

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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Mission Study Luncheon

The Mission Study Committee invites all of you to our next congregational gathering after church on Sunday, March 10. We will be providing subway sandwiches for lunch and be sharing with you a power point presentation of the results of our congregational survey that we completed in December and January. After the presentation and lunch, we will split into small groups and discuss our impressions of what the results of the survey were. Please plan to attend as your input is VALUABLE and NEEDED. The Mission Study Committee is planning another gathering at the end of March (most likely March 31st after church) so please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Update from the Trustees:

The clothing room renovation is well underway. Demo is all done. The walls have been repaired and painted, and the drop ceiling is almost completed. Next we plan to install racks, storage and counters.

We are also looking forward to our annual church yard sale in April. We will be posting drop off dates next month. We are especially looking for donations of good used furniture and tools.

Harvest Can Drive

We would like to thank the congregation for your support and donations during our can drive. With your help we were able to display our bounty from the Alter before giving it to the Peace of Bread Food Pantry. We would like to thank Suzanne Santoro for asking the Deacons to carryout this wonderful idea.



March 2019

The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

51 Cottage St. (church) - 7 Spring St. (office), Whitinsville, MA 01588

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Rev. 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

MINISTRIES	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
PoM WL	Ash Wednesday	3/13 J.Vollmer	3/20 D. Redden	3/27 S. Phoebe	4/3 L. Redden
PoM Power Point		T. Morin	T. Morin	T. Morin	C. Phoebe
Worship Leader	K. Bilodeau	A. Reichert	M. Thomas	G. Shannon	R. Thomas
Children's Sermon	Rev. DeHoff	K. Bilodeau	C. Matchett	G. Shannon	A. Santoro
Welcome Center	M. Spalton	S. Santoro	C. Matchett	B. Keeler	M. Reynolds
Greeter	L. Joyce	K. Miedema	G. Giemza	M & B Widner	A Castonguay
Offering Counters	G. Giezma & N. Joyce	D & S Mateer	T. Schelin & M. Austin	C. Pilibosian & G. Giezma	D & K Miedema
Power Point	T. Giemza	T. Giemza	T. Giemza	T. Giemza	T. Giemza
Communion Server	G. Shannon, S. Phoebe, B. Giemza G. McCrea				G. Shannon, S. Phoebe, B. Giemza G. McCrea
Communion In-Home	Rev. DeHoff C. Matchett B. Giemza T. Morin				Rev. DeHoff C. Matchett B. Giemza T. Morin

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

<i>Children's Sunday School/ Youth Choir</i>	<i>9:00 AM—10:20 AM</i>
<i>Adult Education</i>	<i>9:30AM - 10:30AM</i>
<i>Morning Worship Service</i>	<i>10:30AM - 11:30AM</i>
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	<i>11:30 AM</i>

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



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. It is a special time of year for Christianity in general, the church as a community of faith, and the life of each individual believer. The word *Lent* comes from a Latin word that means “lengthening of days.” Lent occurs as the days are getting longer and the turn from winter to spring is not far off. While that definition meaningfully locates Lent in late winter and early spring, it does nothing to explain the meaning of Lent.

Lent is usually associated with fasting. In the very early church, the period of fasting before Easter did not last for 40 days. Prior 325 BCE, fasting was observed only one and two or three days before Easter. Initially quite rigid in its requirements, fasting gradually became less rigid, with penitence becoming more of the focal point. Fasting was regarded not just as abstinence from food but also from frivolity. Attention to the poor was increased, and more than the usual amount of time was devoted to religious practices.

The observance of 40 days for Lent reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the very beginning of his ministry. He was totally alone, having no contact with people or civilization. Scripture tells us that he neither ate nor drank, and that at the end of that period of fasting Jesus was tempted by Satan. But contrary to weakening Jesus’ spirit, the fasting and the time alone in the wilderness strengthened his spirit. Clearly he had not wasted his time aimlessly wondering about or daydreaming. He had spent that time away from everything and everyone else by being in constant contact with his Father in heaven. Baptism in the Jordan River had filled him with the Holy Spirit, and the wilderness experience strengthened the Spirit within him. He handily defeated Satan, refusing all the pleasures and powers of the world that Satan had to offer him.

There are many ways that we can observe Lent in a way that draws us closer to God and strengthens God’s Spirit within us as well. Giving up some time that we spend in front of the television, on social media, or engaging in other forms of entertainment in order to spend time in prayer; to read and meditate about passages from scripture; to study some of the spiritual exercises of people such as Ignatius of Loyola; or to read works by authors such as Henri Nouwen, Andrew Murray, Frederick Buechner, or even Bernard of Clairvaux, these are just some of the practices that can draw us closer to the Triune God and strengthen both spirit and faith.

The point of engaging Lent is not the giving up of something you love just for the sake of depriving yourself of something, but finding a time and place to be alone with God where the Spirit within you can grow and strengthen. The Spirit did not lead Jesus into the desert just so he could be deprived; the Spirit led Jesus into the desert so he could be alone with God and have opportunity for the Holy Spirit within him to grow strong. God does know that there are all sorts of challenges in life that require spiritual strength. And God does desire time alone with us to prepare us to face those challenges faithfully, just like he did for Jesus.



"Making Faces" by Amy Harmon The book is about romance, God, and has a strong Christian background. It focuses on love and how it affects all of us. You may cry through much of this book and it will also bring to laugh at other items described. The book is filled with lessons in selflessness, pride (or letting go of pride), shame, grief, insecurity, acceptance, and love. It is an amazing book to read for anyone. We will meet on the 15th of March to discuss!



**Please join us for our
Ash Wednesday
Service,
March 6th @ 6:30 PM**

There will be music appropriate for Ash Wednesday, brief meditation and the imposition of ashes. All are invited to attend this meaningful start to the Lenten Season.



Sign up at church to
volunteer for Coffee
Fellowship

the NOOK BOOK

Henri Nouwen was a prolific author of books on spirituality. His book *The Wounded Healer* has been read by people all over the world, and is still a favorite among pastoral caregivers. The book featured in this newsletter is an edited book comprised of excerpts from several of Nouwen's books that have to do with our spiritual journey through the liturgical seasons of the church calendar. The title of the book is *Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey with Henri J. M. Nouwen*. It begins with Advent, and then moves step-by-step through the calendar. One section has to do with Ash Wednesday and Lent, and it is an excellent way to structure some prayer and meditation times during Lent.

One of my favorite entries comes from Nouwen's book *With Open Hands*. The short passage begins this way: "Maybe someone will say to you, 'You have to forgive yourself.' But that isn't possible. What is possible is to open your hands without fear, so that the One who loves you can blow your sins away. Then the coins you considered indispensable for your life prove to be little more than light dust which a soft breeze will whirl away, leaving only a grin or a chuckle behind."

Each entry is short, not more than a single page. Each one presents a thought about forgiveness or repentance that reflects the focus of Lent. For those who decide that giving up some entertainment time in order to spend time in prayer and meditation is how they want to observe of Lent, this book is a useful resource.

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

Handicapped Parking at UPCoW

The Trustees have designated three parking spaces nearest the ramp entrance on Spring St. as handicapped spaces for Sunday morning worship. These reserved parking spaces enable several members of our congregation to attend worship services. Recently it has become clear that we need more than three spaces, and the Trustees are looking into where additional parking spaces could be located. In the meantime, drivers who "drop off" folks with handicaps could help those with handicaps who drive themselves by moving the car to another parking space, once the person with a handicap is safely inside.

The Trustees have asked the Town to put up permanent handicapped signs in these spaces, but the Town has responded that it is unable to do so because Spring St. is a public street. The church, therefore, reserves these three spaces on Sunday mornings but asks that everyone remember throughout the week that, when there are church events/meetings, people with handicaps who may be attending those events/meetings need to park as close to the ramp as they can.

If you have any suggestions for ways to improve handicapped accessibility to the sanctuary, please contact Don Mateer or another member of the Board of Trustees.



Lay Leadership 2019

Lay Leadership will be starting very soon to identify candidates for Elders, Deacons, Trustees and many other committee groups within the church. If this is something that you've been wrestling with God about or you have questions about certain offices please feel free to talk to any member of the committee (Sue Phoebe, Bev Keeler, Kathy Meidema, Sue Mateer, Liz Redden, Chris Matchett, Judy Salzberg, Suzanne Santoro, Rev. DeHoff). Nonetheless please pray for the committee as we go through this process. Following is a list of the positions we will be filling (in gray).

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022		
Elders			Moderation of the Corp.	
Gaye Shannon *	Austin Reichert *		Vice Moderator	
Bill Spalton *	Chris Matchett *		Clerk of the Corporation	
Mike Reynolds			Treasurer	
Deacons			Assistant Treasurer	
Laura Joyce *	Brandy Giezma *		Benevolence Treasurer	
Judy Salzberg *	Tanya Morin *		Lay Leadership (4)	
Rena Matchett *	Gay McCreia *			
Kevin Redden	Jean Finnegan			
Adrea Whitney			Auditing Committee (3)	
Trustees				
Greg Giezma *	Dave Miedema			
Sue Mateer *	Carol Pilibosian		Scholarship Comm. (2)	
Don Mateer (1 yr term)				
Nick Joyce			Historian	

* indicates 2nd term

Upcoming Church Leadership Seminar for the Congregation

Healthy, growing churches have strong and knowledgeable church leaders who take turns with leadership tasks.

That's the motto for the Church Leadership Seminar Rev. Dr. DeHoff will soon offer. We will look at different models of how leaders govern and lead congregations (e.g., shepherding and CEO) and biblical support for them; the job descriptions for Elders, Deacons, and Trustees; and learn a little bit about how our denomination's *Book of Order* structures church leadership.

There will be four sessions, each an hour long, and they will involve a mix of instruction, group discussion, and questions, with time before and after for fellowship. People currently serving as Elders, Deacons, or Trustees, those who have served in one or more of those capacities in the past, those who are thinking about becoming involved on one of those Boards, as well as those who just want to learn more about what governing a church is all about without committing to serve, are welcome to attend. **ATTENDING DOES NOT OBLIGATE YOU TO SERVE.**

In order to pick a time to meet, please notify Rev. DeHoff which of the times listed below would enable you to attend. The church meeting calendar is already quite full, but the importance of this seminar to the life of the church means we need to find a niche on the calendar. Please indicate the time range that would work for you beside the option(s) you choose. If you are available during the day on Mon. Tues., or Wed., please make a note of that as well.

_____ Sunday morning

_____ Sunday afternoon

_____ Wednesday evening

Joys and Concerns

Our praises to God for:

Danielle Redden—Liz Redden reminded us that Danielle had asked for prayers that she would be accepted into University of London. Thank you for your prayers – Danielle received her acceptance letter on February 13!!!

Carl—This past December, Annmarie Castonguay asked us to pray for her brother-in-law’s dad, Carl, who was severely ill. Doctors have given him blood transfusions, and he now feels like a new man. Please pray that his doctors will continue to find new ways to treat him.

Danielle—A few weeks ago, Carol Pilibosian asked for prayers for her friend, Danielle, who was expecting twins. Danielle went to the hospital for an emergency C-section on February 14. The twins, Chloe (3 lbs. 9 oz.) and Olivia (4 lbs. 12 oz.) are doing well. However, Danielle’s blood pressure was so high she was put on seizure watch and moved to a different part of the hospital. Carol reported (later, on Feb. 20) that Danielle is now doing well and is back in the maternity section where all three (mother and babies) are doing well. Thank you for your prayers.

Please be in Prayer for:

Joanne Zeis asked that we pray for her husband Mike’s parents. They are both in their 90s. Mike’s dad fell and hit his head and was taken to the hospital. Doctors were able to stop the bleeding, but have made the decision that he will need to go to an Assisted Living facility. Please pray for strength and peace as Mike parents adjust to this difficult change in their lives.

Bill—Diane Copp requested prayer for one of her younger son’s friends, Bill, who has just been diagnosed with cancer.

Anne MacLeod—Carol Pilibosian asked that we pray for strength and peace for her mother, while Carol is away in Florida for three weeks.

Ellen’s Mom—Please pray for Ellen’s Mom who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Dwayne’s family—Katrina Bilodeau asked that we keep Dwayne’s family in our prayers. Dwayne passed away suddenly at age 46. Please especially pray for Dwayne’s wife, Kristen, and also for Katrina’s daughters, Madison and Evelyn, who are Dwayne’s nieces.

Miley—Anna Santoro requested prayer for her friend, Miley. Miley was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. She has already had radiation and will be starting chemo.

Paul’s family—Several months ago, Annmarie Castonguay asked us to pray for Paul. (her friend Barbara’s husband). Paul was fighting esophageal cancer. Sadly, Paul passed away on Feb. 9. Annmarie is now asking us to join her in praying for Paul’s family: his wife Barbara, his daughter Tammy and his extended family as they grieve the loss of Paul and also that their faith may be renewed.

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

Leona Cook - St. Camillus Health Center, 447 Hill Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Marion Boyd – Beaumont Assisted Living, 85 Beaumont Dr., Rm 21, Northbridge, MA 01534

Arlene Koopman - Beaumont Assisted Living, 85 Beaumont Dr., Rm 17, Northbridge, MA 01534

Ruth Hoekstra - Linwood Apartments No. 105, 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Jim Remillard – 20 Fair Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

March Birthday Corner

Susan Mateer	3/1
Stephen Connelly	3/2
Ava Whitney	3/3
Josh Gniadek	3/4
Paul Johnson	3/8
Zack Morin	3/8
Harriet Platt	3/10
Chris Ribbe	3/13
Judy Garabedian	3/16
Gay McCrea	3/18
Jim Remillard	3/19
Susan Phoebe	3/20
Ashley Giemza	3/21

Nina Ribbe	3/21
Jim D. Baker	3/26
Katrina Ireland-Bilodeau	3/29
Christopher Lee	3/30
Laurie Sabourin	3/31



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.

Ma

Su

3

9:30 Sunday S
10:30 Worship
11:30 Coffee Fe

10

9:30 Sunday S
10:30 Worship
11:30 Mission S

17

9:30 Sunday S
10:30 Worship
11:30 Coffee Fe

24

9:30 Sunday S
10:30 Worship
11:30 Coffee Fe

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study	2 8:00 AM Bible Study
School Service Fellowship	4 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	5 6:45 PM Mission Study 7:00 PM Lay Leadership	6 2:45 PM PrimeTime 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:30 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	7	8 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study	9 8:00 AM Bible Study
Not Clocks Ahead! School Service Study Gathering	11 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Worship Committee	12 7:00 PM Lay Leadership	13 2:45 PM PrimeTime 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	14	15 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	16 8:00 AM Bible Study
School Service Fellowship	18 7:00 PM Session Meeting	19 7:00 PM Lay Leadership	20 2:45 PM PrimeTime 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	21	22 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	23 8:00 AM Bible Study
School Service Fellowship	25 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting	26 7:00 PM Lay Leadership	27 2:45 PM PrimeTime 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 Peace of Bread 6:15 Peace of Music 7:00 Sermon Discussion 7:00 Choir Practice	28	29 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study	30 8:00 AM Bible Study



United Presbyterian
Church of Whitinsville

51 Cottage Street
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JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
Saturday, April 13 at 7pm
FREEWILL OFFERING TO FRIENDS OF PEACE OF BREAD and BLACKSTONE VALLEY EMERGENCY SHELTER

FREE Musical Concert
United Presbyterian Church
51 Cottage St, Whitinsville
www.whitinpres.org

Mark your calendars!

United Presbyterian Church
EASTER FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 20, 9:30-11AM

EASTER EGG HUNT
GAMES AND CRAFTS
RAIN OR SHINE. ALL AGES. BRING A BASKET
SPONSORED BY PRIMETIME

51 Cottage Street, Whitinsville MA
www.whitinpres.org 508.234.8220

Jesus Christ Superstar – Free musical concert on Saturday. **April 13th at 7:00 pm** at the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville, 51 Cottage Street.

Jesus Christ Superstar is a timeless work set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally-known series of events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Come enjoy the free concert, a freewill offering will support Peace of Bread Community Kitchen and Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter.

Looking ahead to our Annual Easter Festival, Saturday, April 20th from 9:30 -11:00am.

Church family, for the past few years, we have invited the community to join us for our Easter Festival held the Saturday morning before Easter. We have Easter crafts, refreshments, a visit from the Easter bunny, a story about the resurrection and a giant EGG hunt! We need volunteers to help supervise the crafts, bring in breakfast goodies, and provide CANDY or small prizes for the eggs. If interested, please contact Gaye Shannon @ 508.320.5723, shannons.jg@gmail.com or speak to her at church!