



# PARTNERSHIP PRESS



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## *SEPTEMBER CALENDAR*

- SEP 1 - FAITH IN ACTION 10 AM; CENTERING PRAYER 4 PM
- SEP 2 - INTERFAITH SHELTER KIDS' ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM
- SEP 8 - WORSHIP MEETING 4 PM; COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM
- SEP 9 - SJUCC COUNCIL 4:30 PM, PARTNERSHIP BOARD 5:30 PM, SESSION 6:30 PM
- SEP 12 - EDWARD/LOVEJOY WEDDING AT PARTNERSHIP PLACE 3-5 PM
- SEP 13 - SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS DURING WORSHIP
- SEP 15 - INTERFAITH FAMILY ACTIVITIES - COMMUNITY ROOM 5:15 PM
- SEP 16 - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
- SEP 18 - FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM-12 PM
- SEP 19 - COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9 PM
- SEP 20 - PET BLESSING IN THE ORCHARD 2 PM
- SEP 22 - NURTURE COMMITTEE MEETING 10 AM
- SEP 23 - INTERFAITH SHELTER DINNER CHURCH 4:30 PM
- SEP 23 - ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM
- SEP 29- HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS ZOOM 6 PM

EVERY WEDNESDAY—YARNS-ARTS-CRAFTS 10AM-12PM IN THE PRAYER ROOM

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

## *Walk with us! CROP Walk October 11*

The Jackson Area CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, October 11 at 1pm. The CROP Hunger Walk raises funds to support local hunger ministries, including our Food Pantry. The Partnership Place team will meet at First Congregational Church, 120 N. Jackson Street. For more information, contact Dawn Depner or visit the website at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/jacksonmi>

## September 2026

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

## Mission Updates

| Ministry                               | People Served                   | Families Served                              |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Food Pantry                            | 120                             | 286 family members                           |
| Baby Sprinkle                          | 72                              | 46                                           |
| Interfaith Kids' Activities & Families | 4 children for crafts on Aug. 5 | 2 parents, 4 children for activities Aug. 18 |
| Personal Care Ministry                 | 238                             |                                              |
| Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church       |                                 | Next dinner church is September 23           |
| Community Dance                        |                                 | Next dance is September 19                   |
| Samaritan Fund (Utilities)             | 8                               |                                              |
| Samaritan Fund (Evictions)             | 3                               |                                              |
| Showers                                | 28                              |                                              |
| Emergency Food                         | 21                              |                                              |

## 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

## DO NOT FEAR



Spider season arrived in my woods a little early this year. Whenever I walk my dogs along the forest paths I carry a spider-stick, which I wield like a deranged orchestra conductor. The stick finds the spider webs before I walk into them, except this year, when the webs began to appear much earlier than usual. I walked into a few before I realized what was happening.

One little spider was amazing. Every morning she had spun a web with anchoring strands that stretched over six feet. If I wasn't careful (and I wasn't) I would walk directly into her web (which I did, twice.) She turned out to be an arrowhead orb-spinner, with eight legs, eight eyes, and a blood-red body with a bright yellow abdomen. I know this because I found her sitting on my left shoulder.

She was terrifying. I tried not to scream as she pushed off my shoulder, rappelling to the ground on a graceful web.

Why was I so afraid? The spider was tiny and fragile. There was absolutely no reason to fear her, yet this ½ inch arachnid scared me silly. When the bible says "do not fear" does that apply to spiders?

There are many reasons to be afraid in this world, which is probably why "do not fear" is a powerful theme in religious texts. Why do we need sacred texts to remind us?

Most of us are afraid so often it has become our normal state. The media discovered that we digest more news if we become angry or afraid. Social media loops us into silos where every voice reports the same things: politics, war, AI, disease, climate change, and more -- interspersed with ads for pharmaceuticals to make us feel better.

Fear is just a natural response to a perceived threat. Instead of medicating ourselves into feeling better, can we limit what frightens us? It's as easy as turning off the TV or turning off your phone. Get your stick and take a walk.

We are inundated with potential threats – which may never happen. Let's learn to limit the amount of frightful information we consume. Wave your spider stick when walking into the world wide web. When the threat is real (and sitting on your shoulder) remind yourself that Someone greater than you is in charge, and you are safe.

Fear not!



Pastor Judy

Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give to you.  
I do not give to you  
as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts  
be troubled, and do not  
let them be afraid.

John 14:27 NRSV



Arrowhead orb-spinner

## BE THE BLESSING

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

MAKE A DONATION TO THE  
CROP WALK

DONATE CHILDREN'S  
CLOTHES & DIAPERS

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING  
AND REACH OUT WITH LOVE!

## Mentoring

Wouldn't it be nice to come to a new church and make a new friend? Someone who could show you around. A buddy to go to activities with. A special person who could introduce you to others.

You could be that someone for our new guests and visitors! We are looking for UCC and Westminster (i.e. Partnership Place) folks to mentor our newcomers.

If you would like to participate in this exciting opportunity and would like more information, please see or call Cat Rieman (517)750-4817 or the church office (517)784-7580. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

- Cat Rieman

## WPC Monthly Report

Westminster numbers for August:

- Attendance (in person & online) 109 (5 Sundays)
- Pledge/envelope income \$1,940.00
- Expenses \$8,800.00

NOTES:

- Session meets in odd-numbered months.

Contributed by Bette Watkins



## Meijer Simply ... Gave!

We received \$7500 for our food pantry from Meijer Simply Give. Thank you to all who purchased gift cards during the drive.



## Pet Blessing

On Sunday, September 20 we will have a Pet Blessing in the Orchard at the corner of Biddle and Mechanic. Bring your pets and we will meet at 2 PM. If you cannot bring your pet, you may bring a picture. Pets and owners will receive a blessing. Please keep pets leashed.

The congregation is invited to be present to welcome pet owners and show some Partnership Place hospitality. The Orchard is owned by the United Center for Caring, a 501(c)3 organization which provides this beautiful green space for the neighborhood. If it rains, we'll bless pets in the Community Room.

**PARTNERSHIP PLACE**  
**Fall Craft & Vendor Show**  
**Saturday, October 3**  
**12 - 5 PM**  
**Partnership Place**  
**801 S. Mechanic St.**  
**As the Crowe**

Music by Simone

**CROWES' NEST**

If you can work at the Partnership Place table, or if you have items to donate, please contact Pat Baumgartner.



## Fall Food & Fellowship

Through the years Westminster has held Fall Dinners, a time to reconnect with each other after a busy summer. Partnership Place will be doing that this year, but with a little twist: it does not have to be dinner! It could be breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, picnic...whatever the host chooses!

**How it works:** the volunteer hosts will let me know what date and time they will host, and how many people they can accommodate. I'll post sign-up sheets, and you will sign up for the date and time that works best for your schedule. The host will contact you a few days before your meal together to let you know where to meet. All you need to do is enjoy the food and fellowship!

Speaking of volunteer hosts...I'm looking for approximately 8 people willing to host a meal/gathering on a date/time that is convenient for them. We would like to hold these meals in September and October, so we don't need to worry about snowy weather. Please check your calendars and let me know when and how many you can host for your meal. Thanks!

Questions? Email me at [BetteBWatkins161@gmail.com](mailto:BetteBWatkins161@gmail.com).

### Info for hosts:

1. Don't let anyone but Bette know which date and time are yours! We want folks to sign up for a date, not a person they already know well. A big part of the fun is the mystery of the who and where 😊
2. You can be as simple or as elegant as you desire: burgers on the grill, a pot of soup/goulash/etc., breakfast casserole, picnic at the park, tea and cookies ... whatever you choose! The main idea is the fellowship, not an extravagant meal!
3. Let me know how many guests you can accommodate for your meal (remember to include yourself).
4. I will put out sign-up sheets, asking for names and phone numbers of the guests. A few days before your event, you will call everyone and let them know where and when to meet.

## August Attendance

| Date   | Sanc. | Zoom | Total |
|--------|-------|------|-------|
| Aug 2  | 48    | 18   | 66    |
| Aug 9  | 55    | 20   | 75    |
| Aug 16 | 60    | 19   | 79    |
| Aug 23 | 51    | 24   | 75    |
| Aug 30 | 55    | 19   | 74    |

...do not fear,  
for I am with you,  
do not be afraid,  
for I am your God.

Isaiah 41 : 10a

## Partnership Board

The Partnership Board consists of the WPC Session and the SJUCC Council. Next meeting is September 9.

Westminster Session members: Sandy Clark, Kathy Johns, Andy Rieman, Pat Baumgartner, Dennis Johns, Dawn Depner, and Bette Watkins. Rev. Ben Rumbaugh 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.

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