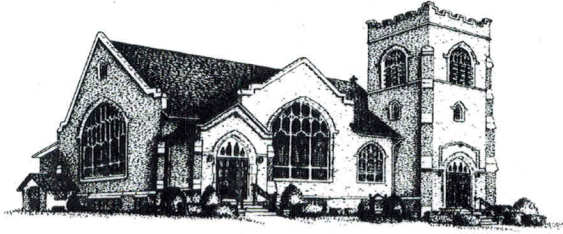


THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

~ 6:00 Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols ~

Come celebrate the reason for the season by reliving the Christmas story all over again. Join us for Lessons and Carols and experience the joy of the season with time honored Christmas Scriptures and beloved Christmas Carols. This service is great for the whole family, and is the perfect way to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. We hope you can join us!



~ 11:00PM Watchnight Service ~

Our Watchnight Service is a meaningful worship service designed to lead us into the Holy Day. Listen to special music and scripture readings, partake in the Lord's Supper, marvel at the glow of candlelight on stained glass windows and join with others to sing praises to the Christ child.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE
BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR AND WORSHIP THE
KING!

Advent Begins November 30th

The Season of Advent begins with the last Sunday in November and continues for the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting, of preparing, of expectation, of joy, of reflection, of hope and of assurance. Advent looks backward to the time of the manger in Bethlehem, but it also looks forward to the coming of the Son in glory.

As with so many of our "Church" words, "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming."

The colors of the Season are purple and blue. Blue is the color of hope and eternity, while purple as you may remember from The Season of Lent, is the color of both royalty and penitence.

The Special Days and Season of the Christian Year: How They Came About and How They Are Observed by Christians Today puts it well:

"Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: preparation to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, to receive faithfully the risen Christ who comes to us in Word and Spirit, and to await with hope Christ's coming in final victory."



Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**December
2014**

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
Office E-mail: Office@whitinpres.net
Pastor Aaron Email: rev.aaron.serna@gmail.com
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



*Kathryn M Haston Mission Circle
Christmas Celebration*



All Church Women are warmly invited for hors d' oeuvres and desserts at Suzanne Santoro's home, 31 Burdon Street, Whitinsville on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30 PM.

This promises to be a memorable pre-holiday evening:

- * Trying the tempting holiday treats
- * Laughing over the Yankee Swap
- * Singing your favorite carols
- * Designating our Christmas Love Gifts
- * Enjoying each other's company

What a way to usher in this joyous season! Please inform Suzanne (508-234-6456) if you plan to attend by December 7th.

Ministry Volunteers for the Month of December

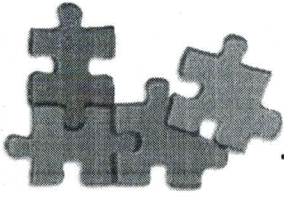
MINISTRIES	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	
Worship Leader	Z. Morin	A. Reichert	G. Shannon	S. Phoebe	
Greeter	J. Baker	J. & N. Joyce	K. Miedema	S. Mateer	
Welcome Center	S. Santoro	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	H. Platt	
Offering Counters	G. Giemza S. Szajna	D. Mateer S. Mateer	M. Reynolds T. Schelin	K. Redden M. Reynolds	
Children's Sermon	<i>Communion Sunday</i>	A. Reichert	G. Shannon	L. Reichert	
Coffee Fellowship	A. Santoro S. Santoro	<i>Second Sunday Social</i>	G. Shannon M. Spalton	J. Szajna A. Whitney	

Your service is very important. If you cannot serve on the date listed, please switch with another person *and* inform the church secretary (508-234-8220) of the change.

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

Sunday School for all Ages **9:30AM - 10:20AM**
Morning Worship Service **10:30AM - 11:30AM**
Coffee Fellowship **11:30AM**

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



The Pastors' Piece

What comes to mind when you think of Thanksgiving? Maybe you think of turkey, football, family, mashed potatoes, vacation, or many of the other symbols, events and icons that we participate in during the Holidays.

The Pilgrims has an especially rough first winter, losing many of their loved ones on the voyage to establish the Plymouth settlement. We also know that the first winter was devastating for them. Of 100 people, They lost 40 people to the cold and illness and it was said that at the worst only seven people were able to tend to the sick. I cannot imagine how many families were changed irrevocably during this first winter and how as a group their faith must have been pushed to the limit. Still they survived that first year and during the next year with help they were able to celebrate thanksgiving and be grateful for what they had been given by God.

For me, Thanksgiving is my immediate family all coming together to eat the same meal we've always had since I can remember. There would be bickering, laughter, and of course Martinelli's apple cider. I never played too much of a role in the Thanksgiving cooking, but my family insisted since I was eight that I make the biscuits every year which became more and more of a humorous tradition as I entered my late 20's. The last time we were able to celebrate in this way was 6 years ago before we all went our separate ways. Although I have a certain longing and nostalgia for these "traditional" Thanksgivings from the past, I am blessed by the many Thanksgivings I've had since then. While Thanksgiving is no longer the same as what I grew up with and changes year after year, I've grown thankful for the happy memories, and learned to embrace what I have right now.

As Paul awaited execution in Rome he wrote in Philippians 4:10-13 *"I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Life is full of ups and downs, trials and joys. Every Thanksgiving is a place for us to reflect on the wonderful life we currently enjoy and the family and friends that surround us. There is an opportunity for us to remember and reflect on the memories of where we have been and the wonderful people God had brought into our lives that have made us who we are today. It's certainly also reminder that we are to be thankful for what we currently have right now no matter how our circumstances around us may look because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Wherever we are in our Christian walk; regardless of we are in a place of hurt, joy, need, or comfort; we all have much to be thankful for through the God who daily gives us strength. We too can embrace being content in whatever we have this Thanksgiving and enjoy what we have especially the hope and assurance that comes through Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray you find joy this Thanksgiving and are able to find the same contentment and peace as Paul had in our Lord.

Blessings,
Pastor Aaron

Christmas Flowers For Our Church!

Would you like to help enhance the beauty of the church sanctuary for our Christmas services? We invite you to bring your poinsettias to church on Saturday, December 20th from 10:00AM-12:00PM.

Please complete the form below, and either mail it to the church office or drop it into the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Please place a marker with your name in the plant so it can be retrieved easily after the Christmas services.

All forms must be received by Dec. 17th to be printed in the bulletin on Dec. 21nd.



A poinsettia will be donated by:

(complete as appropriate)

It will be in memory of:

It will be in honor of:

(cut out and drop into offering plate or mail to the church office, 7 Spring St., Whitinsville, MA 01588 or e-mail information to: office@whitinpres.net)

(please print)

Christmas Cookie Trays Are Back!

To create our cookie trays, all the great bakers in our church come together and create the best combination cookie trays you have ever tasted! Please drop off all cookie donations at the church on Saturday, December 20th by 4:00PM OR if you don't have time to bake, we'll accept donations of raw cookie dough and frosting and the youth group will do the baking for you!

We will be taking orders until December 15th. The trays will be ready on December 21st for you to take to all your parties and dinners. Remember, these trays make great gifts. The cost of the trays will be \$6.00. You can place your orders in the offering plate or call the church office at 508-234-8220. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Redden at 508-266-0428 or at looneyliz82@charter.net or contact Leslie Reichert at 508-234-4392 or at vacuum lady2@yahoo.com. Order your cookie trays today! Thank you in advance to our cookie bakers and our cookie tray purchasers!

~ Merry Christmas from the
UPCoW Youth Group ~



Name _____

Phone _____

of cookie trays ordered _____ x \$6.00 ea.

Total due _____

(cut out and drop in offering plate)
(please print)

Reflections on Homespun Holidays

As the holiday season approaches, we are ever reminded of the Congregation's role in the life of our church. Due to your prayers, numerous donations, and patronage, "Homespun Holidays" was successful once again and added \$4,749.00+ to the treasury for a variety of mission causes.



The KHMC offers special thanks to:

- * The FFF Committee and the Emergency Crew for another Five Star Luncheon
- * The waitresses for serving the public with grace
- * The Herculean men for transporting 'treasures' from and to the office building, setting up tables, and cleaning up afterwards
- * The table workers for accommodating the excited shoppers
- * The church cooks for stocking the bake table for all that holiday entertaining
- * The "behind the scene assistance" by Sally Staples!

To God Be the Glory



"A Piece of Peace"

The Peace of Bread Community Kitchen Ministry Team has been mentoring an individual from Alternatives Unlimited for several months now. Brenda is a young woman with an interest in food service & culinary arts.

In addition to keeping our kitchen running smoothly on Wednesday nights, our "Chef in Residence" Peter Sabourin, has been working with Brenda & showing her the ropes of good food safety skills, meal preparation, & how to graciously serve our dinner guests.

Our wonderful volunteer groups have all encouraged Brenda and helped her to become a valued member of our team on the two weeks a month she is able to volunteer with us at Peace of Bread.

What a blessing it is to see the smile on Brenda's face when she sits down at the end of a busy night serving at Peace of Bread, and she is able to genuinely feel good about herself and all the work she did while volunteering with us! We are grateful to God as always, for His guidance, & for blessing our ministry, so we in turn can bless others.

Laurie Sabourin

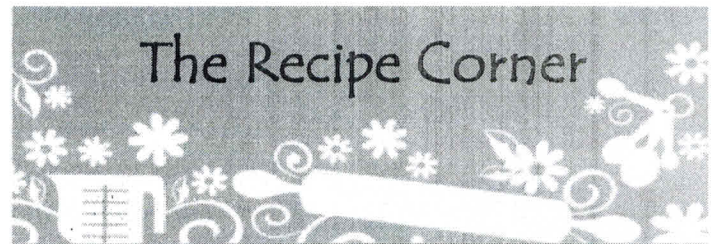


Have you heard of UNFROZEN? Last Sunday our Junior Church Program kicked off our Christmas Program with a "frozen party". Starting this week we will be learning about becoming unfrozen. UNFROZEN teaches children that Jesus was born to melt away the old and bring in new life and a new kingdom.



Congregational Gathering

Thank you to everyone who attended the Congregational Gathering last Sunday. We had a great turn out and it was encouraging to see so many people passionate and committed to our congregation. Many great conversations were started and if you like to continue those conversations, please speak to the Pastors or any of the Elders. We are here to serve and would love to hear your thoughts and concerns.



CRUNCHY CHICKEN

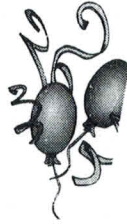
BARBARA PLAYS

- 1 CUP RITZ CRACKER CRUMBS
- 1/2 CUP GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE
- 1 PKG. CHICKEN BREASTS, BONELESS, SKINLESS
- 1 CUP SOUR CREAM
- 1 STICK BUTTER, MELTED
- 1 CAN CREAM CHICKEN SOUP
- 1/2 CUP WATER
- 4 OZ. CAN MUSHROOMS, DRAINED

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES
 IN SHALLOW BOWL, COMBINE CRACKERS, CHEESE AND BUTTER. ROLL DRY CHICKEN IN CRUMB MIXTURE (RESERVING LEFTOVER CRUMB MIXTURE)
 PLACE IN GREASED 13 X 9 IN. PAN.
 COMBINE SOUP, WATER, MUSHROOMS AND SOUR CREAM. POUR OVER CHICKEN. TOP WITH REMAINING CRUMB MIXTURE.
 BAKE, UNCOVERED, 1 HOUR.

Birthday Corner

<i>Beth Hendrickson</i>	12/7
<i>Arlene Koopman</i>	12/7
<i>Sarah Szajna</i>	12/13
<i>Heather Whitney</i>	12/14
<i>Sharon Emerick</i>	12/15
<i>Sid Koopman</i>	12/15
<i>Brandy Gienza</i>	12/17
<i>Haleigh Reynolds</i>	12/17
<i>Nancy Kloczkowski</i>	12/21
<i>Samuel Kloczkowski</i>	12/25
<i>Carol Pilibosian</i>	12/28
<i>Kathy Miedema</i>	12/30
<i>Tanya Morin</i>	12/30



Anniversaries

Tom & Cindy Frieswyk 12/28

Check out the new the updates on the website: www.whitinpres.org You are also now able to view 'The Weekly Scoop' and 'The New Covenant' from our website.

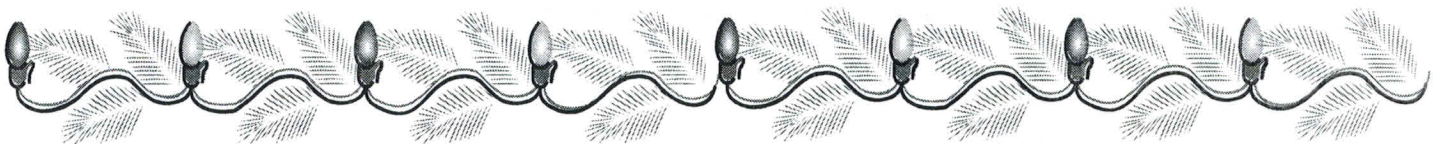
And join us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/whitinspres



Welcome Alice!



We'd like to introduce you to Alice Clark, our new administrative assistant. Alice has lots of experience working in a church office. She is currently working at the North Uxbridge Baptist Church in their office as well as an attending member of their church. Alice has two adult children and a black lab named Duchess. She grew up on a small farm in Uxbridge and has spent her life in either Uxbridge or Douglas. She is an avid crafter and loves the outdoors. We are excited to have Alice helping us in our church office!



All Church Christmas Party at the Stones! Friday, December 19 at 6 pm 118 Brookside Dr. Uxbridge

Please bring something savory or sweet and RSVP to Kristen @ kristen_stone@brown.edu by December 12 if possible. RSVPing is appreciated but not mandatory. We hope to see EVERYONE there even if you decide to swing by last-minute!

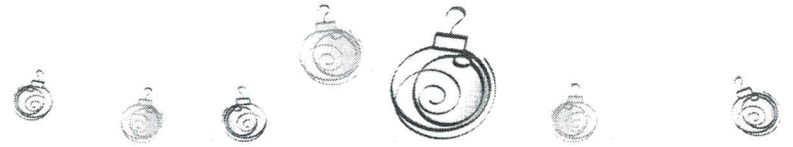
We will play REGIFT Yankee Swap. If you want to play, bring a wrapped gift, but you are not allowed to buy it! Regift something in your home. If you do not have anything to regift you may phone a friend for help. (Call Kristen if needed; she can hook you up with a re-gift from their house.) One gift per family. Kristen will have a table set out for you to place your gift and pick up a number, which represents the order by which you choose your gift so don't lose it!

Kristen: [901-486-1087](tel:901-486-1087)

Matt: [901-491-6450](tel:901-491-6450)

God is good! We can't wait to celebrate with you!

December 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00PM Session Prayer Meeting (manse)	2	3 5:30PM Peace of Bread 7:15PM Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 5:30 Youth Group	8	9 6:30PM KMH Christmas Celebration (S. Santoro's) 7:00PM Trustee Meeting (Office)	10 5:30PM Peace of Bread 7:15PM Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Second Sunday Social 5:30 Youth Group	5 7:00PM Session Business Meeting (office)	16	7 5:30PM Peace of Bread 7:15PM Choir Practice	18	19 6:00PM All Church Christmas Party (Stone's)	20 10:00 - 12:00PM Drop off Christmas poinsettias (sanctuary) 4:00PM Drop off cookies (fellowship hall)
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 5:30 Youth Group	22	23	24 6:00PM Christmas Eve Family Service 11:00PM Christmas Eve Watchnight Service CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	29	30	31			

The United Presbyterian Church
at Whitinsville
Church Office: 7 Spring Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

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Whitinsville, MA 01588



Christian Education News:

For the Advent season, we are going to combine the younger kid classes and we will be offering Christmas workshops. Our plan is to have a short lesson and then do a craft. For example on Sunday, November 30, we will create advent wreaths. Moms and/or dads are welcome to join us!

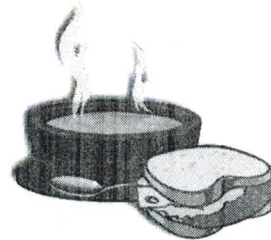
Marion Boyd is ready to start teaching bells again. We would love to have at least 5 bell ringers. If your child is in kindergarten or up, please talk to Marion Boyd for more details. She would have the children practice from 8:45-9:15 a.m. We will have cereal and milk ready for the children at 9:15 in case they miss breakfast at home.

We will all take a break from Sunday School on Sunday December 28.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

December's Second Sunday Social

Please join us on December 14th for some delicious food, as well as an update on our New Beginnings program. All the groups have met, and we've come up with some wonderful ideas of what God has in store for us next. Come and hear recommendations from our leadership team as well as to give your input and ideas.



Lunch is one of our favorites...Soup, Sandwiches and Salads! We hope you can make it, and look forward to a great time of fellowship and sharing.

~ Vegetarian and Gluten Free options will be available ~

