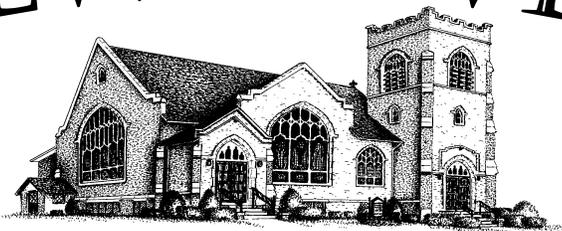


THE NEW COVENANT



News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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Advent Sermon Series 2021

November 28

~ *Waiting In Hope* ~

Hebrews 11:1-2

December 5

~ *Waiting For Peace* ~

Isaiah 9:6-7

December 12

~ *Waiting With Joy* ~ Luke 1:39-55

December 19

~ *The Waiting of Love* ~ I Corinthians 13:4-13

Christmas Sermons 2021

December 24 ~ *Waiting Fulfilled* ~ Luke 2:1-7

December 26 ~ *Waiting Resumes* ~ Luke 2:8-19



The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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Office Hours: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM Mon & Wed 8:30 AM- 12:30 PM Tue & Fri

The church office is CLOSED on Thursdays

If you would like to see the newsletter in color, please view it on the website.

**December
2021**

~ December 5 – January 2 ~

Ministries	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 24	December 26	Jan 2
Worship Leader	M. Alling	J. Tobin	S. Santoro	Christmas Eve	R. Thomas	L. Walsh
Greeters	L. Walsh	J. Baker	K. Miedema	L. Joyce	L. Joyce	T. Morin
Ushers	D. Baker	James D. Baker	L. Joyce	L. Walsh	K. Miedema	D. Baker
Sound Board	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
Powerpoint	TBD	K. Mercer	R. Thomas	M. Mercer	M. Thomas	K. Bilodeau
Media	K. Mateer	K. Mateer	J. Tobin	Christmas Eve	K. Mateer	K. Mateer
Coffee Fellowship	J. & D. Baker	J. & D. Baker	J. & D. Baker	J. & D. Baker	J. & D. Baker	J. & D. Baker

December Birthday Corner

Beth Hendrickson	12/7
Sarah Szajna	12/13
Heather Whitney	12/14
Brandy Giemza	12/17
Haleigh Reynolds	12/17
Carol Pilibosian	12/28
Betty Austin	12/29
Kathy Miedema	12/30
Tanya Morin	12/30



December Anniversary Corner

Tom & Cindy Frieswyk 12/28

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

Adult Education	9:00AM - 10:30AM
Children's Sunday School	9:30 AM
Morning Worship Service	10:30AM - 11:30AM
Coffee Fellowship	11:30 AM



Perhaps I've not gone to the "right" places, which is entirely possible, but it seems to me that there is not the advance excitement about the upcoming Thanksgiving to Christmas time like I usually see. It is well past Halloween, and Thanksgiving is just a week away. By now there should be T.V. commercials about all the wonderful things that one can buy for Christmas; cooking shows devoted to Thanksgiving and Christmas goodies; and holiday decorations in the stores. But I am not seeing the hype about the holidays that I recall seeing in past years.

Past years. Read "pre-pandemic." I find myself wondering if the pandemic may have had more of an impact on the excitement and anticipation of this time of year than I had previously thought. The one thing I am hearing a lot right now is that families and individuals are planning trips to be with family for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Trips they could not make a year ago. Suddenly, it seems like being with family, no matter what celebratory plans are in the works for the time spent with them, is the one thing most people want this year.

It is not only that it is the one thing none of us could have last year; it is that there is a very deep need for the kind of connection we have with family, a connection that is different than any other kind of relational connection. It seems like many people are more keenly aware of the quality of that connection post-pandemic than they were before. Perhaps we took it for granted before. We could be with family whenever we wanted to be with them – and we could be away from them whenever we wanted because the "being with" was just always a possibility.

I can't help but wonder if the same thing is true of our relationship with God. We are so accustomed to "knowing" that God is right beside us all the time that we might just take it for granted. At least we might until we hit one of those times in life (or get hit by one of those times in life) when we have an intense need of God and can't seem to find where God is. In early church times that experience was called *Deus absconditus*. God absconds! God leaves us alone for a while.

Although people took that idea very seriously, I've never believed it. I have believed that it is possible to get so busy with one's own thoughts, plans, responsibilities and leisure activities that one forgets about God and moves away from a close connection to God. Then, by God's grace, we hit a snag, need help, and suddenly realize the help we need is God's help. How to regain the connection with God can be a challenge, until we realize God has been there reaching out for us all the time.

Well, hype or no hype, it's that time of year again to remember that God reached out about 2,000 years ago in a magnificent way to let us know that God is here for us, loves us, and will never leave us. The message was and is that God loves us so much that all God really wants is for us to be reconciled to God so that a close, never-ending connection to God can be established. We think about many things this time of year, things designed to make us feel happy, excited, secure, hopeful, warm, and loved. But there is no homecoming that can compare to our once again kneeling beside the manger in our hearts.

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

Deacons' Corner

(From October 25, 2021 meeting. The November meeting fell after the newsletter deadline).

The Deacons got together for a virtual meeting this month, due to technical difficulties with the internet. We had a very successful meeting entailing the following agenda:

Debbie Baker started with opening prayer, which was followed by the unanimous motion of acceptance of the September meeting minutes, which were read by all from a previous on-line message.

The Deacons held a lengthy discussion on how we could possibly help a church family in need of assistance.

Although our treasurer was not available, it was noted by the pastor that \$60.00 was received for the Deacon's Fund collection. Another opportunity for church members to give will be held on October 31 for the "official Deacon Fund."

Care Concerns and Reports were shared from the deacons regarding several members who are either sick or have other needs that they will need help with. Reports of communion was also shared with shut-ins who appreciated the offering and the company. Extra assistance was also requested for the care of a member who appreciates company; it was noted that this is a time when all of our homebound need a little extra TLC with cards and phone calls.

A lively discussion was made regarding gift cards and/ or gift baskets to be shared with our college students (to give them a "boost" for final exams, etc.)

A brief discussion was brought up regarding the upcoming Heritage Sunday.

Reformation Sunday was mentioned so that we could contact other church members regarding the addition of "saints" that who have passed on and could be added to this service.

Reminder made for the Fall Harvest Fair to be held in the church basement on November 13, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned after prayer concerns (and praises!) with the closing prayer which was given by Judy Salzburg.

Current Sunday School Classes

Mark Thomas is teaching a course on prayer. Join Mark Thomas on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 AM in the office building Conference Room as we explore how ten figures from Church History prayed. For more information or to sign up for the course, please contact Mark at bookmen3@msn.com.

Austin Reichert's Sunday School Class. Austin Reichert's virtual Sunday School Class takes place from 9 am - 10 am. Leslie Reichert will send out Zoom meeting invites. A study, discussion and review of Paul's letters will be discussed.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session met for congregational prayer on November 1.
- Session met for Stated business meeting on November 16.
- Session approved contract for Rev.Dr.DeHoff for the second half of the FY.
- Authorized keys for Administrative assistant for any computer cabinets that might be locked.
- Approved December 5 Cookies and Carols at 4:00 pm.
- Approved the serving of communion using fellowship cups for December 5.
- Approved serving communion with bread and juice on January 2. Rehearsal will be on November 8.
- Approved the Christmas Eve offering be designated to our church's Global missions.



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!

**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WHITINSVILLE SANCTUARY**

**COOKIES AND
CAROLS**

Enjoy homemade Christmas cookies, hot cocoa,
and special songs and activities for kids!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 | 4 PM

**51 COTTAGE ST,
WHITINSVILLE MA**

Heritage Sunday ~ October 31, 2021

On Heritage Sunday we celebrated our 50-year members and Presbyterian Scottish heritage with a bagpiper and a special luncheon.



Ecumenical Christmas Services in Northbridge



Cookies and Carols in our Sanctuary, Sunday 12/5 at 4 pm. Activities and songs for kids, along with homemade Christmas cookies and beverages.



Blue Christmas Service, Sunday December 12 at 2pm, Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church. Not everyone is cheery this time of year. The death of a loved one, divorce, job loss, illness and many situations can make the holidays painful for many. This worship service seeks to create sacred space to acknowledge our pain while offering hope and healing. All are welcome to attend this quiet, reflective service.



Festival of Carols, Sunday, 12/19, 5:30 pm. Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church.

Church Family News



Welcome home Zack!



In last month's newsletter, the picture of the beautiful cross Tanya's boyfriend carved for her didn't print properly, so we are reprinting it for all to enjoy!

Prayers of Praise and Concern

We keep Patty Dexter's husband, Keith, and her entire family: Bob and Harriet, Bob and Linda, and Pearl in our prayers following Patty's death from lung cancer on Wed. 11/17.

Anna Santoro asks continued prayers for her Dad, who had spinal surgery a few weeks ago. Recovery is taking longer than expected, which means he continues to need to wear a brace.

Will Colonero asks prayers for his best friend's grandmother, Alma, who has been diagnosed with stage four stomach cancer.

Pearl Morrisette shares a prayer of joy and thanksgiving as she celebrated her 91st birthday on Tuesday!

Judy Salzberg has a prayer of joy that McKenna is making steady improvement and that the rate of improvement has increased. She is able to speak and can see out of her left eye. We thank God for the healing gifts God gave to the medical staff working with her and for guiding her back to health.

Gaye Shannon asks prayers for her Mom, who suffers from Parkinson's Disease and is having an especially difficult time right now. Pray for wisdom for doctors and peace for Gaye's Mom.

We have been praying for a liver transplant for Cliff Chesley, but he has now been taken off the list and placed in hospice care. Pray for peace and comfort for him and his wife, Darlene.

Jean Finnegan asks prayers for her friend's son, Gary, who has leukemia and a bad infection.

Also continue to keep Jean in your prayers for healing of bruises and hurt fingers after her fall four weeks ago.

Bev Keeler has a prayer of thanks that the hand specialist released her, saying her finger is healing nicely.

Session has a prayer of thanks that Ken has recovered well enough from open heart surgery to once again meet with us.

Carol Pilibosian has a prayer of joy that her cousin and his wife have just learned that they are expecting twins, which will give Anne two great-great-nephews.

We also keep Marilyn Alling's father-in-law and mother-in-law in our prayers. Irene was moved from home to a memory care facility and Glenn has been placed in hospice care. Glenn and Irene are not in the same facility, so they will not see each other again.

Jim and Debbie Baker ask prayers for their nephew, Kevin, who had been on a waiting list for a donor liver, experienced a miraculous healing of his liver, and has now been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, just after he and his wife had begun building a new house.

Annamarie Castonguay has a prayer of praise that Ken is back home and that the drs. found that the cause of his chest pain and shortness of breath was a virus. He is doing much better.

Anna Santoro asks prayers for her Dad who had 3 neck vertebrae fused. Surgery went well, but prayers are requested for a good recovery and for patience during the 90-day long recovery period, during which he cannot drive or work in his woodshop.

Ken Remillard has a prayer of thanks that the suspicion on Fri. that his Dad, Jim, had a blood clot in his lung was ruled out by a CT scan.

Drs. found the arthritis in Ronda Thomas's knees to be bad enough to warrant cortisone shots. Pray that the cortisone is effective in reducing the pain.

Mark and Ronda had to have their third cat put to sleep. Tigger was 18, and had been a part of the family for a long time.

Pray for the Administrative Commission. Pray for wisdom as they seek to work with God in God's plan for healing for this church.



THANK YOU CORNER

The KHMC thanks everyone who made Homespun Holidays a great success! We raised over \$4,000.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Trustees for fixing the organ. It sounds much more powerful now. –Eileen Straub

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Deacons' Fund special collection. We raised over \$600! -The Deacons

Thank you to Suzanne Santoro for decorating the Chancel for Thanksgiving. –Pastor Susan

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the pick-up choirs. It's a wonderful part of the service. –Erin

Thank you to Eileen for all you do to produce music for the church. –Jean Finnegan

Do you have a thank you? Call or email it to the church office. We'll print it with your name, or anonymously if you prefer.



The chancel decorated by Suzanne Santoro for our Thanksgiving service



Hanging our thank yous on the Thanksgiving tree

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 Worship Committee Meeting	2	3	4
5 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 12:15 Music Rehearsal 4 pm Cookies and Carols	6 6:30 Trustees/Session Training 7:30 Session Prayer Mtg	7	8 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:30 Trustee Meeting 7:00 CG&N (Hybrid)	9	10 January Newsletter Deadline	11
12 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 12 pm Youth Bible Study 12:15 Music Rehearsal 2pm Blue Christmas BUMC	13	14	15 5:00 Peace of Bread	16	17	18
19 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 12:15 Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Festival of Carols FCRC	20 6:30 Session Meeting	21	22 5:00 Peace of Bread	23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas
26 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 12 pm Youth Bible Study 12:15 Music Rehearsal	27	28	29 5:00 Peace of Bread	30	31	



**United Presbyterian
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News of the Church Family from the
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Whitinsville

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UPCoW Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will take place at 7 pm on Friday, 12/24. It will feature

- *The A Touch of Brass* ensemble;
- A performance of *Silent Night* by Eileen Straub on flute and Jimmy Tobin on violin;
- Five scripture lessons, Christmas carols, and Rev. DeHoff's sermon "Waiting Fulfilled", Luke 2:1-7.