to be with us. May we all find rest for our souls.

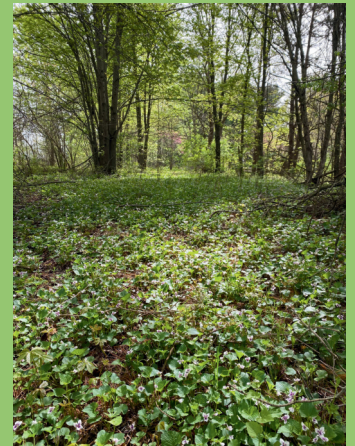
For now, I'll be out picking flowers.
Roses are red, violets are blue ...

Pastor Judy



Thus says the Lord:
Stand at the
crossroads, and look,
and ask for the
ancient paths,
where the good way lies;
and walk in it,
and find rest for
your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16 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

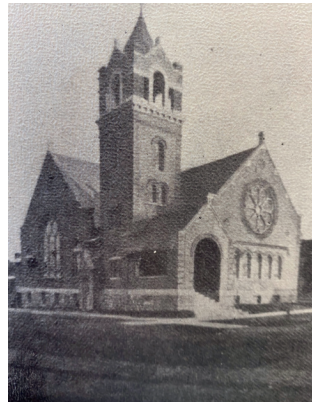
HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

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

Historical Timeline

Marty Baumgartner has been working to establish the Partnership Place building as an historic site. Here is the timeline he recorded, beginning with the formation of St. John's:



Dec 2, 1883 - St. Johannes Evangelische Kirche

July 7, 1885 - the wood-frame building at Biddle & Mechanic completed

August 6, 1905 - the cornerstone was laid for the current building

March 4, 1906 - Dedication service held for building

1917 - Parsonage constructed next to the church building

1934 - became St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church

1957-1958 - basement and fellowship room remodel, exterior painting

1965 - 811 S. Mechanic purchased and became a parking lot

Guest Preachers

Pastor Judy will be attending a clergy retreat May 27-30, then taking vacation June 1 through 21. From May 31 through June 21, we have lined up the following speakers and preachers for our worship services.

On Sunday, May 31, KC Steckelberg will be our morning preacher. KC is a Member-in-Discernment for the United Church of Christ and a recent graduate of Western Theological Seminary.

The following speakers/ministers will join us in June:

June 7 - Pastor Rick Morgan from Jackson Interfaith Shelter

June 14 - Jan Janke will be our morning speaker

June 21 - Rev. John Best will preach, serve Holy Communion, and moderate the WPC annual meeting (all are invited to attend)

Games and Potluck May 15

The Fellowship Committee has organized a game & potluck event for Friday, May 15, beginning at 2 PM. Bring your favorite game and a dish to pass and join the fun! (Yes, that means YOU!)

Welcome, Paul!

We are excited to have Paul Bickel playing our piano twice a month this year. Paul is an incredible musician and we are grateful that he was able to fit us in his busy Sunday schedule. His daughter Laura often attends worship here with his mother-in-law Sandy Clark. Please be sure to greet him warmly on May 17 and 24.



On any given day, in any given moment, something could happen that opens up for you an entirely new path. Be still, be alert, be ready.

Marianne Williamson



WPC Monthly Report

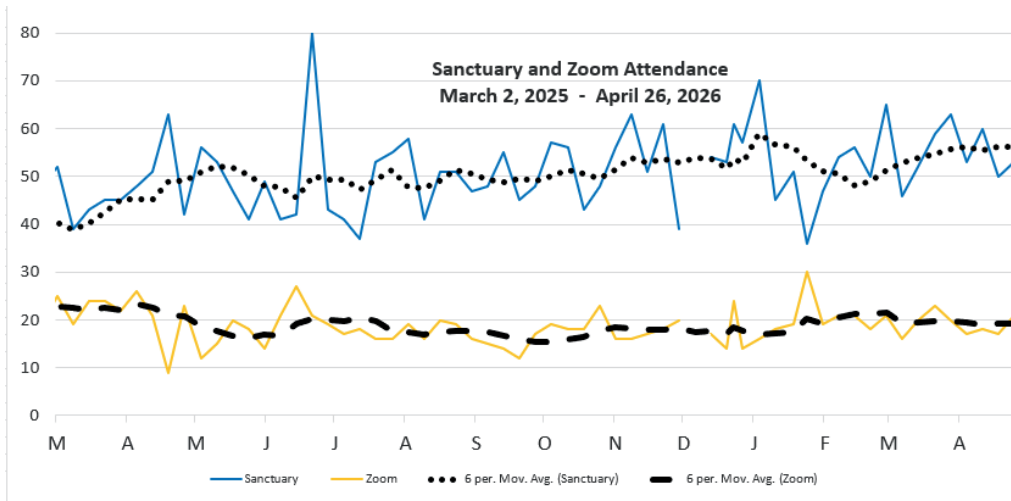
Westminster numbers for April:

- Attendance (in person & online) 72
- Pledge/envelope income \$5,315.00
- Expenses \$8,800.00

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



Clean Up Day

On Sunday, May 17, we will enjoy a potluck following worship – and then we'll grab our gardening gloves and cleaning supplies to give our campus a spring cleaning, inside and out. Please plan to lend a hand!



Summer Devotionals

During the summer months, many of us are traveling, visiting family, weeding the flower beds ... and we don't take the time to feed our spirits. Here are two free electronic devotionals that you can sign up to receive in your inbox every day.

Sign up for the United Church of Christ free daily devotional here: [Daily Devotional - United Church of Christ](#)

Sign up for Our Daily Bread here: [Email Subscription](#)

Just Mercy Film

Join us for a private viewing of the film *Just Mercy* on Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 AM. Pizza will be provided. The "Just Mercy" book study offered by the Faith In Action Committee was well attended. The information and group discussions were enlightening, sometimes shocking, and certainly motivating. Our group feels inspired to share this information with our church and the community. We will have a private viewing of the film about Bryan Stevenson and his pursuit of justice, especially for those who are presumed guilty because they are poor and people of color.

Contributed by Pat Baumgartner

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.

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