

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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"The Services Are Too Long!"

You have been heard! Rev. DeHoff and the Worship Committee are working on this problem, and we will begin addressing the problem in several ways. First, the announcements spoken by the Worship Leader will be limited to a maximum of 3, and the congregation's attention will be directed to the "Announcements" page in the bulletin for further information, including contact information for questions about each announcement. In addition, the time limit on children's sermons is now 5 minutes, and the time limit on each Minute for Mission is 3 minutes.

In studying the time taken up by different parts of the service, it became clear that the Joys and Concerns portion consumes a large amount of time. For that reason, we are going to try some alternative ways to address individual members' joys and concerns. Beginning with the Dec. 22 service, we are asking that you email Rev. DeHoff your prayer requests not later than 5PM the night before the service or that you give her a note with the written request before the service on Sunday morning. Her email address is sldehoff@verizon.net.

As always, we welcome your feedback. It is not possible to say "yes" to everyone all the time, but we want to try to address specific concerns the best we can. And by all means keep the prayer requests coming!

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

January
2020

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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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

~ January ~					
MINISTRIES	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	Feb 2
Worship Leader	C. Matchett	G. Shannon	R. Thomas	K. Bilodeau	A. Reichert
Children's Sermon	Rev. DeHoff	R. Thomas	A. Santoro	K. Bilodeau	
Welcome Center	S. Santoro	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	R. Thomas & C. Lee	M. Reynolds
Greeter	L. Walsh	K. Bilodeau	S. Mateer	J. Baker	L. Joyce
Offering Counters	D & S Mateer	N. Joyce & G. Giemza	D & K Miedema	C. Pilibosian & L. Austin	
Power Point	G. Giemza	N. Redden	K. Bilodeau	M. Thomas	G. Giemza
Communion Elders	A. Castonguay & S. Santoro				
Communion Deacons	B. Giemza & G. McCrea				
Communion In-Home	A. Castonguay R. Matchett, T, Morin				

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

<i>Children's Choir</i>	<i>9:15-10:15 AM</i>
<i>Youth, Young Adult & 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



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Advent and Christmas seem to sink rapidly into the past as January I rolls round each year. Thoughts turn to toasting the New Year with whatever beverage suits one's fancy, and hopes turn to all the positive and happy events we wish for in a new year.

Thoughts also turn to New Year's Resolutions. Did you know that the tradition of making these resolutions is centuries old? According to Wikipedia (that treasured source for all knowledge), this tradition began with the Babylonians, the town of Babylon having been founded around 2300 BCE. You may recall that at one time Babylon invaded Judah around 605 BCE and took many of the Israelites, including the prophet Jeremiah, off to Babylon.

New Year's resolutions for the Babylonians, and for subsequent cultures down through the ages had to do with their religion. The Babylonians promised their gods that they would pay their debts and return anything they had borrowed. The Romans made promises the god Janus (from whose name we get January), who presided over war and peace. During medieval times, knights made a vow to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry.

I wonder why our own civilization seems to have abandoned the "religious" context of New Year's resolutions in favor of a context of personal goal setting. Does the context for everything these days need to be "me" and "my" ideas/needs/wants?

What if our faith community took the initiative to make faith the basis of New Year's Resolutions? I am pretty certain that we all could come up with at least one faith-based resolution to commit ourselves to practicing or accomplishing in the New Year. I also am pretty certain that if we share those resolutions with friends, neighbors, and colleagues at work, we could influence others to consider making faith-related resolutions.

So what do faith-based resolutions look like? Books could be filled with the possibilities! Consider the following categories (no prioritizing intended):

- Increasing prayer life (and there are a variety of ways to do this)

- Creating a daily or weekly faith journal

- Repairing relationships through forgiveness and increased conversation

- Setting aside time each week to read/listen to devotional material

- Increasing attendance at worship services/educational programs

- Increasing conversations with family (especially kids) and friends about matters of faith

- Volunteering more time to help those in need

- Increasing financial support for the furtherance of God's work

I suppose another way to view faith-based New Year's resolutions is to see them as focusing more attention and time, *quality* time, on the spirit dimension of who we are. We pay a lot of attention to our body and mind dimensions. We could all benefit from paying more attention to our spiritual dimension!

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff



Sign up at church to
volunteer for Coffee
Fellowship

Un- Decorating Party

Stay after church
Jan 5th for our
annual
undecorating
party as we put
away all our
beautiful
Christmas
decorations till
next year.

Second Sunday Social

We are going to mix things up a bit for January! The Food, Fun, and Fellowship committee is joining hands with the Worship Committee on Sunday, January 5 (the FIRST Sunday in January) by serving a subway sandwich lunch upstairs in the Gathering area and taking down the greens!

Many hands make light work so please stay after church this Sunday, January 5 and help us take down the greens and then stay for some fellowship and lunch with your church family!

Children In Worship

Lately there has been a lot of research done about the impact on children's faith resulting from staying in worship services with their parents. The book *Sticky Faith* is one easy-to-read presentation about how worshiping with parents cultivates faith in children and youth that "sticks" with them into adolescence and beyond. It also gives tips on how to have conversations about faith with children.

At its December meeting, the Christian Growth and Nurture Committee engaged in a discussion of this and other research reporting a variety of benefits to children's faith resulting from worshiping with parents as a family. Committee members also shared their personal experiences, both as parents and as children and youth. One member recalled hearing a parent recently comment that one of the best parent-child conversations they have all week is about the meaning of the sermon as they drive home from our worship services.

Given the large quantity of research that supports the advantages of children remaining in worship with parents, the Christian Growth and Nurture Committee voted to recommend to our congregation that children 10 years old and up remain in the worship service instead of attending Children's Church with pre-school and early elementary aged children. This is a recommendation, not a mandate, and as a parent, whether you decide that your child(ren) remain with you for the entire service is entirely up to you.

If parents feel that it is best for older children not to remain in the worship service, there is no fine! And if parents of children younger than 10 feel that it is best for their children to remain in the sanctuary for the entire service, you don't need to purchase a special ticket! Seriously, though, the Committee wants to be sure our members are informed about the importance of family worship experiences to children's faith later on.

This recommendation especially applies to children taking communion with their parents, as part of the family, rather than being separated from them during communion. The Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order* states that all are welcome to participate in communion regardless of age; more will be said about this in the January church Newsletter. If your child(ren), regardless of age, attends Children's Church and you would like for him/her/them to join you for communion, please feel free to let Mrs. Reichert know or to go downstairs during the communion hymn to bring your child(ren) upstairs for communion. If you'd like some help in learning how to explain communion to your child(ren), please contact Rev. DeHoff.

The discussion about how to nurture faith in our children is an on-going one. To read some of the research, click on the links below.

Killing the church with Sunday School -

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/ponderanew/2016/03/13/killing-the-church-with-sunday-school/>

The never ending debate continues -

<http://thecovecommunity.blogspot.com/2019/06/should-children-stay-in-sunday-worship.html>

Why we don't have children's church anymore -

<https://breakingnewbread.wordpress.com/2014/10/29/why-we-dont-have-childrens-church-anymore/>

Some churches cancel children's Sunday school -

<https://www.baptiststandard.com/news/faith-culture/some-churches-cancel-childrens-sunday-school/>

Why we embrace children in our worship service -

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-we-embrace-children-in-our-worship-service/>

Children's ministry debate: Where should children worship -

<https://childrensministry.com/where-children-worship/>

Please feel free to contact Rev. DeHoff on any thoughts, comments, or questions you may have.

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

The Lord's Supper (or Eucharist) is the sign and seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord. Jesus shared meals with his followers throughout his earthly life and ministry—common suppers, miraculous feasts, and the covenant commemorations of the people of God. Jesus spoke of himself as the bread of life, and the true vine, in whom we are branches. On the night before his death, Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples. He spoke of the bread and wine as his body and blood, signs of the new covenant and told the disciples to remember him by keeping this feast. On the day of his resurrection, Jesus made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. The disciples continued to devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, prayers, and the common meal. As Paul wrote, when we share the bread and cup in Jesus' name, "we who are many are one body" (1 Cor. 10:17).

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper offers an abundant feast of theological meaning, including: thanksgiving to God the Father; remembrance of Jesus Christ; invocation of the Holy Spirit; communion in the body of Christ; and a meal of the realm of God. The Reformed tradition understands the Lord's Supper to be a sign of God's covenant. The bread of the Lord's Supper is linked with the bread of Passover and the gift of manna in the wilderness. The Lord's Supper thus connects us with God's saving power and providential care from generation to generation. Like the offering of sacrifices, a sign of Israel's thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, the Lord's Supper is a sacrifice of praise and a sign of our gratitude for God's steadfast love. The Lord's Supper represents God's gracious invitation to an everlasting covenant. The Lord's Supper also reflects our calling to feed others as we have been fed, and offers a foretaste of that heavenly banquet when God will wipe away every tear and swallow up death forever.

The Lord's Supper enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's sustaining grace offered to all people. The Lord's Supper is at once God's gift of grace, God's means of grace, and God's call to respond to that grace. Through the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ nourishes us in righteousness, faithfulness, and discipleship. Through the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit renews the Church in its identity and sends the Church to mission in the world.

When we gather at the Lord's Supper the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites with the Church in every time and place. We join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world.

The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended.

Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated as a regular part of the Service for the Lord's Day, preceded by the proclamation of the Word, in the gathering of the people of God. When local circumstances call for the Lord's Supper to be celebrated less frequently, the session may approve other schedules for celebration, in no case less than quarterly. If the Lord's Supper is celebrated less frequently than on each Lord's Day, public notice is to be given at least one week in advance so that all may prepare to receive the Sacrament.



Tony & Suzanne Santoro celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary 11/29



UPCoW Youth/Young Adults decorate the shut-ins homes



Three generations doing the Advent Reading December 8, Anne MacLeod, Carol Pilibosian and Heather Whitney



Marion Boyd went home to the Lord December 9, 2019



Luke Dwight Reynolds was delivered to Mike & Kristina on 12/21/19.



Children's Choir on December 22, 2019

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Zack Morin – prayers of joy that he has been baptized into the Catholic Church near where he attends school and became a member on Dec. 24.

Concerns

Bev Keeler – prayers for **Judy Salzberg** who had emergency gall bladder surgery this past weekend.

Gaye Shannon – her brother, **Mark**, will have surgery on Mon. to remove his left cheek bone due to the same infection that caused him to lose an eye. His chance of survival is still 50/50, so continued prayers that the fungal infection can be successfully treated.

Gaye Shannon – prayers for **Ralph Barrows**, who has stage 4 colon cancer. His wife helps with Peace of Bread.

Arlene Koopman—Wisdom for doctors to find an answer to the blisters she has on her feet making walking painful.

Friends and Family of **Marion Boyd** for comfort in her passing



Remember The Homebound and Those in Hospitals, Rehab Centers and Nursing Homes:

Leona Cook - St. Camillus Health Center, 447 Hill Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Arlene Koopman -Whitney Place, 85 Beaumont Dr., Rm 17, Northbridge, MA 01534

Gloria Rauth - Whitney Place, 85 Beaumont Dr., Rm 11, Northbridge, MA 01534

Ruth Hoekstra - Linwood Apartments No. 105, 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Jim Remillard – 20 Fair Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

Nancy Freiswyk – Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center, Beaumont Dr., Room 222, Northbridge, MA 01534

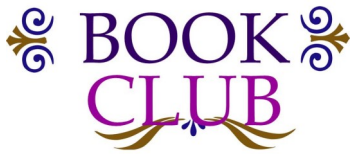
Making Your Requests for Prayer Known

(1) You may use our Email prayer chain (upcwprayerchain@googlegroups.com) to share your prayer request. (2) Before the worship service, write your request on a piece of paper & give it to the worship leader. (3) During the worship service, share your request during the “Prayers of the People” segment. OR (4) Call (508-234-8220) or Email (whitinpres@gmail.com) your request to the church office.

Making Your Requests for Prayer Known

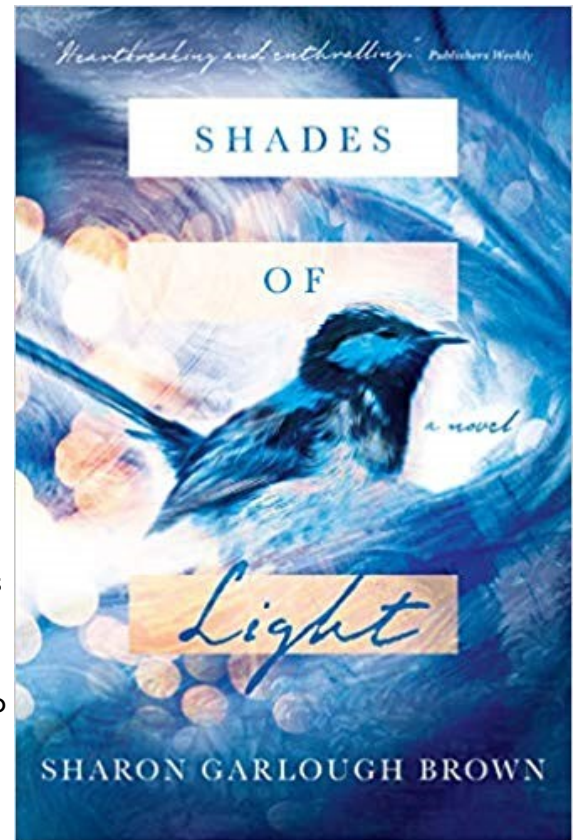
You may use our Email prayer chain (upcwprayerchain@googlegroups.com) to share your prayer request.

Before the worship service, write your request on a piece of paper & give it to the worship leader or Rev. DeHoff.



Women's Book Club for January will be Friday, January 17th at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing the book "Shades of Light" by Sharon Garlough Brown

Wren Crawford is a social worker who finds herself overwhelmed with the troubles of the world. Her lifelong struggles with anxiety and depression are starting to overcome her. She finds solace in art, spiritual formation, and pastoral care along with traditional therapeutic interventions. But a complicated relationship from her past also threatens to undo her progress. Fans of Sharon Brown's bestselling Sensible Shoes Series will be delighted to discover some old friends along the way. As Wren seeks healing in this beautifully written novel, readers are invited to move beyond pat answers and shallow theology into an experience of hope and presence that illuminates even the darkness.



thank you

Eric Mateer—for the Beautiful Christmas Banner in the from of the church

Lynne Walsh—for making the ornaments and costumes for the children this year

Leslie Reichert—for making the new Welcome Packets

December 20, 2019
Dear Laura, Mark and
Young Ladies of the Youth Group,
Your visit and the festive
decorations you brought was most
appreciated. You certainly brightened
my Christmas. It's good to be remem-
bered. The cookies were deeelicious!!
Thank you so much. God Bless You All,
Flora Rautb

The UPCoW Chorus

The UPCoW Children's Choir for ages 6 – 13 will meet starting Jan. 5 from 9:15 to 10:15 led by the Stone's. Children under the age of 6 are also encouraged to be part of the chorus as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

Winterwear for the Homeless

Do you have jackets and blankets that you don't need anymore?



There is a need in the community now that the winter cold is setting in! Many people don't have the clothing they need to stay warm during these coming months. The Deacons will be holding an ongoing collection throughout the winter to help those in need in the community. **OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IS NEW SOCKS! IT IS THE #1 REQUESTED ITEM AMONG THOSE IN NEED!** There will be a bucket placed in the cafe area behind the sanctuary. Please bring any winterwear you can good condition and washed as well as fresh, **BRAND NEW SOCKS!**

January Birthday Corner

Troy Giezma	1/8
Kevin Redden	1/11
Courtney Ritchings	1/11
Anna Santoro	1/18
Dave Miedema	1/20
Linda Skillen	1/20
Chris Shannon	1/21
Todd Schelin	1/24
Palmer Swanson	1/25
Joanne Zeis	1/30

Anniversary Corner

Tom & Sharon Emerick

1/7



If the church office doesn't have you/your family's birthday/anniversary information, start 2017 off right and 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.

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day 5:30 Peace of Bread	2	3	4 8am Bible Study
5 9:15 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Undecorating Party 11:30 Second Sunday Social	6 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	7	8 2:45 PM PrimeTime 5:30 Peace of Bread	9	10	11 8am Bible Study
12 9:15 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	13 7:00 PM Worship	14	15 2:45 PM PrimeTime 5:30 Peace of Bread	19	17 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	18 8am Bible Study
19 9:15 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	20 7:00 PM Session	21	22 2:45 PM PrimeTime 5:30 Peace of Bread	23	24	25 8am Bible Study
26 9:15 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	27 6:30 PM Deacons	28	29 2:45 PM PrimeTime 5:30 Peace of Bread	30	31	



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Deacon's Corner

A Prayer for the New Year.....

Lord, we pray that this New Year will bring us closer to you.

Help us to truly celebrate the gifts You have given us
and use them to serve You and spread Your word.

May we also see and love You in all the people we meet,
so that in turn, they can see You in us. In this New Year,
let us realize that every action of ours no matter how great
or small enables us to be in touch with You.

Let us accept You in our lives, in the way it pleases You,
as Truth, to be spoken, as Life, to be lived, and
Light, to be lighted, as Love, to be followed, as Joy, to be given,
as Peace, to be spread about, as Sacrifice, to be offered
among our relatives, friends, neighbors and all people.

Amen