PARTNERSHIP PRESS

St. John's United Church of Christ

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2026

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

NOV 1 – ALL SAINTS DAY WORSHIP 10 AM / DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

NOV 2 – COMMUNITY WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 5:30 PM

NOV 3 – FAITH IN ACTION 10 AM; CENTERING PRAYER 4:30 PM; ELECTION DAY

NOV 4 – WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4 PM; INTERFAITH KIDS ACTIVITIES 5:15 PM

NOV 4 – ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM

NOV 8 – STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

NOV 10—COMMUNITY DINNER 6 PM

NOV 11—BIBLE STUDY 6 PM

NOV 13 – STORYFEST AT MICHIGAN THEATER 7 PM DINNER AT NITE LITE 5:30 PM

NOV 17—INTERFAITH FAMILY ACTIVITIES 5:30 PM

NOV 18—ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM

NOV 20 – FOOD PANTRY AND BABY SPRINKLES 10 AM – NOON

NOV 20 – GAMES 3 PM FELLOWSHIP ROOM AND/OR DINNER DOWNTOWN 5:15 PM

NOV 21 – COMMUNITY DANCE 7 PM

NOV 22 – THANKSGIVING SUNDAY SERVICE 10 AM

NOV 24—DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT – 4 PM

NOV 25—INTERFAITH SHELTER DINNER CHURCH 4:15 PM; NO BIBLE STUDY

NOV 26 – THANKSGIVING DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

NOV 29 – HANGING OF THE GREENS & SAUERKRAUT POTLUCK

EVERY WEDNESDAY – YARN-ARTS-CRAFTS GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY – JACKSON PERSONAL CARE PANTRY

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NHL Milestone

I'm very pleased to share an exciting milestone for the Nancy Hackworth Literacy Initiative — we have now provided more than 1,000 literacy coaching sessions!

Our very first literacy coaching session was held on February 17, 2023, with tutor Sue Nawrot and student Ja'Zhaia S. Three and a half years later, our 1,000th session was held on August 19, 2026, with tutor Bette Watkins and student Ryan G.

When NHL@SJUCC began in February 2023, the goal was simple: Help young students become more confident readers to improve their opportunity for academic success. By providing coaching at no cost to families, the program makes this support available to children who might otherwise be unable to afford private tutoring. One thousand sessions later, that mission remains at the heart of everything we do.

We remember Darryl Hackworth and recognize the entire Hackworth family, whose vision, generosity, and commitment helped make this program possible. Although Darryl is no longer with us, his support of the program and his desire to honor his wife Nancy's legacy continue to make a difference in the lives of young people. The Hackworth family's continuing support has helped ensure that the work begun in Nancy's name continues to grow and serve our community.



Tutor Betsy Lorr

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this remarkable journey possible. What a wonderful milestone to celebrate together!

With gratitude, Bert Steck

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Healthy Churches have FUN!

Mark your calendars for November fellowship events and join us!

- Sign up today for Story Fest at the Michigan Theater on Friday, Nov. 13. We'll gather at Nite Lite for dinner at 5:30 PM, then go to Story Fest at 7PM. Come to both – or either! See Kathy Johns for details.
- Games & Dinner will be Friday, Nov. 20. We'll play games in the Fellowship Room at 3 PM, then we'll head downtown for dinner around 5:15 PM. See Bette Watkins for more info.
- Hanging of the Greens potluck will be Sunday, Nov. 29. We'll serve sauerkraut, and everyone is invited to bring side dishes and desserts. Questions? See Cindy Spiess.

Sign up for all these events in the Community Room.

Partnership Place

From the Pastor's Screen



ACCEPTING SEASONS OF CHANGE

The winds of change are blowing.

In October my husband and I spent a few days up north enjoying the season. We toured the Traverse City Asylum (by flashlight!), hiked the winding trails at Mud Lake, and explored the Leelanau Peninsula. We spent time with both sides of the family as we meandered back to Indiana. The weather was lovely; fall felt like an old friend returning for a visit, riding on a cool breeze and dressed in red, gold, and orange.

For many years, the autumn season didn't feel friendly at all – I dreaded it. The changing colors, the chill in the air, and the windy days didn't feel beautiful. They were the harbinger of winter. Bone-chilling cold was coming, and I knew nothing would stop it.

The past few years, however, have brought about a change in my perspective. I have begun to truly enjoy the nip in the air, even though I know what will come next. Change happens, and I know these days won't last forever. I've learned to accept the autumn chill, knowing how quickly one season leads to the next.

When we know God is in every season, every season becomes holy

Life is filled with seasons. Each season is part of a divine plan -- and the seasons are not always easy. Some are uncomfortable. Some seasons are filled with pain and unwelcome change. In this, there is one certainty: God always sends us springtime. The autumn wind may blow, and the winter snow may overtake us, but there will be spring. There will be a day, soon, for rebirth and growth and new beginnings. When we know that God is in every season, every season becomes holy, and every season holds hope.

A season of change is upon us, and it may be difficult, so we will prepare. We will keep our lamps lit. We'll find our heavy boots. We trust that God's light will lead us through the dark nights ahead. We allow ourselves time to rest and worship. As we walk together, we watch for glimmers of joy, knowing that every season is ordained by One who wants only what is best for us.

Grab your boots and your flashlights! We're on the right path.

- Pastor Judy



While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22 ESV



Set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1

BE THE BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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

INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

OFFER YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

SERVE FOOD AT INTERFAITH SHELTER DINNER CHURCH

DONATE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES & DIAPERS

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

PRAY

NOTICE WHO'S MISSING AND REACH OUT WITH LOVE!

Mission Updates

Ministry	People Served	Families Served
Food Pantry	215	85
Baby Sprinkle	95	52
Interfaith Kids' Activities & Families	Crafts for kids was cancelled	3 adults, 8 kids for family night
Personal Care Ministry	285	Sign up to help in Community Room
Interfaith Shelter Dinner Church	20+ persons at worship Sept 23	Next dinner church is November 25
Community Dance	150	Next dance is November 21
Samaritan Fund (Utilities)	7	
Samaritan Fund (Rent Assistance)	4	
Showers	34	
Emergency Food	19	

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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Rev. Judy Goodrow
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judy.goodrow@partnership.place

Advent

It feels too soon – but Advent is almost here! Can you help us decorate the church for this special season?

November 22 following worship: All able bodies are invited to carry the decorations down from storage in the Upper Room.

Tuesday, **November 24 at 4 PM**: Come one, come all to decorate! We will need some muscle to set up the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and Community Room.

The first Sunday of Advent is **November 29**. During our worship we will "Hang the Greens," a tradition from Westminster Presbyterian Church. Many of you will be asked to participate. Plan to stay for our sauerkraut potluck during coffee hour, and bring a dish to pass. Signup in the Community Room.

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. So far, we have three mentors ready to go!

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 October:

- Attendance (in person & online) 86 (4 Sundays)
- Pledge/envelope income $7,443.00
- Expenses $8,800.00

NOTES:

- Session will meet in December.

Contributed by Bette Watkins

October Attendance

Date	Sanc.	Zoom	Total
Oct 4	56	25	81
Oct 11	58	19	77
Oct 18	56	21	77
Oct 25	62	21	83
AVG	58	22	80



Partnership Board

The Partnership Board consists of the WPC Session and the SJUCC Council. Next meeting for Council, Partnership Board, and Session is December 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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