

# THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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## NAC Crop Walk

The annual **Blackstone Valley Crop Hunger Walk** which was to be held on Saturday October 17th, has become a "virtual" walk due to the current social gathering restrictions. Folks are encouraged to hold (and document via photos/videos) personal small group walks to show solidarity to those in need. We are still able to accept donations via cash, checks (made out to "CWS" with "Crop Walk" in the memo) or online at

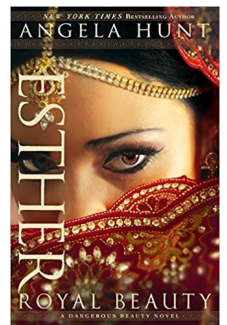
[www.crophungerwalk.org/northbridgema/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/northbridgema/)

Flyers will be posted in the church. Please contact Coordinator Tanya Morin at 508-341-6652 or [danvil-legirl348@gmail.com](mailto:danvil-legirl348@gmail.com)



Women's Book Club for October will meet most likely via zoom Friday, details to follow, October 6th at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing "Esther: Royal Beauty (A Dangerous Beauty Novel)" by Angela Hunt.

*Angela Hunt, renowned for her biblical fiction, endows Esther with new life and passion in this dramatic and emotional portrayal.*



**October  
2020**

## 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](http://www.whitinpres.org)

[www.facebook.com/whitinpres](https://www.facebook.com/whitinpres)

Office E-mail: [office@whitinpres.net](mailto:office@whitinpres.net)

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff E-mail: [sldehoff@verizon.net](mailto:sldehoff@verizon.net)

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.

~ October ~					
MINISTRIES	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Worship Leader	K. Bilodeau	C. Matchett	R. Thomas	A. Reichert	M. Thomas
Ushers	C. Matchett	L. Wash	G. Giemza	K. Meidema	L. Joyce
Power Point	R. Thomas	N. Redden	M. Thomas	N. Redden	R. Thomas

### Dear Covid-19,

WAH (working at home) is my “new normal” because of you. It’s quiet and maybe a bit lonely. I guess I’m missing a little of that office chatter and seeing others. So, at times I’ll listen to music by streaming on YouTube to fill that “other noise & dead air”. I listen to all types of Christian music, songs that are familiar, new ones, traditional, contemporary, all different artists – whatever happens to play next. I type in - Listen to Christian Music on YouTube and hit the search button and I get busy working.

Today, I came across a song that got my attention. The lyrics demanded my attention and rather than background music it came to the fore front of my mind. What a wonderful interruption to experience and have that connection with God in that moment through music and with lifted hands (I wasn’t doing that at the office).

Today’s song for me was: Promises - Maverick City Music/TRBL (feat. Joe L. Barnes & Naomi Raine) – found on you tube.

**BONUS!** If you listen to the lyrics, you can hear the teachings of the Old and New Testament and some of the words in scripture comes right out at you.

So, you see COVID-19, your being “shut down!” Praise God!

Rena Matchett



### ***\*\*Sunday Morning Worship Schedule\*\****

***Adult Education  
Morning Worship Service***

***9:30AM - 10:30AM  
10:30AM - 11:30AM***

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

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



There are a whole lot of things in our normal life routines that go too well with COVID-19, nurturing and nourishing it so that it flourishes. It thrives on hugs, happy celebrations, the excitement of large assemblies of people at sports events, even on large family reunions. There are times when one could wonder if it is, in fact, a product of Satan's own laboratory.

Perhaps one of the most difficult facts to accept about it is that singing nurtures it big time. One reason for that difficulty may be that not a lot is said about COVID-19 and singing within hearing of the general public. Back in mid-May, CDC came out with guidelines stressing the dangers of singing, especially by choirs, but when Pres. Trump asked them to remove those guidelines, they did. The original guidelines "recommended communities of faith consider suspending or decreasing group singing activities since they're known to transmit the novel coronavirus" ([www.businessinsider.com/cdc-removed-its-warning-against-choir-singing-in-religious-settings-2020-5](http://www.businessinsider.com/cdc-removed-its-warning-against-choir-singing-in-religious-settings-2020-5) ).

That removal did not mean that they changed their minds and that singing was suddenly no longer an activity that spreads COVID-19. For more information go to [www.khn.org/morning-breakout/cdc-quietly-removes-guidance-that-singing-in-church-choirs-comes-with-virus-infection-risk/](http://www.khn.org/morning-breakout/cdc-quietly-removes-guidance-that-singing-in-church-choirs-comes-with-virus-infection-risk/).

In the interest of passing along information for the protection of our church family, I am sharing a number of sources that communicate the dangers of singing in church. It is because of these dangers that our worship services, and those of the other churches in the Northbridge Association of Churches, have decreased or no longer include singing. All the pastors agreed, that "loving each other as Jesus loves us" includes looking after each other's safety.

The first information that I saw about COVID-19 and singing came out back in May. It was provided by Dr. Erin Bromage, Professor of Biology at the Univ. of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Her specialty is immunology and infectious diseases. Here is what she said about singing:

*Singing, to a greater degree than talking, aerosolizes respiratory droplets extraordinarily well. Deep-breathing while singing facilitated those respiratory droplets getting deep into the lungs. Two and half hours of exposure ensured that people were exposed to enough virus over a long enough period of time for infection to take place. Over a period of 4 days, 45 of the 60 choir members developed symptoms, 2 died. The youngest infected was 31, but they averaged 67 years old.*

To read her entire blog on COVID-19, go to [www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them](http://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them).

The example of the choir rehearsal gone bad to which Dr. Bromage referred was a story featured in the *Los Angeles Times* and can be accessed at this link: [www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-03-29/coronavirus-choir-outbreak](http://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-03-29/coronavirus-choir-outbreak). Since then there have been other similar incidents; googling that subject will turn up various accounts.

The Presbytery of Boston has been wonderful about finding and sharing information about how churches can stay safe during this pandemic. Many resources are on their website, [www.presbyteryofboston.org/Resources/COVID-19-Resources](http://www.presbyteryofboston.org/Resources/COVID-19-Resources),

While I was on vacation they provided another webinar about COVID-19 led by Lisa Allgood, an immunocyto chemist who graduated from the Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry in 1985. She specializes in the human immune system. She talked about a number of aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic in her presentation, which you can access at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9P0gOSqwn0&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9P0gOSqwn0&feature=youtu.be). She included information about singing that supported everything else we've heard about its dangers. As others have said, wearing masks when we sing helps a little, but it does not stop all of



Do you know any new 50 year members? (Have been a member of any church as well as ours for at least 50 years) Please let the office know.

**October 25th is  
Heritage Sunday!**

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Our Turn for PoB will be Nov. 11th  
Contact Gaye Shannon  
(Shannons.jg@gmail.com) if they want to help. Donations to the meal are always welcome.



## Church Family News!

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We welcome and celebrate the birth of our newest baby, **Abbey Rose Esmay Biernacki** September 16th. Congratulations to Mom and Dad: Blythe & Tony Biernacki and also to the proud grandparents: Laurie & Mike Sabourin and Sandra and Anthony Biernacki

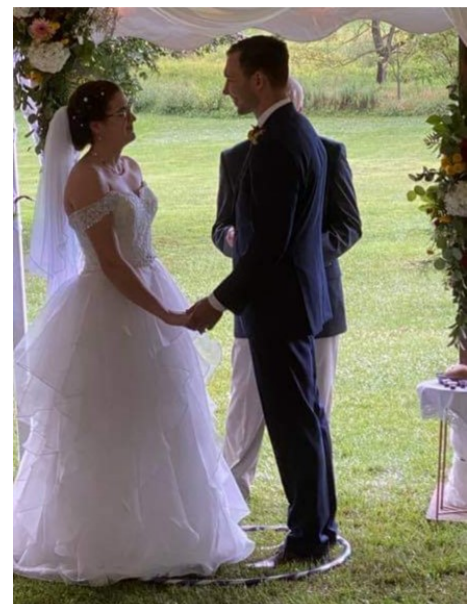


Zachary Thomas Morin began Army basic training on Monday September 14th at Fort Jackson in Columbia South Carolina. He is in the 1st Battalion 34th Infantry Regiment Charlie Company, Blue Platoon. Address (exactly as shown):

**Trainee Morin, Zachary**  
**3rd Bay**  
**C CO. 1-34 Inf REGT**  
**165th INF BDE**  
**12000 Dixie Road**  
**Fort Jackson, SC 29207**



At Home Communion during  
the Pandemic



Danielle Redden & Eric Blacksten's Wedding August 28, 2020

**Fundraiser Yard sale**

for Northbridge Senior Center,  
28 Cottage St. Whitinsville

8am to 2pm October 3rd. (rain date Oct 10)

Space available.

For more information contact Gay  
McCrea, gaymccrea@outlook.com.

Mike & Laurie Sabourin's son **Robie's mailing address** while he is deployed to Kuwait for 9 months. There are no security restrictions with this deployment. :)

1Lt Sabourin, Robie

HHC, 1-6 IN, 2/1 AD

APO, AE 09330

**Prayers of Praise and Concern**

Gaye Shannon asks prayers for her brother Mark. Mark continues the process of recovery from the fungal infection that took one eye and part of his cheek bone. He is finding the adjustment to all the changes in his life to be very difficult and battles depression from time to time.

Gaye also asks prayers for Mark's daughter, Lynette, as she is his caregiver.

Laurie and Mike Sabourin have a joy that their first granddaughter made it into the world safely on Wednesday, Sept 16.

Christine Whipple asks continued prayers for her Dad, Ed, as he remains in the hospital with breathing issues. Yesterday and today are critical for him. If he makes it through these two days, his prognosis is good.

Bob and Harriet Platt have a prayer of thanksgiving that they were hooked up to a well this week and now have running water in the house.

Please keep Bev Keeler in your prayers as she has a very bad tooth infection that has caused facial swelling.

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

**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

**Anne MacLeod** - Cottonmill Apartments #202, 17 Douglas Rd, Whitinsville, MA 01588

**Making Your Requests for Prayer Known**

**(1) You may use our Email prayer chain** ([upcwprayerchain@googlegroups.com](mailto:upcwprayerchain@googlegroups.com)) to share your prayer request.

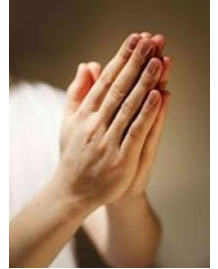
**(2) Before the worship service**, write your request on a piece of paper & give it to the worship leader. **(3) Call** (508-234-8220) or **Email** ([whitinpres@gmail.com](mailto:whitinpres@gmail.com)) your request to the church office.

*October Birthday Corner*

Laura Joyce	10/2
Gabe Stone	10/10
Cindy Frieswyk	10/12
Robie Sabourin	10/17
Madison Ireland	10/18
Dave Gniadek	10/25
Jen Schelin	10/27
Cheri Ribbe	10/28
Chuck Holding	10/29
Chuck Phoebe	10/31

*October Anniversary Corner*

Chris & Rena Matchett	10/3
Chuck & Susan Phoebe	10/4
Walter & Lois Convent	10/7
Dave & Robin Gniadek	10/14
Mike & Joanne Zeis	10/18
Matt & Kristen Stone	10/23



the saliva spray from being released into the air, meaning that a person with COVID-19 – whether or not he/she is symptomatic, becomes a human aerosol can used to spread the virus. Dr. Allgood said that singers should stand at least 12 to 15 feet apart and face away from each other, but even that does not completely eliminate the risk.

The latest news from CDC is that they have concluded that it is the small droplets (aerosols) that leave our mouths when we sing, rather than the big ones that fall to the floor, that are spreading COVID-19. Those small droplets travel further, so the risk of exposure is great. You can read the entire article that was in the *Washington Post* on this link: [www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/the-cdc-says-coronavirus-is-airborne-and-spread-by-aerosols-warns-of-poorly-ventilated-spaces/ar-BB19fQ9q?li=BBnb7Kz](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/the-cdc-says-coronavirus-is-airborne-and-spread-by-aerosols-warns-of-poorly-ventilated-spaces/ar-BB19fQ9q?li=BBnb7Kz)

Do I know that the members of our church are unhappy that we are not singing in our worship services the way we always have in the past? ABSOLUTELY!! You have not been silent on this matter. Do I like conducting worship services the way we have to do them during this pandemic? ABSOLUTELY NOT! But as a Pastor I take seriously the responsibility God has given me to “tend my sheep,” and I do not believe God would be too pleased with me if I led you in a way that exposed you to or caused you to contract COVID-19.

So, I invite you to join with me in coming up with safe ways to worship God. Thankfully for those who cannot speak or sing, singing is not the *only way we worship God!* We can pray, read the Bible, listen to sermons, listen to Eileen play the piano, and listen to Katrina and/or Mike and Brandy as they sing, safely distanced from us and each other. And together, we will weather this storm and live to worship God with lots of singing when it is safe to do so.

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff

## *Deacon's Corner*

Here we are in a new month with very few changes due to the dilemma of the seemingly everlasting Corona virus epidemic. One thing that it has given us though, is a creative way to move on now that schools are opening up for a new year that is facing more challenges. Like every other business, this is beginning to turn our country into a new stage of the electronic age, where we spend more time at the computer instead of actually being able to meet others outside of our homes.

This “new age” in our world has definitely created a new way to meet in computer “classrooms” and adjust to communicating in a virtual world. This is basically what it sounds like for those of us who are grandparents or country folk. But no matter what happens now, or in the future, one thing stays the same: that of being able to pray and meditate to our Almighty God who never changes. (Plus, we are only a phone call away from friends and family near or far.)

With that being said, we can still find ways to meet together with the standards that have been set at this stage of a new crisis. We have already been given the opportunity to worship at church, and yet, we are also geared to be able to reach out to people in their homes who can watch our services on computers. We have enjoyed listening to visiting ministers who filled in a gap while Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff was on vacation. They provided some very enlightening sermons and had to face some challenges themselves when a few obstacles got in the way. Everything turned out well, and we were doubly blessed with the help on hand.

With the new season, we are enjoying updated teams of elders and deacons to bless us this year with their time and talents. If anyone ever needs some kind of assistance from any of these dedicated servants, please contact them. If you are not sure who they are, feel free to contact the church office, and you can be redirected to someone that can help you. In closing this feature I can't help but remember one phrase that has kept me going in my life time:

*Make new friends, but keep the old;*

*One is silver, the other, Gold.....*

Blessings to all as we enter a new ray of hope and love in the upcoming fall season!



# October 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:40 Children's SS/UPCOW Chorus 10:30 Worship Service	5 7:00 PM Session Prayer 7:00 PM Trustees	6 7:00 KWHMC Meeting	7 5:00 Peace of Bread	8	9	10
11 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:40 Children's SS/UPCOW Chorus 10:30 Worship Service	12 Columbus Day	13 7 PM Worship Committee	14 5:00 Peace of Bread	15	16 6:30 pm Women's Book Club	17 NAC Crop Walk
18 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:40 Children's SS/UPCOW Chorus 10:30 Worship Service	19 7:30 PM Session Mtg.	20	21 5:00 Peace of Bread	22	23	24
25 Heritage/Reformation Sunday 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:40 Children's SS/UPCOW Chorus 10:30 Worship Service	26 6:30 PM Deacons	27	28 5:00 Peace of Bread	29	30	31



United Presbyterian  
Church of Whitinsville

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### PNC UPDATE

Greetings from the PNC! The Pulpit Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is excited to announce that we have of the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville has recently achieved a major significant milestone! After many months of meeting in person (pre-COVID) and via Zoom meetings (during COVID), we have completed our church's Mission Information Form (MIF), and it was recently approved by our Session and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM). Completing the MIF is a significant accomplishment because it opens the door for the next steps of having our MIF matched with potential candidates.

The process of reviewing potential candidates includes reading Statements of Faith, reading Personal Information Forms (PIFs) - (similar to a resume), watching sermon videos, and scheduling interviews as appropriate. We are looking forward to the next steps and ask for your prayers in discerning God's direction. Please pray for wisdom, stamina, and faithfulness.

We will gladly provide updates on the number of candidates we have reviewed, and how many videos we have watched, or how many people we have interviewed. Please understand that this is a confidential process, and we cannot discuss any detailed information regarding any candidates. Thank you for trusting us with this responsibility.

**NOTE:** The MIF will be available on the church's website shortly; we will let you know when it is ready for your viewing. In the meantime, if you would like a hard copy of the document, please contact Mark Thomas (PNC Chairperson)..

Respectfully submitted,

Your PNC,

Mark Thomas (Chairperson); Liz Redden (Vice-Chairperson); Kimberly Mercer (Secretary); Laura Joyce, Leslie Reichert, and Ken Remillard