THE NEW COVENANT

News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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Join us for the Holidays!

Christmas Choir Concert
Sunday, December 16th
2:00 PM

Come relax and enjoy a Christmas Concert featuring the choir at UPCW as well as some traditional carols you know and love. This will be a great event to add to your Christmas festivities!

Light refreshments will follow the concert.

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!

December 2018

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

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff E-mail: 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.

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

~ December ~

Ministries	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30
PoM WL	12/5 S. Phoebe	12/12 D. Redden	12/19 L. Redden	12/26 G. Shannon	1/2 J. Vollmer
PoM Power Point	T. Morin	T. Morin	T. Morin	T. Morin	C. Phoebe
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	K. Bilodeau	R. Thomas	G. Shannon	Z. Morin
Children's Sermon	Rev. DeHoff	R. Thomas	K. Bilodeau	C. Matchett	A. Reichert
Welcome Center	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	R. Thomas & C. Lee	M. Reynolds	H. Platt
Greeter	M & B Widner	S. Mateer	J. Baker	L. Joyce	K. Miedema
Offering Counters	N. Joyce & C. Pilibosian	D & S Mateer	D & K Miedema	M. Austin & G. Giema	T. Schelin & S. Mateer
Power Point	T. Giemza	T. Giemza	T. Giemza	T. Giemza	T. Giemza

*****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

The first bit of Christmas I get out of storage is a very small, four-piece crèche set made by a friend many years ago. The second is a little book of Christmas poetry by Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*. The second verse of her poem "In Search of Our Kneeling Places" captures the depth and breadth of what Christmas means. It sets the tone for the entire Advent Season. I commend the entire book to you for reading during Advent, but here is that one poignant verse:

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.
In the middle of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.

This poem begs the question, "How do we make that spiritual journey to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places there?" How, indeed. This is a journey of the heart. Perhaps we begin by finding a still, quiet place to listen to our heart, to feel what it wants, to become aware of whatever inclination God has placed there. After all, what do we *really* need this Advent Season?

Or perhaps we begin by writing our own poem about what Christmas means. Or maybe we search for a piece of artwork that captures the message of Christmas for us. I recall seeing "The Holy Family" by Johann Friedrich Overbeck on the cover of a devotional book and for a timeless moment seeing what the rosy-cheeked, chubby-legged Christ child might have looked like as a real infant and what a very tired, yet joyful, Mary would have looked like. Or maybe we hear deep within our soul a new hymn of praise to God's glory and compose a new Christmas hymn. Or recalling that Jesus came to bring peace and love to God's children, perhaps we find someone who needs to experience that peace and love and help him or her experience them.

Whatever way you each find to make your way to your own kneeling place in Bethlehem, I wish for you an Advent Season filled with the miracle of new life that comes from the One before whom our souls kneel and a new way of being in 2019 that enables you to carry with you all the love, joy, hope, and peace that you find in this kneeling place.

NO Second Sunday Social for December

2019 UPC 12-Week Spring Youth Choir

with Matthew and Kristin Stone

The UPC Spring Youth Choir is about growing together in music and God's abounding love. For youth ages 5-18

January 6 - April 14*

We will meet at United Presbyterian Church Whitinsville downstairs in the main fellowship hall.

9:00 - 9:20: Worship-through-Music Group Lesson, Chat, and Prayer

We will reflect on music, what it is, and how it connects us with God and each other and we will briefly discuss the songs for the day!

9:25: Warm up

9:30 - 10:15: Youth Choir Practice

We will learn, practice, and rehearse songs including those in preparation for the Palm Sunday Church Service.

10:15: Wind down

10:20: Dismissal for Church Service

* We will not meet January 20 or February 24.

BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club is not reading a book for December. However, we are planning a "dine-out" on the third Friday of this month, December 21st. All women are invited! More information to follow!!! RSVP to upcbookclub@ googlegroups.com

Mission Study Committee

On Sunday, December 9 immediately following the Worship service, the Mission Study committee is inviting you to participate in our 2nd Congregational Gathering. We will be serving soups and salads and hope that all of you are able to attend. We will be reviewing the memories that were shared at our last gathering and exploring our gifts and how they apply to our church. We want all to participate whether or not you are a long time member, frequent attendee, or just exploring our church as a visitor.

Reflections on Homespun Holidays 2018

Because of the support of our Church Family, once again "Homespun Holidays" was a successful event. People of all ages played a role in our annual mission fair! The KMHMC appreciates your prayers, donations, patronage, and hard work before, during, and after the fair. Our Kitchen Crew provided another 5 star luncheon. What a perfect ending to a perfect day!

To the Men of our Church,
We ladies must say,
Thanks for the Labor you do
For this special day!

Our press agent Alice did a great job
Getting the info out to the mob!

To God Be The Glory!

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 4th at 6:30 PM.

One again this promises to be a memorable pre-holiday evening:

* Trying the tempting holiday treats
* Designating our Christmas Love Gifts
* Singing songs of the Season
* Laughing over the Yankee Swap
* Enjoying each other's company

What a way to usher in this joyous time of the year! If you plan to attend, leases inform Suzanne (508-234-6456) if you plan to attend by December 2nd..

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 22nd 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. 22nd to be printed in the bulletin on Dec. 23rd.

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)

the BOOK NOOK

Michael Frost. *Keep Christianity Weird*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2018

Every considered yourself an eccentric? Michael Frost (citing Richard Beck) in this book contends that all Christians should be considered eccentric-"an identity where the focal point of the self is shifted to God."(7) Christians are called "to be eccentric people, serving an eccentric God and sent out to serve to alert others to the eccentric God."(13). Frost chooses examples drawn from Jesus' ministry and church history to illustrate the eccentric nature of Jesus and the church-ideas that were not always endorsed by the religious establishment. To be eccentric, we are reminded from Paul's letters that our minds must be transformed supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. How are we to look weirdly? Frost suggests that we look up (affirm the Biblical values and challenge the values of society that run counter to the Bible) and look down ('incarnational living"). (139) In the final chapter Frost present examples drawn from real-life how not be to "weird" followed by "weird" beliefs we share, for example, believing in an indescribable God. Frost concludes with a practical response by Christians-the introduction of the "Dinner Church" (a common meal prepared by the participants who share Scriptures and their stories). Incidentally, the "Dinner Church" is being done locally in Grafton as the Simply Church-a description is found in the book. Each chapter concludes with a number of questions that can be used for individual and group study. I recommend this book since it looks at Christian beliefs that we take for granted and how we as Christians are called to be eccentric.

December Sermon Series

Here are the sermon titles and scripture texts for December.

December 2 "Stories of Advent: Zechariah" Luke 1:5-13, 15-24a.

December 9 "Stories of Advent: Joseph" Matthew 1:18-25

December 16 "Stories of Advent: Mary and Elizabeth" Luke 1:26-35

December 23 "Stories of Advent: Jesus" Luke 2:1-7

December 24 "Stories of Advent: The Shepherds" Luke 2:20

December 30 "Everlasting Light" John 1:1-14

December Birthday Corner

Beth Hendrickson	12/7
Arlene Koopman	12/7
Sarah Szajna	12/13
Heather Whitney	12/14
Brandy Giemza	12/17
Haleigh Reynolds	12/17
Nancy Kloczkowski	12/21
Samuel Kloczkowski	12/25
Diane Copp	12/27
Carol Pilibosian	12/28
Betty Austin	12/29
Kathy Miedema	12/30
Tanya Morin	12/30

Anniversary Corner

Tom & Cindy Frieswyk 12/28

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8 AM Bible Study
2 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	**3** 7:00 PM Trustees	**4** 6:30 PM KMHMC Christmas Celebration	**5** 2:45 Prime Time 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**6**	**7** 6:00 A Men's Bible Stdy	**8** 8 AM Bible Study
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship Mission Study Luncheon	**10**	**11**	**12** 2:45 Prime Time 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**13**	**14** 6:00 AM Men's Bible	**15** 8 AM Bible Study
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 2;00 PM Christmas Choir Concert	**17** 7:00 PM Session	**18**	**19** 2:45 Prime Time 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**20**	**21** 6:00 AM Men's Bible 6:30 P Women's Book Club Dine Out	**22** 8 AM Bible Study 10 AM -12 Poinsettias Drop off
23 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	**24** Christmas Eve 7 pm Christmas Eve Service	**25** Christmas Day	**26** 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion	**27**	**28** 6:00 AM Men's Bible	**29** 8 AM Bible Study
30 New Year's Eve	**31**					

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Church of Whitinsville

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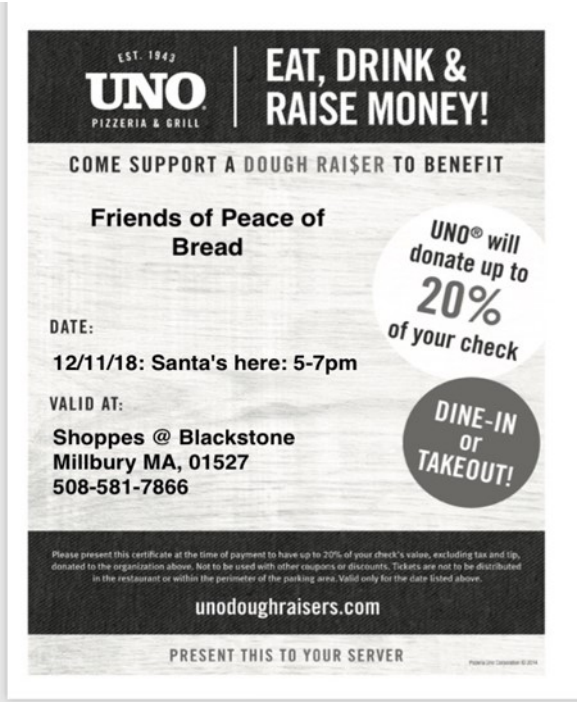
Friends of Peace of Bread Fundraising

As we come into the frenzy of the holiday shopping season, you may find yourself going out to dinner, ordering a pizza instead of cooking, or shopping for that special gift for that special someone. So why not consider participating in one or both of the upcoming **Friends of Peace of Bread fundraising events listed below**? You can also help by sharing the information about these events with your family and friends.

Uno's Dough raiser on 12/11/18 – bring or download this ticket and show it to your server and Uno will donate up to 20% of your check to Friends of Peace of Bread (both dine-in or take out). BONUS! Santa will be there 5-7:00pm.

15th Annual BV Wine/Chocolate Tasting Fundraiser being at Blissful Meadows Golf Club on 3/9/19 at 7:00 pm.
Proceeds from this event will support the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, Peace of Bread Community Kitchen and the projects and scholarships of the BV Rotary.

Purchase tickets online at: **www.whitinpres.org/bv-winechocolate-tasting/**

Friends of Peace of Bread