THE NEW COVENANT

News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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Pastor's Piece

As many of you may know, my last Sunday with you will be July 30. It has been my greatest joy to serve as your Pastor these past five years, and I have come to love and respect you deeply during that time. And yet it has been difficult for Aaron and myself to be so far away from home, and it is time for us to be closer to family, and so I have accepted the call to serve as the Senior Pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Fresno which is just a couple of hours away from our hometown.

Since announcing a few weeks ago that God is calling me elsewhere, I have had the opportunity to talk with many of you about the joys and sorrows of such a time as this. Transitions are inevitably hard. Hard to trust in what feels like an uncertain future. Hard to walk the line between blessing and grief. Hard to believe in a brighter tomorrow. But they are not without hope.

As the Church, we are in the business of death and resurrection, and it is sometimes in the darkest of moments where God's light shines brightest. And while a pastor leaving is a death of sorts, it is also the opportunity for new life. The chance to dream again, lift up new voices and discern once more what New Beginnings God has in store next. But, that takes faith: faith in God's promise to lead his people, faith in your church leadership, and faith in the Body of Christ. Know that each and every one of you were called to this place for a reason. That God choose you to be a part of this particular community because He has something important for you to do. The mission that God has given this church is far greater than any one person, and endures no matter who God has called to be your pastor at any given point in time.

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July/August 2017

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 www.facebook.com/whitinpres

Office E-mail: office@whitinpres.net

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 ~					
Ministries	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Worship Leader	A. Reichert	R. Thomas	G. Shannon	M. Thomas	S. Phoebe
Welcome Center	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	R. Thomas	L. Cassavant	H. Platt
Greeter	L & N Joyce	K. Miedema	A. Castonguay	K. Ireland-Bilodeau	T. Morin
Offering Counters	M. Austin & T. Schelin	D & S Mateer	C. Pilbosian & M. Thomas	J. Baker & G. Giemza	M. Reynolds & N. Joyce

~ AUGUST ~					
Ministries	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	Sept 3
Worship Leader	D. Redden	A. Reichert	R. Thomas	S. Phoebe	M. Thomas
Welcome Center	J. Baker	L & N Joyce	K. Miedema	A. Castonguay	K. Ireland-Bilodeau
Greeter	M. Spalton	S. Santoro	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	R. Thomas

If the church office doesn't have you/your family's birthday/anniversary information, let your church family celebrate your special days with you. Please call Alice in the office at 508-234-8220 or email the office at office@whitinpres.net so we can include your birthday/anniversary dates in the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletter.

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

Adult Education	***9:30AM - 10:30AM***
Morning Worship Service	***10:30AM - 11:30AM***
Coffee Fellowship	***11:30 AM***

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

July Birthday Corner

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

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
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

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Best practices dictate that in order for us both to live most fully into God's promises to us, that we need to have a period of separation to grieve, heal and begin to dream again about what God might have in store for each of us. It is important for you to make room in your hearts to welcome a new Pastor and to listen for God's leading without my voice guiding the way. That means that for the next six months, we need to observe a period of separation during which we are not in contact via phone, email or social media. This can feel difficult, but is an important step towards seeking God's will. And, while I will never again be your Pastor, I remain your friend.

I am excited to spend these next few weeks with you, saying goodbye, remembering the good times that we have shared and looking towards the future. I hope that I will have a chance to talk with each of you personally before I go, and that you will join us on July 30 for my final worship service with you and a goodbye celebration afterwards.

I can't begin to tell you how much I cherish these past five years together, and how much I appreciate your love, encouragement and support. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes and hearts, and sharing your incredible stories with me. I have learned so much from all of you, and will be forever grateful for the role that you played in my own faith journey. You will be forever in my heart.

With much love,
Pastor Renn

PoB Donation Bags

The Deacons will be providing bags for PoB donations August 13, Please bring them back filled by August 20 (We will be serving at PoB Aug 23rd)

Piece of Peace

Peace of Bread Community Kitchen, Wednesdays 5:30 pm

As weeks go by we get caught up in our weekly routine in the kitchen at POB, well sometimes GOD just sneaks up on us in a way we don't expect. While we've been blessed with a donation of a convection oven as well as instillation costs, we were also blessed with the promise of a commercial gas grill. Which will eliminate the burden of transporting that cumbersome charcoal grill. Those who wish to change up their menu will have access to easy outdoor grilling. As usual God not only answers our prayers but knows what we need before we even ask. We'd like to thank these generous souls for their donations and we thank God for inspiring them to assist can us all in our mission to serve his people. As always go with GOD.

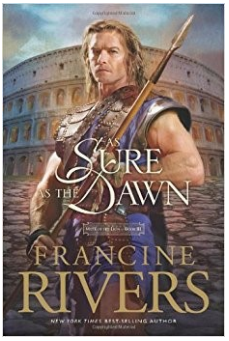
Kathryn M Huston Mission Circle

Don't forget the Holiday Fair coming November 11th! (it will be here before you know it!) If you would like to be part of the fair or if you have any questions, contact Suzanne Santoro

As Sure as the Dawn

BOOK CLUB

We are reading the 3rd book in the A voice in the wind series, "As sure as the Dawn", and will be doing a pot luck supper on Friday, July 21 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider joining us and remember you do not have to have read the book, it is a great time for fellowship and prayer.



Update from the Boards

Wow! What a year it has been! Our Boards have been busy wrapping up the year and planning for the coming one, all the while continuing the good work that they do day to day to care for our congregation. Here is a little snapshot of what has been going on lately.

Our Session has been working diligently to get our financial house in order before the start of the new fiscal year. They were able to establish a Reserve Fund through the Presbyterian Foundation with a little over four months of church expenses saved up for a rainy day. They also voted to officially establish the Enduring Gifts Endowment Policy and are in the process of putting together an Endowment Committee to help fundraise and manage that account. Both of these are great steps towards providing financial stability and will help continue to serve our community for years to come. Most recently, the Session has been working with Pastor Renn and the Presbytery to help ensure a smooth transition in the months to come. If you have any questions about the transition, or would like to help out, please speak with any one of our Elders.

Our Deacons continue to diligently serve our congregation by sharing the love of God with all that they meet. These past few months they sent out care packages to our college students as they were studying for finals, they hosted a celebration for Zack Morin after his Eagle Scout Court of Honor, they have brought communion to the homebound, and continue to pray for the sick and brokenhearted of our congregation. If you find yourself in need of prayer or a little extra encouragement, please reach out to one of our Deacons. They would love to be there for you!

Finally, our Trustees continue to work tirelessly to make sure that our property is expertly maintained and ready for whatever ministry God calls us to next. Thank you to all those who helped out with the work day last month. Because of you, we were able to shingle the shed, trim the bushes and mulch the grounds, plant hostas around the front of the church and spruce up the sanctuary. The Trustees have also been working closely with Chris Bilodeau on fixing or replacing our piano which has suffered wear and tear over the years and is in needs of some care.

Goodbye Celebration

Goodbye Celebration for Revs. Renn & Aaron Serna after church on Sunday July 30. We will have a congregational meeting at the end of worship on July 30 to officially mark the end of Pastor Renn's time with us.

Christian Education Update

Sunday morning Sunday School will be finishing up the Book of James in the next few weeks and then taking the rest of the summer off. We will resume after Labor Day. Saturday morning Bible Study will continue throughout the summer. We are currently in Micah. The study begins at 8 a.m. and is typically over by 10 a.m. Join us! Wednesday night sermon discussion groups will continue throughout the summer as well. This group meets after the Peace Of Music service at 7:00.

Fellowship Time

We are doing Lemonade only for the months of July and August for coffee fellowship.

Sign up to clean up afterwards or bring a one tray of goodies, there is a sign up sheet in the fellowship area.

Peace of Bread

Its our turn to serve at Peace of Bread Wednesday, August 23rd **We need help** preparing the meal and servicing. Contact Gaye Shannon if you can help anytime between 3 - 7 pm August 23rd.

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
2 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	**3**	**4**	**5** 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**6**	**7** 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	**9** 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study 9:30 AM Friends of PoB Mtg
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	**10** 7:00 PM Trustee Meeting 7:00 PM Session Meeting	**11**	**12** 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**13**	**14** 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	**15** 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
16 Baptism 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	**17** VBS	**18** VBS	**19** VBS 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**20** VBS	**21** VBS 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	**22** 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
23 Ordination/ Installation 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	**24** 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	**25**	**26** 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**27**	**28** 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	**29** 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
30 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Congregational Meeting 11:30 Goodbye Celebration	**31**	Notes				

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	3	4 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	5 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
6 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	7 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	8	9 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	10	11 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	12 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
13 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	14 7:00 PM Trustee Meeting	15	16 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	17	18 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	19 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
20 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	21 7:00 PM Session Meeting	22	23 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread UPC Serving 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	24	25 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	26 8:00 AM Minor Prophets Bible Study
27 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	28 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting	29	30 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	31		

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Church of Whitinsville

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Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

The ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be July 17-21 at the Village Congregational, Church St., Whitinsville. The VBS is sponsored by the Northbridge Association of Churches. The time is 9:00 am to 12 noon, followed by swimming.

All children who are age 4 through Grade 6 are welcome. Youth are invited to be helpers.

Our program consists of Bible stories, worship, singing, crafts, outreach projects, bells, sacred dance, science experiments, recreation and refreshments.

For registration, go to www.vccucc.org or call Carolyn Mitchell at 508-234-3544.