

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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Announcing a Six-Session Grief Seminar

January 14 and continuing every other week through March 25, Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff will lead a six-session seminar about the psychological and spiritual aspects of grieving. The seminar will meet at the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Shrewsbury. Sessions will begin at 2:30 PM and end at 3:30. The total cost for all six sessions is \$72/person.

How grieving affects us psychologically is as important as how it impacts us spiritually. This six-part seminar provides opportunity to learn more about both of these dimensions of grieving. Participants will focus on each dimension individually and on how these dimensions are intertwined in the working-through process of grieving. Granger Westberg's book *Good Grief* will help structure the sessions, with Scripture readings from Psalms, Job, and the Gospels being added for sessions IV – VI.

The first three seminar sessions will focus on the psychological aspect of grieving; the last three on the spiritual aspect and how our Christian faith informs how we go through the grieving process in a way that helps us find new life. For more information and to sign up for the seminar, please contact Dr. DeHoff at sldehoff@verizon.net. Group size will be limited and spaces allotted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Dr. DeHoff is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. She holds a M. Div. from Emory University and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and Religion from Boston University. She has a private pastoral counseling practice in Shrewsbury.

January
2018

The United Presbyterian Church at 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 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 4
PoM WL	1/3 D. Redden	1/10 L. Redden	1/17 J. Volmer	1/24 S. Phoebe	1/31 G. Shannon
PoM Power Point	C. Phoebe	C. Phoebe	C. Phoebe	C. Phoebe	C. Phoebe
Worship Leader	R. Thomas	A. Reichert	M. Thomas	G. Shannon	S. Phoebe
Welcome Center	S. Santoro	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	R. Thomas	L. Casavant
Greeter	J. Baker	C. Frieswyk	S. Mateer	L & N Joyce	K. Miedema
Offering Counters	D & S Mateer	M. Austin & T. Schelin	N. Joyce & J. Baker	C. Pilibosian & M. Thomas	
Power Point	N. Joyce	N. Joyce	N. Joyce	N. Joyce	N. Redden

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.

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

Adult Education 9:30AM - 10:30AM
Morning Worship Service 10:30AM - 11:30AM
Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM

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

Note from Session

If there is one thing that experience teaches, it is that each of us begins the new year with the best of intentions. January 1st always seems to bring out a sense of optimism and hopefulness because we are getting a fresh start, a clean slate, a chance to do it over again. We are buoyed by the Christmas Spirit and celebrations on New Year's Eve. New habits, new goals and new plans all seem possible and probable at the outset. Sometimes we are so optimistic we increase the scale and scope of goals to include more than one desire. We combine losing weight with getting in shape, we promise to pay off our debt and save more money, we pursue working smarter not harder, and many others that come to mind.

Some of us decide to get serious about our faith, praying more, giving more, doing more and sinning less. Even when it comes to our walk with God we can reach too far. We end up combining too many changes and leaving the time line open as if we really believe our changes will be permanent. Then when it comes to work and family we pile on more combinations that require more change. We set out to spend more time with the kids and helping neighbors. Then we challenge ourselves at work by taking on a new project. The one complication to all we set out to do is the challenge of finding time for it all. Does anyone today have too little to do? Books, tapes, and conversations make you believe that it only takes, 10 minutes a day, 4 hours a week, or 1 day a month to make it happen and we buy in, until we realize something has to give. Our busy lives can only hold so much, do so much, give so much until we break down. We end up with unused exercise equipment, unread books, frustration over missed deadlines and goals and then pretty soon we are back in the same old rut feeling tired, worn out, and further behind.

This year let's try something different. Let's begin by asking God what He wants us to do instead of asking God to help us do more of what we want to do. Do you trust Him enough to do His will? Are you willing to listen and act on what He has to say to you? If you are then you can be sure of success, because God wants us to be faithful, relying on Him to lead us and trusting in His perfect plan for us. He will move those mountains and make all things possible to you when you surrender your wants and desires to His will and leading.

May God the Father, Jesus Christ His only Son and the Holy Spirit Bless you and keep you all the days of your life.

Happy New Year and remember we are new creations in Christ each and every day, no matter the time of year, AMEN.

Peace and Joy from the Session.



Please sign up to bring a few snacks for after our worship services. Do it by yourself or sign up with a friend. Just a few goodies (savory or sweet) is all that is necessary. Coffee is typically prepared by someone attending the Adult Sunday School class and we will bring it up for you. If no coffee is made, we have the Keurig one cup at a time maker! Thanks for helping out. Sign up is in the Gathering Place.



Women's Book Club for January we will be reading "Twilight at Blueberry Barrens" by Colleen Coble. Our gathering will be January 19.



Second Sunday Social

Let's celebrate football at our Second Sunday Social January 14th ! Bring your favorite football watching appetizer or dessert and have some fun teasing one another about which team will win the Super Bowl. Of course we know the Patriots will be!!!

Un- Decorating Party

Stay after church Jan 7th for our annual undecorating party as we put away all our beautiful Christmas decorations till next year.

Thank you from the Sabourin & Reynolds Family!

Our family would like to offer our deepest thanks to our beloved church family for the many ways you loved & supported us during the time leading up to our mom Pauline Reynolds passing.

We truly appreciate every prayer said, sympathy card, visit & phone call. Thank you Austin Reichert for all your thoughtful & helpful support.

A special thank you to our wonderful Deacons, & the volunteers who cooked for us, providing the delicious meals which our family so enjoyed. That was a huge blessing.

Thank you also to the Kathryn Huston Mission Circle members for providing the lovely luncheon after the memorial service. What an incredible gift you all are to our church family. The luncheon was delicious, especially the homemade soups, which was a favorite food my mom always enjoyed.

Thank you to Tanya, Gaye & Zach for providing the excellent childcare during the service for the 8 great grandchildren. It was such a relief for our family to know the kids were being cared for so well.

The Celebration of Life service for mom was so, so beautiful as well. Our heartfelt thank you to Chris, Katrina, the choir & Denis Hardy for sharing your incredible gifts of music & preaching with us that day.

We love you all so very much and will always remember your care & love for my mom & our families. To God be the glory.

Laurie & Michael Sabourin & family
Steve & Darlene Reynolds & family

Kathryn M Huston Mission Circle Love Gifts 2017

Fuel Fund	\$1,000
Peace of Bread Community Kitchen	\$500
UP Shelter	\$100
PrimeTime	\$100
NAC Fuel Fund	\$500
Children's Haven (Inner City Ministry)	\$500
Philippines Health Center (Kelses)	\$600
Missionary Athletes (Davidsons)	\$500
Native American Christian Academy	\$600
Scholarship for Kayden Isaac	
Christmas Gift for Kayden	\$50
Presbyterian Disaster Fund	\$300
Birthday Offering for Presbyterian	
Women's Ministry	\$250
	<hr/>
	\$5000

To God be the Glory

Crop Hunger Walk Update

43rd Blackstone Valley Crop Hunger Walk had 78 walkers from 13 churches and raised \$6,819.81.

UPCOW joined up with 6 walkers and contributed \$150.

Gracious thanks from Carolyn Mitchell and Tanya Morin to all who were able to help this worthy cause.

Our Turn

We are up on January 10th to serve at the Peace of Bread! How can YOU help? Either contribute towards the cost of the meal (note on your check that it is for the Peace of Bread Meal), SHOP for the meal ingredients- please contact Gaye ASAP if you can do that, help prepare the meal (starting at 3 p.m.) or serve the meal (starting at 5:30 p.m.), clean up (starting at 6:00) or stay all afternoon from 3-7! THANK YOU THANK YOU!!! CONTACT GAYE @ Shannons.jg@gmail.com or text or call 508.320.5723.

Clothing Swap

The Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church in Whitinsville will host a clothing swap on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 9am to 11am. We accept donations of gently used (no rips or stains please) men's, women's and kid's clothing, shoes and accessories. Donations can be dropped off on Friday, January 12 between 6 and 7pm or the morning of the swap. Use the driveway between Domino's Pizza and the law office and come in the church's back door. Everything is free and the swap is open to the public. You don't have to donate to take something home and you don't have to take something in order to donate. Whether you're looking to update your wardrobe or clean out your closet, this is the event for you! We will also be accepting donations for the NAC food pantry. Call Christine at 508-234-8131 or email edalynne@hotmail.com for more info.

WE HAVE SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS!

Beginning the 1st of January, every Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag sold at 158 No. Main Street, Uxbridge WILL NOW GENERATE A \$1 DONATION to support Peace of Bread Food Pantry!

THAT'S RIGHT!

The Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag now costs \$2.50 with a \$1 donation for EVERY bag sold!

Hannaford Fight Hunger bags with the message "This bag helped feed someone in need" can be found on the reusable bag rack and at various registers.

If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact

Morgan Palmer – Hannaford Program Director
603.380.7309 | morganp@bags4mycause.com

Visit the Hannaford Cause Bag program website
hannaford.bags4mycause.com

A centuries-old 'chalking' and house blessing bring the memory of the Magi into our homes

Page 6

By Rachel M. Srubas | Presbyterians Today

Cassi, a member of my church, once dreamed a dream so vivid, so compelling, that when she woke up, she was sure she knew what God was calling her to do with her life. That day, she enrolled in a foster parent training course.

After months of preparation and mountains of paperwork, Cassi invited a friend and me to her now child-ready home. It was the sixth of January, the Epiphany of the Lord, also known as the Feast of Epiphany or Three Kings' Day. I brought two items: a candle and a stick of chalk. We lit the candle to signify the light of Christ that once shone brilliantly in the heavens, leading the Magi, wise star-watchers from the east, to follow its beams all the way to Bethlehem. There, the Gospel of Matthew tells us, they found the young Savior with his mother.

Now, why the chalk? A centuries-old Epiphany tradition more common in Europe than in the United States is known as "chalking the door." On Epiphany, the day following the Twelfth Day of Christmas, guests gather at a home to invoke the Magi's and Christ's own blessing upon it. Drawing on the second chapter of Matthew — the only Gospel depicting the Magi — those gathered may read a brief, responsive liturgy or say a prayer.

Although Matthew never mentions the Magi's names, tradition has it that they were called Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The initials CMB also abbreviate a Latin house blessing, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless this dwelling." Chalking the door on the Feast of Epiphany involves writing — with chalk — these three letters, interspersed with crosses and flanked by the numbers of the present year, on the lintel of a house's front door.

Life's purpose made clear

When we three women chalked the door of Cassi's house on Epiphany, we prayed that she would soon receive her long-awaited foster care license. We prayed that one of the roughly 18,000 children who live under our state's supervision would soon find with Cassi a safe and loving foster home. This was the holy day marking the Messiah's revelation as a homeless infant born to a young unmarried woman and an honorable foster father. It was fitting for us to seek God's blessing on the vocation to care for children in need that had come to Cassie through a powerful dream.

The English word *epiphany* is rooted in the Greek word *epipháneia*. An epiphany is a revelation, a manifestation. All six occurrences of epiphanies in the New Testament's original Greek language refer to Christ's coming. Notably, none of these occur in Matthew's account of Christ's revelation to the Magi. Even so, the story portrays the manifestation of God in person. The Most High is shown forth in the least likely, humblest guise.

Matthew's second chapter also refers to three dreams that convey divine guidance to the dreamer. First comes the dream that warns the Magi to steer clear of duplicitous King Herod. A few verses later, Joseph dreams of the Lord, who leads the exiled holy family to Israel. Then another dream warns Joseph away from Herod's son and toward the Galilean town of Nazareth.

By standards such as these, Cassi's dream of the direction her life was meant to take seems downright biblical. Her dream was fulfilled and our Epiphany prayers were answered when later that year, an infant who had been exposed to drugs in the womb was placed in Cassi's care. Both the baby and the foster mother flourished.

The dream of the Magi, the insight of Joseph, and Cassi's experience all manifest this truth: When our minds are at rest and we are receptive to the light that shines in the darkness, sometimes God is revealed to us and our lives' purposes are made clear.

Open to epiphanies

But what if you're someone who rarely remembers a dream, much less receives divine guidance by night? You might think you're exempt from epiphanies and immune to the self-revelation of the Lord. Resist this conclusion and remember that you, as much as anyone, are a beloved child of God, created in the image of your Creator. The very fact that you're reading this meditation on epiphanies means you're open to the One who made you, whose handiwork you show forth simply by being alive. You, yourself, manifest the Maker's creativity. To you, perhaps quite unexpectedly,

God can be made known.

No one can manifest mystical knowledge at will. It would be hazardous to try. However, through such practices as prayer, Scripture reading, spiritual direction and compassionate service to others, people of faith become gradually formed by the Holy Spirit into disciples who have the mind of Christ. The key to becoming an epiphany-receptive Christian is to practice self-emptying love, like Cassi, who fosters babies unable to repay her, or like Joseph, who raised Mary's child as his own. Jesus appears in many people, from fragile infants to older adults, and all need love. Jesus is the ultimate receiver and revealer of God. If you know nothing else, know this much. To you will belong the holiest epiphany of all.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/1217-epiphany/>

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 7:00 PM Session Prayer	3 2:45 PM PrimeTime 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	4	5 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	6 8 A Daniel Bible Study
7 Epiphany 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Second Sunday Social 11:30 Undecorating Party	8 7:00 PM Trustees	9	10 2:45 PM PrimeTime 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread OUR TURN 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	11	12 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	13 8 A Daniel Bible Study
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Second Sunday Social	15 7:00 PM Session	16	17 2:45 PM PrimeTime 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	18	19 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	20 8 A Daniel Bible Study
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	22 7:00 PM Deacons	23	24 2:45 PM PrimeTime 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	25	26 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	27 8 A Daniel Bible Study
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	29	30	31 2:45 PM PrimeTime 4:30 PoB Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice			



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Church of Whitinsville**

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Miracles at the Shelter

Every day there is a new miracle at the shelter. Big or small you can see Gods hand in it all.
We have been able to supply a warm night to 8 different individuals so far this year!

- \$1200 in Mc Donald's gift cards
- 7 hand made blankets specifically to keep people warm at the shelter
- An offer to buy another 13 cots
- Enough money donated so that those using the shelter had Christmas Eve and day in a motel. They said it was the best nights sleep they've had in a long time.
- People volunteering their vacation time off to work a double shift so the shelter could be open
- Cookies left for everyone working and staying at St Pat's church
- A warm bowl of soup brought down to those volunteering.
- "To Go" bags of warm socks and snacks left at the church office.
- Beaumont and Lydia Taft offering to help sanitize pillows and blankets.
- A young man being accepted into a program that will help straighten out his medications as well as help him with a job and housing.
- Two churches waiting patiently for the town to approve their applications.
- Two more churches considering applying for a temporary emergency status.
- \$300 in gift cards from an 8th grade class in Uxbridge!