

THE NEW COVENANT



News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

Inside this issue:

Christmas Highlights	1
Schedule	2
Pastor's Letter	3
Deacons' Corner	4
Fuel Fund, New Members Class	5
Cookies & Carols	6
Book Club, Christmas Message from Wycliffe	7
Church Family News	8
Prayers of Praise and Concern	9
Thank You Corner	10
Calendar	11
Mitten Tree Donations	12

Thank You UPCoW Community for a Blessed Holiday Season!



The United Presbyterian Church of 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: whitinpres@gmail.com Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff: sldehoff@verizon.net

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.

**January
2022**

~ January 2 – February 6 ~

Ministries	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30	February 6
Worship Leader	L. Walsh	J. Tobin	R. Thomas	M. Alling	S. Santoro	M. Thomas
Greeters		K. Miedema	L. Walsh	K. Bilodeau	D. Baker	K. Miedema
Ushers	D. Baker	J. Baker	tbd	K. Miedema	L. Walsh	D. Baker
Sound Board	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
Powerpoint		L. Joyce	K. Bilodeau	M. Mercer	K. Remillard	K. Mercer
Media	K. Mateer	K. Mateer	J. Tobin	K. Mateer	K. Mateer	K. Mateer

January Birthday Corner

Troy Giezma 1/8
 Kevin Redden 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



*****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



As I write this column, we are approaching the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday that focuses on Joy. The sermon text is “Mary’s Song” also known as “The Magnificat.” Her song expresses deep joy. That joy sprang from a well very deep within her, not just from her head and emotions. Against that backdrop, I am thinking about the New Year.

I wonder what the new year, the year after Jesus was born, was like for Mary. As she entered the year with her tiny newborn son, her first child, what must it have been like?

Herod may not yet have issued the decree that all boys two years old and under should be killed. But Mary, Joseph, and the baby were living in Egypt, where the angel told Joseph to take them until Herod was dead. They did not leave Bethlehem and return to home.

Perhaps Mary had very mixed emotions. On the one hand, they entered a new year in Egypt, and possibly even back then a new year brought hope. They were safe, and doubtless Joseph found a way to support the family. On the other hand, they were not home. They were exiles in the land that had once treated their ancestors so cruelly. Egypt is the land that God had led the Israelites out of, and now God had led Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus back there. That first year of Jesus’ life must have been a year of conflicting emotions for Mary.

Perhaps we, too, have a lot of conflicting emotions about entering the new year. January is, historically, a month in which depression cases rise for mental health professionals, and it is also a month that sees an increase in deaths in the elderly population. Likely there is more than just winter weather that contributes to those statistics. It seems very possible that the return to reality after all the fantasy of the holidays could be a contributing factor. We, too, have a lot of hopes for the new year, some of which are realistic and some of which are related more to wishful thinking. But we, too, face realities that increase anxiety over the unseen. Unresolved problems pre-Christmas follow us into the post-Christmas New Year, but there are most likely new, unseen challenges and stressors ahead as well.

I would like to think that the deep joy Mary expressed to Elizabeth stayed with her. That joy was a gift from God, and God’s gifts are not here-today-gone-tomorrow, nor do they fade. One thing that makes me think that joy may have remained with Mary is that she obviously had a close connection with God. That deep faith connection would not have disappeared; God and Mary would have continued to have the communication and communion they had before Jesus was conceived. Surely one of the gifts of that relationship was the deep joy that continued to be in the depths of Mary’s being.

And so, thoughts turn to our own circumstances. That God intends for God’s great gifts – especially the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – to stay with us throughout our lives is part of the message of Scripture. But those are “living” gifts, gifts that need to be fed by God in the context of our relationship with God. They need to be fed not only one Sunday a month as we celebrate communion but also each day of our lives as we cultivate a life style that offers time to sit, walk, and stand in God’s presence. May your New Year be blessed with Joy!!

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons had a very productive night (on November 29) that started out with some very exciting news. We all received the great news from Mallorie about being accepted by not just one, but two prestigious schools for further education. We will have to wait to find out if she goes to Iowa State or Colorado State. In the meantime, we are all happy for her and that she is finally feeling better after a long bout of health issues. From there, we had a full agenda that incorporated....

Highlights for the Evening:

Brief discussion of Student/Military Care Packages (which will be tabled till the next meeting.

Update of Communion and Assignment sheets for 2022 (Servers will also be listed in the bulletin in the future)

Care receiver updates which shared both concerns and positive news.

Sharing of our ministry through our Card Ministry and giving of flowers to our shut-ins.

Reviewed the bylaws for the Deacon's Fund (and how they should be managed and dispensed for funds)

New Business:

A donation for a family in need was voted unanimously to help support in their needs

A timely discussion about creating Christmas baskets for our shut-ins proved to be very productive, with plans to collect various items, create, and have them ready by December 12

Brief discussion about the Caring Bridge, in which we only have a small part of involvement

Discussed the need for the St. Patrick's John 21 Community Breakfast ministry as well as our own Outreach and Missions program

Received approval to set up two Hats and Mittens trees in the back of the sanctuary to support local school age children

Reviewed support causes outside of the church (i.e. Crop Walk, NAC, John 21, and Thanksgiving baskets)

Discussed potential future fund raisers (including a plant sale around Mother's Day to support Deacon's Fund)

Sharing of Minutes for Missions involving Peace of Bread, John 21, as well as heating, oil, food, and medical expenses

The Closing of the Deacon's meeting incorporated the sharing of prayer concerns and joys, then closed in prayer by Kim. We were all reminded that there will be no meeting in December and will reconvene in January.

FUEL FUND COLLECTION

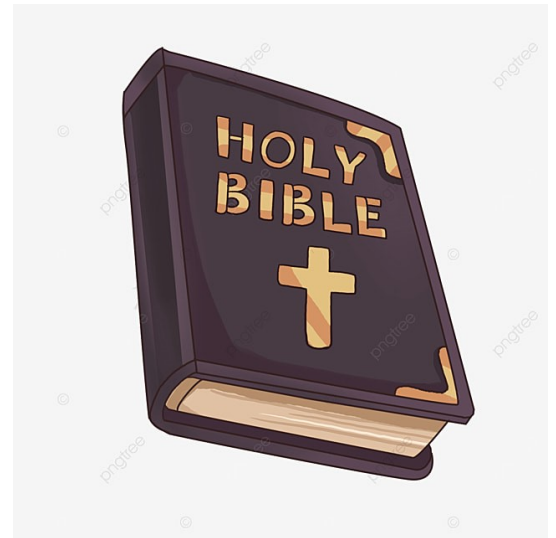
We will take the first of two Fuel Fund collections on Sunday, January 16th. We budget \$10,000 per year for the cost of fuel for the church and office buildings, and your kind donations help us pay for heating during our New England winters.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Update 1/9/22—Due to rising Covid numbers, the New Members Class has been postponed.

A New Members Class will be held on Jan 9, 16, and 23. If you are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian denomination and about our church in particular, please fill out the tear-out corner of the bulletin and drop it in the collection plate, even if you have already told Rev. DeHoff that you want to attend. There is no obligation to join the church, but those who would like to join are welcome to do so.



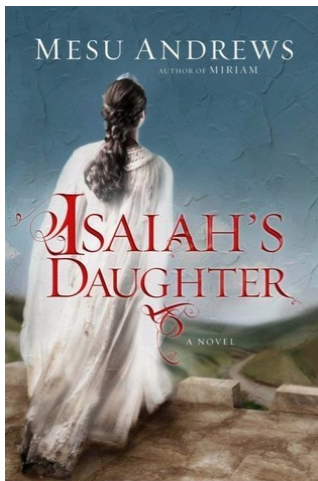
COOKIES & CAROLS - DECEMBER 5



We celebrated songs, Christmas cookies, and holiday spirit with some young friends!



JANUARY WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



On January 21 we will discuss this month's selection, *Isaiah's Daughter* by Mesu Andrews.

Description from GoodReads: In this epic Biblical narrative, ideal for fans of *The Bible* miniseries, a young woman taken into the prophet Isaiah's household rises to capture the heart of the future king.

Isaiah adopts Ishma, giving her a new name--Zibah, delight of the Lord--thereby ensuring her royal pedigree. Ishma came to the prophet's home,

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM LARRY AND LINDA JONES

Wycliffe was founded on the USA in 1942 by William Cameron Townsend and named after John Wycliffe who was responsible for the first complete translation of the Bible. They are an interdenominational and nonprofit organization. There are organizations in 60 countries around the world. Wycliffe has translated the Bible into more than 700 languages. They teach reading and writing, develop alphabets to save dead and dying languages as well as translate the Bible. Our church has supported translators Linda and Larry Jones for many years

Dear Friends at the United Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your prayers and generous gifts in support of our Wycliffe mission in this past year. May God watch over you and guide you in The Way of fruitfulness for the glory in 2022.

Merry Christmas!

Larry and Linda

Church Family News

Tanya Morin
shares the
beautiful
Christmas gift she
received from her
boyfriend.



Congratulations to
Mallorie Mercer on your
acceptance to Iowa State
and Colorado State!

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONCERN

Gloria Rauth asks prayers for her recovery from Covid.

Pray for the quick and full recovery of the Mercer family, who have tested positive for Covid.

Jean Finnegan asks prayers for her best friend Angie, who has sickle cell anemia and has had some falls lately. She may have to move into assisted living or a nursing home facility.

Keep the Remillard family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Jim on December 20th.

Mark Thomas asks prayers that Chris will test negative for Covid, after he was exposed at the place where he works.

Will Colonero has a prayer of praise that his Dad is recuperating well from recent surgery and is able to do many of the things he wants to do.

We continue to pray for Ruth Hoekstra, who is now Covid-free but experiencing residual effects.

Gaye Shannon asks prayers of comfort and peace for her friend Debra's family, as Debra passed away on Friday.

Judy Salzberg asks prayers for her friend Lisa, who has suffered a total tear in her rotator cuff with shredding and a tear in the bicep tendon and needs surgery.

We keep Erin Howard's daughter, Ash, in our prayers for healing of an inflamed sternum.

Judy Salzberg asks prayers for her friend Marianne, who had back surgery this past week.

Judy also asks for prayers for her grandson, Dan, who is a college student and suffers from asthma. He now has the flu.

Tanya Morin has a prayer of thanks that her thumb has healed well enough to benefit from physical therapy.

We keep Patty Platt Dexter's family in our prayers this week as they continue to mourn her loss.

Judy Salzberg reminds us that we must join McKenna in giving thanks to God for the recovery process that continues to go well with each week bringing big strides in her abilities to walk and talk.

Ronda Thomas asks prayers for her Aunt Donna, who is now in a nursing home. Also pray for Ronda's Mom, who is helping to provide care for Donna.

Mallorie Mercer has a prayer of joy that she has been accepted into both Iowa State and Colorado State.

We continue to pray for Mark Thomas's job search.

Laura Joyce has a prayer of thanks that she, Mike, and Nick have all made it through Covid, and Laura went back to work.

We keep our missionaries in our prayers that their work may be successful and that they will remain safe.

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



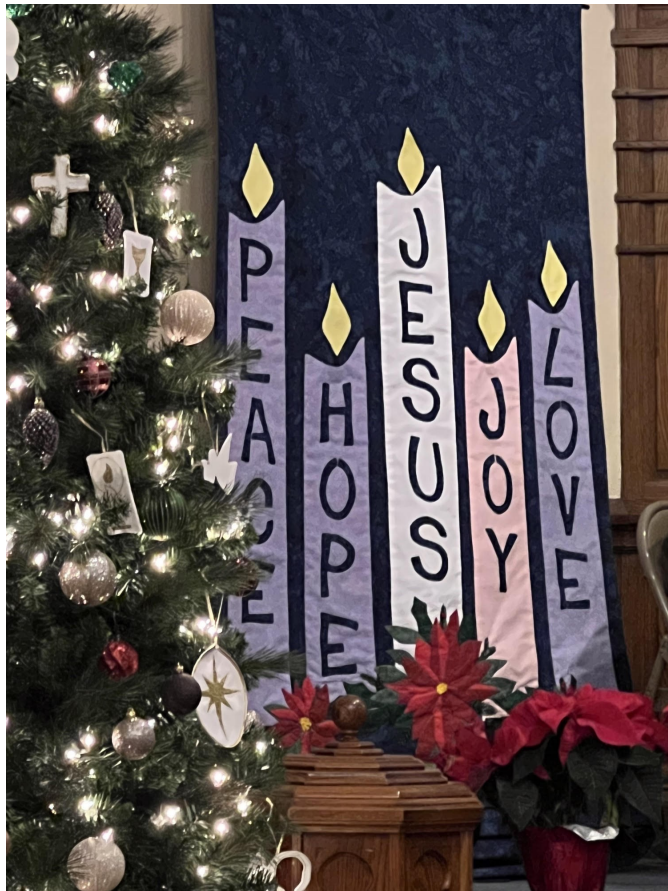
THANK YOU CORNER

THANK YOU

*Dear Trustees and Church Members,
I happened to walk by the outside of the Presbyterian Church on a beautiful Sunday afternoon and remarked to my wife how nice the church looked. She told me there were volunteers there on Saturday the better part of the day raking, mowing, trimming, and generally making sure the church was looking its best. Thank you to all who participated. I bet it makes your members proud. It also must help with finances since you don't have to pay for those services from professional companies. Kudos to you and everyone who helped.*

Being part of an organization myself, I know that many in the group won't even know how much work was done and gets done behind the scenes. Please know that God knows and is so pleased to see His House of Worship looking so well cared for. Peace and Joy to all of you until he comes again.

-A Friend in the Neighborhood



Thank you Lynne Walsh for making this beautiful Advent banner for the sanctuary. Your love of God shows in every stitch!

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	3 7:30 Session Prayer Mtg	4	5 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:00 Worship Committee	6	7	8
9 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Bible Study 12:00 New Members Class	10	11	12 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:30 Trustee Meeting 7:00 CG&N Meeting	13	14 February Newsletter Dead- line	15
16 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12 pm New Members Class	17 6:30 Session Meeting	18	19 5:00 Peace of Bread	20	21	22
23 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12 pm New Members Class 12pm Youth Bible Study	24 6:30 Deacons	25	26 5:00 Peace of Bread	27	28	29
30 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 Prayer Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12 pm New Members Class	31					



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51 Cottage Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Phone: 508-234-8220
Email: whitinpres@gmail.org

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

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The Deacons are requesting donations of scarves, hats and mittens for ages toddlers through 10 years and teens. Please place these items on the two trees that will be located in the back of the church near the exits. The donation period will be from December through February of 2022.