

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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Holy Week Services

Whitinsville United Presbyterian

May 2021

May 2

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: By the Sea"

John 21:1-14

May 9

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: Galilee"

Matthew:28:16-20

May 16

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: Jerusalem"

Acts 1:1-16

May 23, 2021

"Like the Sound of a Mighty Wind"

Acts 2:1-12

May 30, 2021

"Let Us Never Forget"

Hebrews 12:1-4

**May
2021**

The United Presbyterian Church of 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: whitinpres@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff E-mail: sldehoff@verizon.net

Office Hours: 12:00PM - 5:00 PM Monday & Wednesday

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Tuesday & Friday

*The church office is CLOSED on Thursdays.

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

~ May ~

MINISTRIES	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Worship Leader	K. Bilodeau	R. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh	M. Thomas
Song Leader	K. Bilodeau	M. Sabourin	K. Bilodeau	M. Sabourin	K. Bilodeau
Ushers	C. Matchett	J. Baker	J. Tobin	L. Walsh	L. Walsh
Sound Board	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
Power Point	L.. Joyce	M. Thomas	R. Thomas	J. Tobin	L. Joyce

May Birthdays

Katie Matchett 5/1	Jessie Schelin 5/16
Blythe Biernaki 5/2	Debbie Baker 5/20
Britten Bilodeau 5/5	Scott Szajna 5/20
Nathan Phoebe 5/13	Hannah Reynolds 5/23
Anthony Santoro 5/14	Bill Skillen 5/23
Jen Collins 5/15	Lois Convent 5/26
Ken Pedersen 5/15	

Anniversaries

Bill and Mary Spalton 5/10
Mike and Laurie Sabourin 5/15
Chris and Gaye Shannon 5/16
Greg and Brandi Giemza 5/25
Jason and Kimberly Mercer 5/31

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

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

- 8:45 AM - Jr. Church—Zoom
- 9:30 AM - Adult Sunday School—Zoom
9:40 AM - Children's S.S. & UPCoW Chorus
12:00 PM first and third Sundays: Youth Bible Study

Morning Worship Service 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



As Christians we talk a lot about discipleship and stewardship. Those two terms are two sides of the same coin having to do with how we follow Jesus. As we all know, following Jesus involves our entire life, indeed, our entire being.

Disciple comes from the Latin word that means “to learn.” We are learners, pupils, students, or whatever synonym you prefer. We are learners all our lives, especially when it comes to learning how to love Jesus more dearly and follow him more nearly. No matter

how much we think we have learned, we continually find there is more to learn.

We don’t want just easy answers any more than a growing toddler wants a diet of only pureed baby food. We want something to sink our teeth into, and as time goes by we want to sink our teeth into some pretty tough stuff. At some point it isn’t enough to say, “I read the Bible each day; I pray, and I do good deeds.” We see the imperfections in the world – and hopefully at some point in ourselves – and we want to learn how a perfect God fits into an imperfect world and the presence of imperfect people in it.

We also learn that to follow Jesus means we may well end up in a situation that calls for us to sacrifice – a lot. If we walk with Jesus, we can end up looking at Calvary. We ask questions such as *what does sacrifice have to do with being saved; can I claim to be saved and always avoid painful times?* We may also ask, *how do I know the Holy Spirit lives in me?* And those are only three of what could be a very long list of questions about faith that challenge us to learn more.

A *steward* is one who manages physical resources, such as food, employee wages, personal money, rents, and the distribution of necessities to those who need them. The way in which we do that shows our values and the principles (or personal ethics) according to which we live and act in this world.

We are stewards over all that we have, and that includes time, gifts and talents, bank accounts, the inventory in our pantries, linen closets, tool sheds, and clothes closets, and even our leisure time. As followers of Christ, we *should* embrace the values and ethics Jesus not only taught but lived. We recall the widow who put into the coffer all she had, little though it was. We also recall the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21 who hoarded his wealth and kept building bigger barns in which to store it.

We do well to remember what Jesus taught about the lilies of the field. They neither toil nor reap, but God clothes them most beautifully and provides for their every need. We like to think sometimes that we provide for ourselves, but the reality is that God provides all that we have.

When we put together discipleship and stewardship we see how the more we learn about the ways of Jesus the more we need to practice his kind of stewardship. I Peter 4:10 says that we should use whatever gift we’ve received from God to serve others as “faithful stewards of God’s grace.” In I Timothy 5:8 we read, “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

Perhaps I Corinthians 10:24 says it most succinctly: “Let no man seek his own but every man another’s wealth.” At some point we have to look around us and realize that we have more than we need and that it is time to begin building the wealth of someone else. How many of us *really* need those stimulus checks in order to survive the pandemic? Yet how many of us use that money to help out low wage workers and small businesses that lost nearly everything during the shutdown? How many of us used those checks to help someone pay rent or a mortgage note in order to keep a roof over their and their family’s heads? How many of us tithed each of those checks?

The final word about discipleship and stewardship is *generosity*. “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).



A butterfly from Easter Sunday.



Zachary Morin on an Army National Guard helicopter training session in South Carolina.



Tanya celebrated Easter with her boyfriend Chris, her dad Bobby and his wife Jeanne.



One of our new members who joined our church on April 18th. Will Colonero.

Marilyn Alling also joined our church on April 18th.



One of our new members who joined into our church on April 18th, Jimmy Tobin.



"The children raised \$97.12 for the One Great Hour of Sharing."

Deacon's Corner

May is such a nice month when we can really see the changes of the seasons between winter and spring. April showed its share of ups and downs in the temperatures ranging from the low 30 degrees up to 70 degrees... What a range to deal with! Can't beat it, though, when reminded of the phrase, "April Showers Bring May Flowers"! This sounds like a song as we enter this beautiful month, as we really are blessed to enjoy the pleasant weather of this month. It also brings out all sorts of activities, whether it be in your home (like spring cleaning!), community gatherings, playing baseball at the park, or even going out for a leisurely trip.

May can also a great time to rejoice with friends at church and share our stories and memories of the previous months. The Deacons also worked on an activity in April by collecting paper items for the NAC food pantry (such as paper towels, napkins, Kleenex, and toilet paper) for individuals having a need for these items. Simple items like these bring smiles and hope to others as they strive to find work and resources that will guide them to a more productive life than before. This is the usual feeling that spring brings to all creatures here on earth.

It is our God in heaven who created all the wonderful things that we see here on earth, and it helps to take the time to actually pay attention to nature. If you just take a few minutes or even an hour to sit back and rest, you can listen to nature by hearing the birds singing, a slight breeze in the trees, or even enjoying the warmth of the sun beating down on earth. The Deacons here at UPC are also always happy to help anyone in the church community who may have a need. We can even try to share a tip to anybody who might need an idea of something to give their mother on Mother's Day, which lands on Sunday, May 9th.

At the end of the month, we also want to celebrate those who gave their lives for our country, as Memorial Day will land on the 31st. It is our hope that everyone will take the time to thank God for those individuals who gave their life up to help us remain as a free country that embraces the love, life, and liberty for all.

Missions Corner

The Presbyterian Church's involvement in foreign missions began in 1810. That is the same year the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was created. They were headquartered in Boston. Over the next two decades the Presbyterian church sent out two score missionaries.

Through the years missionaries have had to overcome many hardships in order to spread the gospel. Many countries were closed to Protestant missionaries. Travel was difficult, and many languages were unknown. This year has held its own challenges as we know all too well. There has been a need to be creative in carrying out the great commission Jesus gave us. We hope to have a special time to connect with those that we support soon. Stay tuned!

Suzanne Santoro

Peace of Music

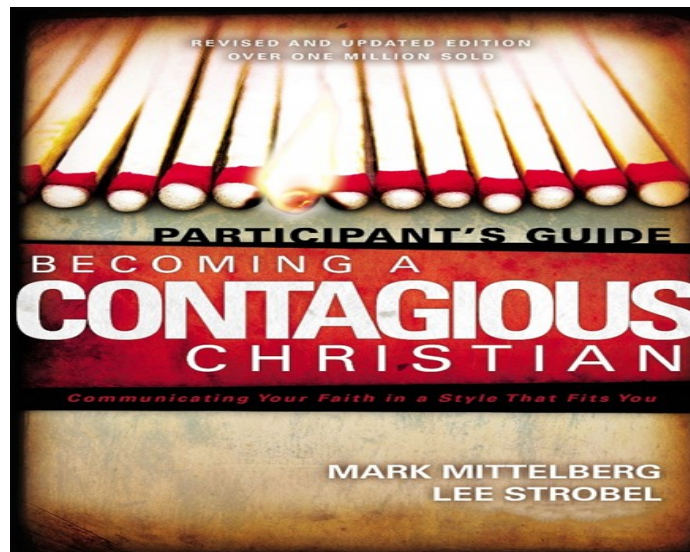
Did you know that Peace of Music is celebrating its 6th month anniversary as a virtual service for our church? Even though we are still worshipping virtually, we are glad that we can share the Good News of the Gospel with thousands of people in the Blackstone Valley. We are looking for more members that would be willing to participate in our service. If you would like to share a message, a scripture, a prayer, or a song, please contact Leslie Reichert for details. You can email her a cleaningcoach@yahoo.com or call 508-751-0799 for more information.

Becoming a Contagious Christian: Your Faith in a Style That Fits You

Join a new small group that is going to study the groundbreaking evangelism training course *Becoming a Contagious Christian* — a proven resource designed to equip believers for *relational* evangelism. This study avoids stereotyped approaches that feel intimidating to many Christians — and to their friends! Instead, it shows ordinary believers how to share the gospel in natural and effective ways being the person God made them to be.

- Discover your own style of communicating about Christ
- Build spiritually significant relationships
- Direct conversations toward matters of faith
- Tell your own story of coming to faith
- Use easy-to-remember gospel illustrations
- Pray with someone to receive Christ, and more!

This small group will be meeting on Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM on Zoom. If you would like to join us, you can contact Gaye Shannon for the Zoom link. Shannons.jg@gmail.com



Session Corner

Session met on April 5 for prayer meeting

Session met with and approved new members in a Called Meeting on April 11.

At the April 19 Stated Business Meeting Session did the following:

- * Approved beginning a small group “Becoming a Contagious Christian”
- * Approved a special service for Pentecost Sunday afternoon on May 23
- * Approved a good will offering on May 23 for our missionary support
- * Approved Personnel to use Indeed in our search for an Administrative Assistant

* Approved an additional five hours for Mallorie Mercer to work in the office

Joys and Concerns

Mike Sabourin has a prayer of thanks and praise that blood thinners have taken care of some blood clots.

Laurie and Mike Sabourin ask prayers for drs. to find the cause of some heart irregularities and that the irregularities will respond to medical management.

Anna Santoro has a prayer of praise that her Dad is doing much better. His hand is healing well with the help of therapy.

Patty has a prayer of joy that following a procedure that removed most of her brother's pancreas, his spleen, and gall bladder, there is no sign of cancer.

Will Colonero asks for prayers for several dental surgeries over the course of the next two months, the first one being on April 26. Prayers for peace, comfort, and that the surgeries are successful.

Please keep the family of Carol Showalter in your prayers, as Carol died this past Mon.

Patty Reynolds has a prayer of praise and thanks that the biopsy revealed that she is cancer free.

Patty also asks prayers for her sister Lori, whose ultra sound this week showed something suspicious of breast cancer that needs to be biopsied.

Laurie Sabourin asks prayers for Destiny's grandfather who is seriously ill. She also asks prayers for Destiny's family as her uncle just passed away as well.

Please keep Jean Finnegan in your prayers as she goes into the hospital for knee replacement surgery on Tues.

Kyle Mateer asks prayers for his friend Rich Elam, whose father passed away last week due to the final stages of dementia. Rich was not able to see his father because of Covid, and that is making his Dad's death especially difficult to cope with.

Eileen Straub asks prayers for her husband, Michael. Michael had a heart attack last Mon. and remains in UMASS Medical Center. He was scheduled for a cardiac catheterization on Mon. April 26.

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

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

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Bible Study 12:30pm PNC Meeting 2:30 Outreach & Mission with Worship Committee meeting 6:00 Personnel Metting	3 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	4 7:00 Worship Committee (virtual)	5 5:30 Peace of Bread	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:30pm PNC Meeting	10 7:30pm Trustee Meeting	11 7:00 LLC Meeting	12 5:30 Peace of Bread 7:00 CGN Meeting	13	14	15
16 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Bible Study 12:30pm PNC Meeting	17 7:00 PM Session Meeting (hybrid)	18	19 5:30 Peace of Bread Our Turn	20	21	22
23 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:30pm PNC Meeting	24 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting (virtual)	25	26 5:30 Peace of Bread 7:00 LLC Meeting	27	28	29
30 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:30pm PNC Meeting	31 Memorial Day	Notes				



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Special Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the lovely memorial service on April 16th for Brian Therrien it was beautiful and meaningful. Thank you to the deacons, Katherine Houstin friends, and a special thank you to Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff, Brandy Giemza, Eileen Straub, and everyone who participated.

With love from Heather and the Therrien Family.