

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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Financial Task Force Back Team

Piece of Peace

What fun it is to guest write for "Peace of Peace" this month. Over the past year or so I have had the joy of becoming more involved in Peace of Bread, and I have been so blessed by the experience. I am amazed by the incredible community of people who gather each week to eat, fellowship and pray. And I can't help but thinking that this is what church is meant to be like - people gathered together out of love, to worship God and to serve one another. I am overwhelmed by the amount of love and compassion that is shown each week, and I am humbled by the men and women of faith that I have met sitting around the dinner table who have been through so much and yet have the strength to persevere. I love that we gather each week to share a meal, sing happy birthday and celebrate victories together, and that we can uplift each other in prayer when things are hard.

I must admit that when I started attending Peace of Bread, I went thinking that I could help these people and that I had something to offer them. And yes, that is true to an extent, but I have been amazed at how much this community has given and taught me. I have been blessed by new friends, have been rejuvenated by playing with the laughing children, and have been strengthened in my own faith by the prayers and testimonies of those who have been on this journey longer than I have.

I want to say "thank you" to all of you for whatever part you play in this incredible community. Whether you help out in the kitchen, volunteer behind the scenes or financially support this ministry, know that we couldn't do it without you. But also know that Peace of Bread is more than just a place where people come to be fed. It is also a family that loves and cares for one another, and there is room in that family for you as well! I hope that you will take the chance and open yourself up to experiencing the joy of being a part of this community. I promise that you won't regret it!

Pastor Renn



Peace of Bread
Community Kitchen,
Wednesday's 5:30 pm

The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

51 Cottage St. (church) - 7 Spring St. (office), Whitinsville, MA 01588

Phone: 508.234.8220 Website: www.whitinpres.org

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Pastor Renn E-mail: rev.renn.serna@gmail.com

Office Hours: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Monday & Wednesday

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Thursday & Friday

*The church office is CLOSED on Tuesdays.

In case of emergencies, please call 774-246-6313

July
2016

~ JULY ~

MINISTRIES	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Worship Leader	A. Reichert	Z. Morin	S. Phoebe	G. Shannon	D. Redden
Welcome Center	R. Thomas	L. Cassavant	H. Platt	J. Baker	M. Spalton
Greeter	A. Castonguay	K. Ireland-Bilodeau	T. Morin	C. Frieswyk	S. Mateer
Offering Counters	M Reynolds. & G. Giemza	M. Thomas & S. Mateer	D & S Mateer	J. Baker & C. Pilibosian	G. Giezma & T. Schelin
Coffee Fellowship	H. Platt	C. Pilibosian	L. Joyce	K. Miedema	A. Santoro

~ AUGUST ~

MINISTRIES	August 7	August 15	August 21	August 28	Sept 4
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	R. Thomas	D. Redden	S. Phoebe	G. Shannon
Welcome Center	S. Santoro	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	R.Thomas	L. Cassavant
Greeter	J. Baker	L. & N. Joyce	K. Miedema	A. Castonguay	K. Ireland-Bilodeau
Coffee Fellowship	L. Sabourin	K. Bilodeau	C. Frieswyk	L. Cassavant	R. Thomas

****Summer Sunday Morning Worship Schedule****

<i>Adult Education</i>	<i>9:30AM - 10:30AM</i>
<i>Morning Worship Service</i>	<i>10:30AM - 11:30AM</i>
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	<i>11:30 AM</i>

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20

July Birthday Corner

Grant Ribbe	7/4
Lily Brandriff	7/7
Darlene Johnson	7/7
Julia Johnson	7/7
Maura Connelly	7/9
Anne MacLeod	7/10
Joel Phoebe	7/10
Elizabeth LaCava	7/10
Bev Keeler	7/11
Chris Nadeau	7/14
Will Shannon	7/14
Tony Santoro	7/16
Jim Baker	7/17
Gloria Rauth	7/17
Mark Thomas	7/21
Suzanne Santoro	7/29

July Anniversary Corner

Bill & Linda Skillen	7/22
Chris & Cheri Ribbe	7/24

August Birthday Corner

Shea Stone	8/1
Katherine Kloczkowski	8/3
Jess Nadeau	8/6
Evelyn Williams	8/7
Robin Gniadek	8/13
Gene LaCava	8/13
Clara Holding	8/18
Seth Kloczkowski	8/24
Bill Spalton	8/25
Christian Nadeau	8/26
Sarah Kloczkowski	8/28
Jen Johnson	8/29
Judy Salzberg	8/31

August Anniversary Corner

Jim & Debbie Baker	8/8
Kevin & Marcie Brandriff	8/8
Mark & Ronda Thomas	8/8
Scott & Jennifer Szajna	8/10
Don & Susan Mateer	8/16
Rob & Nancy Kloczkowski	8/19

Grow Deeper

Do you want to grow in faith? Are you looking for somebody to walk alongside of you on your Christian journey? Then check out one of our small groups and discover all that our church has to offer.

- Kathryn Huston Mission Circle (Women's Ministry) - Second Tuesday of the Month
- Peace of Bread Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall - Wednesdays at 4:30pm
- Sermon Discussion Group in the - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- Men's Prayer Group in the church office - Fridays at 6:30am
- Women's Book Club - Third Friday of the Month at 6:30pm
- Adult Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall - Sunday at 9:30am

For more information, contact the church office at 508-234-8220 or office@whitinpres.net

Food, Fun, and Fellowship in the Summer!

We are taking a break from our usual Second Sunday Socials during the summer but we are still going to have opportunities for us to enjoy some fun and fellowship with our church family and friends.

When you hear summer, don't you think of ICE CREAM???

Join us on the second FRIDAYS of each summer month for our Ice Cream Social:

July 8, and August 12
6:30-8:00 p.m.

We will gather out behind the church office (weather permitting. If not, come on down to our Fellowship Hall). We will enjoy some ice cream, play some games, and enjoy each other's company. Hope to see you there!



Communications Workshop

A day-long Communications Workshop led by a team from the Presbyterian Mission Agency will be held on Saturday, July 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Bedford Presbyterian Church in Bedford, NH.

What do you want your community to know about your church? Are you looking for ways to share God's love through social media? Does your church have a well-thought-out communications plan—for both internal and external audiences? Create excitement and energy in your congregation by using simple, but powerful communications tools. You don't have to have a huge budget or a large staff to effectively tell the story of your work inside and outside the church walls.

This daylong workshop, conducted by communications professionals on the Presbyterian Mission Agency Staff, will give you tips and techniques to better reach your audience. We'll offer insights and guidelines on creating a communications plan for your congregation, discuss the "do's and don'ts of media relations and "pitching" stories to your local media. You'll learn proven techniques for using social media tools like Facebook and Twitter and leave with tips that will make your communications more effective and help increase your reach.

The cost of the workshop is being covered by a Synod grant, so the only cost to participants will be for lunch. Please let Pastor Renn know if you are interested in attending.

Tacking the Tough Stuff Seminar Saturday, September 17, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

An all-day CPYU (The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding) seminar tackling the tough teen issues of suicide, depression, self-injury, narcissism and pornography.

A seminar for youth workers, volunteers, parents, educators, counselors, and all others who love and care for children and teens. Youth specialists, Walt Mueller [Presbyterian] and Marv Penner, will help you unpack and respond to the tough stuff in kids' lives.

Location: Grace Chapel, 59 Worthen Road, Lexington, MA

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2016

Time: All day 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Registration Includes Lunch catered by Chick-Fil-A

Normal Registration: \$60 by August 1

Late Registration: \$70

For additional information and to register, go to:

<http://www.grace.org/event/820638-2016-09-17-tackling-the-tough-stuff-seminar/>



The Ecumenical
Vacation Bible School
will be
July 18th- 22nd
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
for children ages
4 years - 6th grade
for a cost of \$14 per
child/\$28 per family.
It will be held at the
Village
Congregational
Church. The program
will consist of Bible
stories, worship,
singing, crafts,
outreach projects,
bells, sacred dance,
science experiments,
recreation, and
refreshments. .
Registration forms
are available online at
the church website
www.vccucc.org and
in Mason Hall.

General Assembly Overview

The national governing body of the Presbyterian Church met this past June in Portland, OR to discuss the ongoing life and ministry of our denomination. Important decisions were made in regard to our Creedal beliefs as well as our joint efforts in missions both here and abroad. Below is a brief overview of the discussion and decisions made. For more information can be found at <http://oga.pcusa.org/>

Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a new season in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as witnessed by the actions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The body of 594 commissioners who gathered June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon, elected Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and J. Herbert Nelson as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, and both signal a new way forward for our church.

The business decisions made by the body also were transformative for the 1,572,660 members and 9,642 churches of the PC(USA). The work wasn't easy, and involved careful deliberations. Collectively, the body acted on nearly 100 overtures by discerning the will of Christ.

Among other things, we now have a new addition to our Book of Confessions – the Confession of Belhar. It is the first of our confessions that comes from the global south. And, the PC(USA) has a new Directory for Worship; and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. God is truly guiding us to be more faithful and just to all of God's creations. Much discussion has been taking place around the identity and purpose of the denomination, and this week the assembly voted to create a 12-member Way Forward Commission "to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC (USA)," and a 15-member 2020 Vision Team to "develop a guiding statement for the denomination and make a plan for its implementation."

To quote Stated Clerk-elect J. Herbert Nelson, "We are not dead ... we are alive, we are reforming, and we are transforming this world, one person at a time."

Looking outward, the assembly voted to engage in selective, phased divestment from fossil-fuel companies through the PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee, and re-affirmed a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine. Please know this is only a snapshot of the actions taken, and just a glimpse at where God is leading this denomination. Complete business actions can be viewed at www.pc-biz.org.

We are, brothers and sisters, in a new season. It's exciting, but also a little scary. Yet in the midst of it all, take comfort that God is still guiding and controlling all – and we need not fear. God is calling us to hope, and to God be the glory!

The Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)
Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa, Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Smart Money Tour



Dave Ramsey will be in Lowell Memorial Auditorium September 29th. Leslie Reichert was able to get 20 tickets at \$20 each. They will be given out on a first come first serve basis. Please see Leslie if you are interested in going. For more info check out

<http://www.daveramsey.com/events/sml-lowell-20160929>



Lindsey Reichert
 "Here I am Lord. Send me. Isaiah 6:8"

Lindsey Reichert's

Mission Trip

Find out how Lindsey is doing and read stories of God's faithfulness by visiting her blog at www.belovedtravels.com or by following her on Facebook at "Lindsey's Red Box Trip to India"

Keep Lindsey in prayer as she serves God this summer and shares God's love to the ends of the earth!



Pastor's Piece



Dear friends, what a wonderful year it has been! Can you believe that it was just two years ago that we went through the New Beginnings process to celebrate who God has called us to be and to discern God's will for the future? During that time our church came together and affirmed our own particular gifts and strengths as a church family and committed to continuing this tradition on into the future. Specifically, we affirmed that God is calling us to be a church that goes UPWARD IN WORSHIP, OUTWARD IN SERVICE and ONWARD IN FAITH. We

believe that these are the values and traditions that are at the core of who we are as a congregation and the areas that God is calling us to focus on as we continue doing God's work.

With that in mind, we have focused the majority of our time and energy this past year in these three areas and have seen much fruit come from our efforts. As we live UPWARD IN WORSHIP, we continue to walk the line between traditional and contemporary music, holding on to our past while reaching out to future generations. We have been blessed by the gifted leadership of Chris Bilodeau, and have enjoyed inspiring music led by Chris and the choir. I am thankful for the talent and gifts of Brandy Giemza and Matt Stone and all that they have added to worship as well. Our sound team, consisting of Kyle Mateer, Greg Giemza, and Chris Shannon, have done an incredible job this year. Under Kyle's leadership a number of upgrades have been made to the church sound system and our services are now both online and on the local television channel.

Peace of Music, our Wednesday evening Outreach Service, was a direct result of our New Beginnings process and is now just over a year old. This service, which averages between 20 and 30 people a week, has been a blessing to many, attracting both unchurched and churched alike. Again I am thankful for Chris' leadership and vision for this ministry, and for the ecumenical support of Jeff Vollmer and Brandis Haagsma who faithfully lead worship alongside of Chris each week.

We continue to be a church that prioritizes missions and outreach, and we have persevered in living OUTWARD IN SERVICE. This year we have committed to serving Peace of Bread and our community in even greater ways, and have been blessed to see fruit from those efforts. The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study has been an incredible place of support both for church members and members of our community. The Deacons have been incredible at helping out behind the scenes, serving in the clothing pantry, helping out with the summer food bags, and welcoming our guests each week. New friendships have been made, prayers have been shared and God's love has been made visible. Thank you especially to Mike and Laurie Sabourin, Chuck Holding, Leslie Reichert, Cindy Friezwyk, Liz Redden, Tanya Morin, Gay McCrea, Nancy and Sarah Kloockowski and Gaye and Corine Shannon and to all those who have committed to loving and caring for our neighborhood in this way, there are too many of you to count!

Looking outward in service, our church has continued to love the world as a whole. The Kathryn Huston Mission Circle continues to do excellent work supporting missions locally and globally and carries a beautiful history of sacrifice and love. The Deacons have been our loving arms here at home and have set an example of service for us by visiting the homebound, caring for the sick and supporting the lonely. A special thank you to Suzanne Santoro who leads the Kathryn Huston Mission Circle and to Judy Salzberg who served as the Chair of our Board of Deacons this past year.

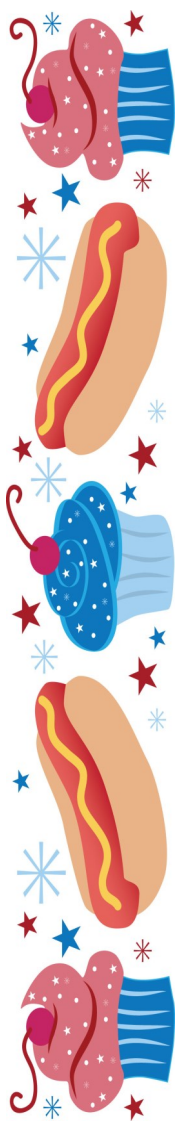
Service is indeed central to who we are as a family of God, and we carry this charge proudly.

Finally, we know that God calls us not only to serve others, but that he also desires our own hearts and calls us each ONWARD IN FAITH. I have been amazed at how enthusiastically our church has responded to this call. Knowing that God wants us to grow closer to him and to his family, we have been diligent about meeting together and studying his word. This past year alone we have had an Adult Education Class, two Sermon Discussion Groups, a Women's Book Club, a Men's Prayer Meeting, a Revelations Bible Study and three Financial Peace University Classes. These groups have served not only to strengthen our relationship with God, but to encourage and support one another as we seek to live out our faith. Thank you to all those who have participated and who have given their time to lead these groups, especially Austin and Leslie Reichert, Sue Phoebe, Kevin Redden, Chris Matchett, and Gaye Shannon. Your tireless work has inspired and blessed us.

Looking back, I almost can't believe that so much work has been done in the past year, and I am in awe of what our church can do when we put our minds to it! Thank you for everything you do – praying, giving, serving, helping to take care of our facilities, lending a listening ear to a friend in need. We wouldn't be the same without all that you do.

Looking forward, I know that there is more ministry to be done and that some difficult decisions will have to be made as we discern how best to use the resources God has entrusted us with to do his work. And yet I know that together we can overcome any obstacles that lie before us and that God still has work for us to do yet! Thank you for another incredible year, and God willing, here is to many more to come!

July 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM FPU Class</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 4:30 PM PoB Bible Study 5:30 PM Peace of Bread 6:15 PM Peace of Music 7:00 PM Sermon Discussion & FPU Class</p>	<p>7 6:00 PM Financial Task Force</p>	<p>1 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM FPU Class</p>	<p>11 7:00 PM Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>12 6:30 PM Small Churches Forum (Needham)</p>	<p>13 4:30 PM PoB Bible Study 5:30 PM Peace of Bread 6:15 PM Peace of Music 7:00 PM Sermon Discussion & FPU Class</p>	<p>14 6:00 PM Financial Task Force</p>	<p>15 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Book Club</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM FPU Class</p>	<p>18 9am—12 VBS (VCC)</p>	<p>19 9am—12 VBS (VCC)</p>	<p>20 9am—12 VBS (VCC) 4:30 PM PoB Bible Study 5:30 PM Peace of Bread 6:15 PM Sermon Discussion & FPU Class</p>	<p>21 9am—12 VBS (VCC) 6:00 PM Financial Task Force</p>	<p>22 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9am—12 VBS (VCC)</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM FPU Class</p>	<p>25 7:00 PM Session Business Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 4:30 PM PoB Bible Study 5:30 PM Peace of Bread 6:15 PM Peace of Music 7:00 PM Sermon Discussion & FPU Class</p>	<p>28 6:00 PM Financial Task Force</p>	<p>29 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Communication Workshop (Bedford, NH)</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM FPU Class</p>						



**United Presbyterian
Church of Whitinsville**

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News of the Church Family from the
United Presbyterian Church at
Whitinsville



<https://www.facebook.com/whitinpres/>

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Financial Task Force Team

Just a little note to let you know where we are as a church family. Session has tasked us with three charges.

1. Develop a plan, with options, to cover the projected Fiscal year 2016- 2017 shortfall of roughly \$15,000.
2. Develop and recommend an expense, giving, and capital plan for the next 1-3 years
3. Educate and plan for stewardship at UPC Whitinsville including planned and estate giving.

We have concluded we need to research 3 areas of planning:

- A.) Increase giving
- B.) Decrease spending
- C.) Sale of Resources

Currently we are at the brainstorming stage. Many ideas are flowing, thank God. With only 9 members on the team we could use some suggestions or ideas on these 3 broad areas. Please consider helping us in these 3 ways.

1. Pray
2. Consider coming on board to help
3. Consider some ideas and share them with a Task Force member.

Like I said, we are brainstorming- everything is on the table and any idea is a step in the right direction. We meet every Thursday night at 6:00 PM and leave by 7:15. Please be in prayer for us during this important time in the life of the church. Thank you and God bless!!