

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

Join us for the Holidays!

The holidays are upon us and there are many opportunities to worship and give thanks for all that God has done! Join us as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus born so many years ago.

Christmas Eve 7:00PM Christmas Celebration

Come celebrate the reason for the season with us! This service is a joyful celebration filled with Christmas Carols, candle lighting and an inspiring message of love. 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!

Christmas Day 10:30am Lessons and Carols

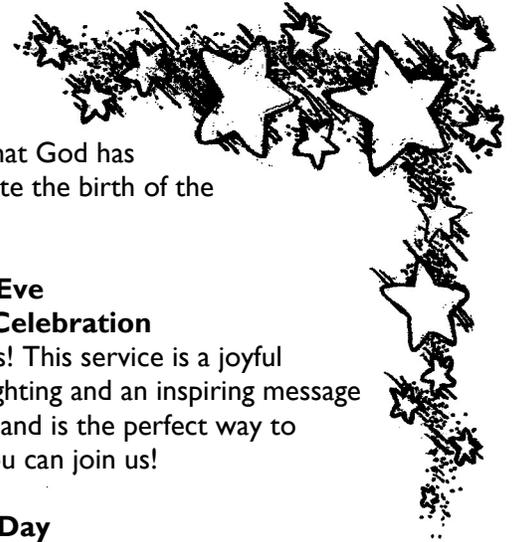
Join us on Christmas morning and relive the Christmas message through scripture and song. This will be a fun and meaningful way to experience the joy of Christmas, so open your presents and come on down (Pajamas are welcome!)

Follow the Star

Join us for our Advent Sermon Series where we Follow the Star and journey closer to the baby Jesus. All Advent long we will be preparing for the birth of our king by following the Bethlehem star and drawing ever closer to the Good News that was born on Christmas morning.

Carol Sing Wednesday, December 21st 6:15-7pm

Join us during our regular Peace of Music time for a good old fashioned Carol Sing! Relive the Christmas story through song and prepare your hearts for the coming Christ. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole time!



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December 2016

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

~ December ~					
MINISTRIES	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 1
Worship Leader	Z. Morin	R. Thomas	A. Reichert	S. Phoebe	G. Shannon
Welcome Center	B. Keeler	R. Thomas	L. Cassavant	H. Platt	J. Baker
Greeter	L & N Joyce	K. Miedema	A. Castonquay	K. Bilodeau	T. Morin
Offering Counters	C. Pilibosian & M. Thomas	M. Austin & T. Schelin	J. Baker & M. Reynolds	D & S Mateer	

December Birthday Corner

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

Anniversary Corner

Tom & Cindy Frieswyk	12/28
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****Sunday Morning Worship Schedule****

<i>Adult Education</i>	9:30AM - 10:30AM
<i>Morning Worship Service</i>	10:30AM - 11:30AM
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	11:30 AM

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



Pastor's Piece

"...the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy."

- Matthew 2:9-10

Can you believe that Advent is already upon us and Christmas is just around the corner? Where has this year gone? Are you ready to greet the newborn King?

I find it funny that Advent, the time of slowing down and preparing for the birth of our Savior, always seems to fall during the busiest time of the year. Between Christmas shopping, holiday parties and end of the year preparations, there never seems to be enough time to truly appreciate the reason for the season. And so often our hearts are heavy - heavy with grief, heavy with expectations, heavy with uncertainty of what the coming year will hold. And yet Christmas is supposed to be a time of great joy and wonder when we remember God's promise to love and care for us

That is why this Advent we will be joining the ancients before us and "Following the Star" that will lead us to the manger. Slowing down, refocusing our hearts and celebrating the Christmas miracle once again.

Have you ever wondered what Christ's star – the Star of Bethlehem – must have looked like? What a magnificent star it must have been for the wise men to leave everything to follow after it. The star that points us towards Christ, that reminds us anew of "God with us," that whispers promises of a better tomorrow.

What would it look like for us to put aside the busyness and the worry, the shopping and the stress and follow after that beautiful star? What hope does that star hold for us? What promise of light does it offer?

I'd like to invite you to join us during worship the next few weeks as we Follow the Star and journey towards the Christ's Child. Each week we will be taking a step closer to that little manger, and drawing ever closer to the promise of new life born on Christmas morning.



Sign up at church to
volunteer for Coffee
Fellowship

Second Sunday Social

December brings in chillier weather so we're asking for you to bring in your favorite soup to



share on December 11th at our Second Sunday Social



Women's Book Club for December will be Friday, December 16th at 6:30 pm.

Piece of Peace

"Wonderful Wednesday's" continue to be a blessing to many people in our community. It's almost impossible to fully appreciate how truly wonderful Wednesday's are right here in UPCW! This time of year especially reminds us of all we have to be thankful for though doesn't it?



Peace of Bread
Community Kitchen,
Wednesday's 5:30 pm

We were especially blessed & thankful this year to receive an amazing donation of 40 apple pies from the Whitinsville Christian School annual pie sale. How incredibly generous. This enabled us to send a pie home with many of the families that come to Peace of Bread. In addition we received another donation of 20 pies from Linda & Doug Nydam that we served at PoB for dessert one night. They have blessed us with this particular donation for many years. Just a few of the behind the scenes "angels" who continue to support our ministry. We are thankful.

I had a chance to get upstairs to Peace of Music for a few minutes recently. It was just what I needed after a busy night at PoB. The music is so inspiring & beautiful. My soul was refreshed & I truly felt at peace when the service was done. Thank you to all who give their time & talents to Peace of Music. I know those that are able to attend are truly blessed.

So much to praise God for...

St. Patrick's Gifts of Joy and Compassion



December 3, 2016 from 3:00-6:00pm
in the St. Patrick's Parish Center

If you could have any gift you wished, what would it be? Peace on Earth, an end to hunger, preservation of the environment, clean water for a child? These gifts are closer than you might think.

There comes a time when your mother has enough sweaters, your friends have more holiday food than they can eat and your children will lose another toy in the shuffle. If you're looking for another way to honor the people close to you, come to the Gifts of Joy and Compassion Alternative Gifts Market at St. Patrick's. Great local and international organizations will be at our market, you will be able to support groups in honor of loved ones and purchase fair trade jewelry and food products from around the world. Last year, we raised nearly \$7000 for the organizations with whom we worked.

K H Fair Followup

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 17th 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 in to the office by Dec. 14th to be printed in the bulletin on Dec. 18th.



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)



Kathryn M Huston Mission Circle

Christmas Celebration

All Church Women are warmly invited for hors d' oeuvres and desserts at

Suzanne Santoro's home, 31 Burdon St, Whitinsville on Tuesday, December 6th 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 4th.



PrimeTime will be launching WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017!!!

What is PrimeTime? It is a FREE BIBLE FOCUSED after school program available for children in grades kindergarten –grade 6 (5-12). We will operate the program here at our church on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-5:30.

On Wednesday, January 4, we will be having a “carnival style celebration” of Jesus’ birth and the arrival of the Wise Men who brought gifts to Jesus. Families may register at any time for PrimeTime but this will be our official registration day. Parents/guardians and other family members may stay if they wish while we play carnival games with the kids, enjoy some refreshments, hear a story and learn more about the PrimeTime program.

To find out more or to volunteer to help, please contact Gaye Shannon@ 508.320.5723 or email: shannons.jg@gmail.com

We would also appreciate your prayers for this ministry.

In Christ,

Gaye Shannon



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11	9:30 Sun 10:30 W 11:30 Se
18	9:30 Sun 10:30 W 11:30 Co
25	9:30 Sun 10:30 W 11:30 Co

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:00 A Men's Bible Study	3 8 A Daniel Bible 3-6 PM St Pat' Gift Market
Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Fellowship	5 7:00 P Trustees 7:00 P Session Prayer	6 6:30 PM KMHMC Christmas Celebration	7 4:30 P PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	8	9 6:00 A Men's Bible Study	10 8 A Daniel Bible 3:30 PM Pleasur Family Christm
Sunday School Worship Service Second Sunday Social	12	13	14 4:30 P PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	15	16 6:00 A Men's Bible Study 6:30 P Women's Book Club	17 8 A Daniel Bible 10 AM -12 Poin Drop
Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Fellowship	19 7:00 P Session	20	21 4:30 P PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Carol Sing 7:00 Sermon Discussion	22	23 6:00 A Men's Bible Study	24 Christ
Christmas Day Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Fellowship	26 7:00 P Deacons	27	28 4:30 P PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	29	30 6:00 A Men's Bible Study	31 New Y



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Friends of Peace of Bread

Looking for a way to give back this holiday season? Be a "piece of the Peace" by supporting the Peace of Bread Community Kitchen. Your monthly donation of \$5, \$10 or \$20 goes a long way to help families in need right here in our very own community.

Visit us online at www.whitinpres.org/friends or contact the church office to find out more.



**Be a "piece
of the peace"**

Friends of Peace of Bread