

THE NEW COVENANT



News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

Winter Is Here!

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*Ice and snow on the Kennebec River
in Caratunk Maine.*

-Photo by Mary and Bill Spalton.

Winter is here, and snow storms may follow! Since February is often our snowiest month in Massachusetts, it's a good time to review our snow policy.

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to determine cancellation of church services due to bad weather. They will do so at approximately 7:30AM on Sunday morning. They will either call for our morning activities to be cancelled and our worship service to begin at its usual time of 10:30AM, or in extreme weather situations, cancel church entirely. In either case, a snow cancellation notice will be left on the church phone at 508-234-8220 until Channel 7 News activates our TV cancellation notices. If the weather on Saturday is bad, our Sunday School Coordinators may make a determination to cancel Sunday School in which case they will contact all Sunday School families by phone or email.

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.

February
2022

~ February 6 – March 6 ~

Ministries	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27	March 6
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	J. Finnegan	S. Santoro	J. Tobin	R. Thomas
Greeters	K. Miedema	J. Baker	T. Morin	W. Colonero	L. Walsh
Ushers	J. Baker	K. Miedema	L. Walsh	J. Baker	K. Miedema
Sound Board	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
Powerpoint	K. Bilodeau	M. Thomas	R. Thomas	K. Remillard	M. Mercer
Media	K. Mateer	K. Mateer	J. Tobin	K. Mateer	K. Mateer

February Birthday Corner

Mike Reynolds	2/11
Mark Austin	2/11
Matt Stone	2/12
Noah Redden	2/12
Ian Connelly	2/22
Michaela Joyce	2/22
Chris Bilodeau	2/23
Chris Matchett	2/27



******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



I suspect many will agree that so far, 2022 is not off to a very good start – and as I write this column, it is only the second full week of January! Once again, Covid is de-railing plans and wreaking havoc on the health of many. And this year there are many more members of our church family who are impacted by it, people who have been “vaxed and boosted.” It is a reminder that much of life is outside our control. And that makes us anxious.

Perhaps that is why we put such a concerted effort into controlling all that we think we can control. The more we can control, the safer we feel. That is especially true of people and situations that are part of our daily lives. We never fear what we know we can control. We are never anxious about what we know we can predict with certainty.

Having that sort of control means that we are relieved of the need to make decisions – which could come with either positive or negative consequences. It also means we do not need to make adjustments in the plans we make for the day, week, or year or in the way we perceive and interact with people. We’ve got it all figured out. We have a set of responses for the situations we know we will encounter and a map in our head of all the pathways we use to get to places in our lives.

An example of how this works is experienced every time a place to which we have been accustomed to going, say a dentist’s office, moves to another location. Ever forget and go to the place where it used to be on the day of your 6-month appointment? Or at holiday time, have you ever discovered that an ingredient that you need for your favorite cookie or cake recipe, probably one of your Grandmother’s, is no longer available?

Even worse is what happens when a boss you’ve had ever since you first started working for a company retires and you experience working under a new boss that expects you to do things in a much different way than you’ve “always done it before.” I suspect we’ve all heard, if we haven’t actually said, “But I’ve always done it that way!” New behavior patterns, whether they be navigating to a different location for the dentist’s office or performing work tasks in a totally different way, can cause great anxiety in people. Hence their need for tight control!

One of the most difficult situations therapists sometimes encounter as they work with the family of a disturbed child or adolescent occurs when the family prefers the dysfunctional way something has always worked to a more functional way that requires everyone – the entire functioning system – to change even slightly. At one time or another any therapist who works with families has had the experience of trying to help a disturbed child or adolescent gain increased health when, often unconsciously, the family feels it works better with that child/adolescent functioning in an unhealthy way.

So why am I writing this column about psychotherapy as a pastor? Simple: a church is a family of faith. Control is a very big issue in churches. Who controls whom so that life is comfortable for the one who does the best job of controlling people is part of church life as much as it is part of family life. But here’s the thing: The one who needs full control in order to feel safe with low anxiety levels, is often the one who lives the least satisfying and least healthy life. Learning how to ease up on the reins used to control others and how to float with circumstances instead of fighting to gain control of them, can be a big step toward a happier and healthier life for everyone.

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons took a hiatus for the monthly meeting for December, but were still busy with all sorts of activities. As Deacons, we are stewards for our church, so our work never ends! During the current holiday season we were able to use our creativity to assemble some holiday baskets full of goodies to our shut-ins. Christmas cards were also sent out to them. As a group, we always enjoy sharing updates about our ministry and the pleasure that it brings to those who receive our time and talents. (We also encourage contacts for any needs!)

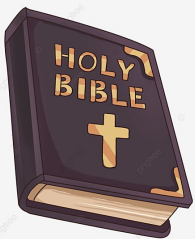
Some of the things that our group has accomplished lately include:

- Visiting shut-ins when allowed via COVID protocol
- Serve communion to shut-ins also via COVID standards
- Share a Card ministry and flowers to shut-ins or hospital patients
- Provide financial assistance for a very special need
- Share updates on our college “kids” and Military church members
- Talked about our part in serving communion with the elders
- Discussing ways to help in the community during a disaster
- Reviewing our position as stewards to our church and community i.e. – communion, prayers, help for the needy, CROP walk, NAC, visitations, special donations, etc. (to name just a few!)
- Sharing ideas for potential fundraisers for church and community
- Sharing prayer concerns for family, friends, community, etc.
- Working with other churches in the area whenever possible
- Funds for the variety of needs that we minister to...
- Creating a mitten/hat tree for needy children (socks also!)

The Deacons are always open to any needs or new ideas for anyone or anything that may need our attention.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

On Feb. 27 Rev. Dr. DeHoff will begin a study of the Gospel of John. The class will meet in the conference room in the church office building at noon. It will be hybrid and open to church members as well as anyone in the community who would like to join. For further information, contact Rev. Dr. DeHoff at sldehoff@verizon.net or at (508) 845-5005.



FUEL FUND COLLECTION

The proposed budget for this fiscal year projects \$10,000 needed for fuel. So far fuel fund donations total \$2080, and \$1947 has been spent so far for fuel. If you have not yet contributed to the Fuel Fund and would like to, you may designate a check by writing "fuel fund" on the memo line or you may write the same designation on an envelope containing a cash offering.



Budgeted	\$10,000
Received to Date	\$2,330
Paid to Date	\$1,948
Current Balance	\$382
Amount Still Needed	\$7,670

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Who is Augustine? Why are there so many groups (denominations) within Christianity? Who is John Calvin and why is he important for the Reformed tradition and Presbyterians? Join us for a 10-week Sunday school class beginning 2/6 in the Conference Room. Mark Thomas will serve as our guide as we explore Church History. For more information please contact him at mthomas4@gordonconwell.edu or 774-293-1382.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY



On **February 6**, we will have a special collection for **Global Missions** to support the missions of Linda and Larry Jones . Their mission is with the Wycliffe Bible Translators. We can be part of what God is doing in the world to spread the

Gospel to people of all people in their own language. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to support this mission.

If you are not present at the February 6 service and wish to contribute, you may designate the contribution by writing “Global Missions” in the memo line of your check.

SESSION NOTES

We met for prayer on January 3.

We met on January 17 for our stated business meeting and approved the following:

\$75 to purchase additional zoom account to be covered until the end of year.

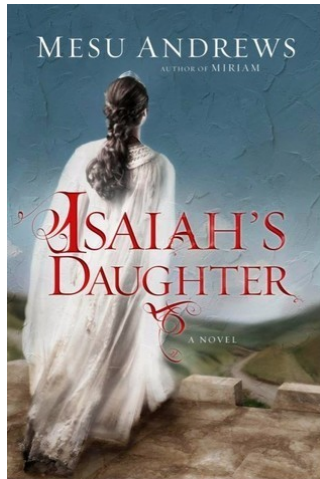
Review and approve the new expense vouchers.

Approved that all donations to BVES go directly to BVES.

Approved a special offering for the Jones Global mission on Sunday February 6.

Approved adding One License to our current CCLI license at a cost of \$77.

FEBRUARY WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



On February 18 the book club will discuss both January and February's selections:

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.

It's Not Supposed to Be This Way: Finding Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered by Lysa TerKeurst



Life often looks so very different than we hoped or expected. Some events may simply catch us off guard for a moment, but others shatter us completely. We feel disappointed and disillusioned, and we quietly start to wonder about the reality of God's goodness.

Lysa TerKeurst understands this deeply. But she's also discovered that our disappointments can be the divine appointments our souls need to radically encounter God. In *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*, Lysa invites us into her own journey of faith and, with grit, vulnerability, and honest humor,

Church Family News

Tanya Morin rang in the new year by celebrating a milestone birthday!



Congratulations to Ronda Thomas on the birth of your new grand-niece in Florida!

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONCERN

Please keep Gloria Rauth's son and his family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Gloria, who went to be our Lord on Jan. 24.

Lynne Walsh has a prayer of thanks that her son, Jon, is back to work following a bout with Covid. She asks continued prayers, however, and Jon is experiencing the significant fatigue that goes with the aftermath of Covid.

Jean Finnegan asks prayers for her sister, Edie, who is in the hospital with Covid. She is making progress and has been vaxed and boosted, so pray for mild symptoms and strength for the recovery.

Ronda Thomas asks prayers for her cousin Diane who has leukemia, has been in the hospital for several weeks and will need to continue to be hospitalized for another 3 to 5 months. Pray that medical treatments will successfully address the leukemia.

Harriet Platt asks prayers for Bob, who has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. Drs. have decided not to pursue treatment.

Mary Spalton asks prayers for daughter, Rachel, and family as both Rachel and her husband have Covid. Pray that their son does not get it.

Rachel asks prayers for her co-worker, who along with her husband went on vacation, caught Covid, and cannot return home. Their children at home also have Covid.

Mary and Bill Spalton ask prayers for their daughter Rachel who had a growth removed from her eyelid just after Christmas, and the tests came back positive for Basal Cell Carcinoma. Rachel will have surgery the week of Jan. 31.

Kim Mercer has a prayer of praise that she and Jason are both back to work and Mallorie is back in school, after their recent bout with Covid.

Eileen Straub has a prayer of thanks that Michael saw a general surgeon at Mass General, and they now have a tentative surgery date of Mar. 1. Please pray that Gov. Baker is able to lift the moratorium on elective surgery before then so that Michael can have the hernia repair surgery that day.

Laurie Sabourin has a prayer of praise that she is Covid negative and back to work. Like everyone else, she is experiencing significant fatigue, so she also asks prayers for the recovery process.

Laurie has another prayer of praise that her brother, Steve, who was also diagnosed with Covid, is now Covid negative and doing well.

Katrina Bilodeau has a prayer of praise that recent tests show she is doing well following thyroid cancer and does not need radioactive iodine at this time. She will be checking in with the dr. every six months.

Ronda Thomas asks prayers for her family due to the death of her mother's sister, Donna, who was a much loved, favorite aunt.

Ronda also has a prayer of joy that her niece in FL gave birth to a baby girl this past week.

Mike and Laurie have a prayer of praise that Mike is now retired!

Ruth Hoekstra asks prayers for her son who continues to struggle with pain following an accident in which he broke his back several years ago. She also asks prayers for her two daughters, both of whom have Covid.



THANK YOU CORNER

Thank you Sue Lamar, Brandy & Gregg Giemza for your help taking down the greens in the sanctuary after the holidays this year. –Jim Baker

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Trustees for the nice Christmas gift! -Patty Reynolds

I would like to acknowledge and thank the time and effort spent by Session members, Rev. DeHoff, Dave Miedema, Austin Reichert, Leslie Reichert, Suzanne Santoro and Gaye Shannon in providing me with information for the yearly Statistical Report the church sends to Presbytery. Your help was greatly appreciated. -Lynne Walsh, Clerk of Session

Thank you Don Mateer and Luke Austin for shoveling all that ice off the sidewalks and ramp on Feb. 6 so that we could hold the church service. Everyone stayed vertical as they navigated their way into the church!! Pastor Susan

Mitten Tree Update



The Deacons collection of hats, mittens, and scarves continues through the end of February. We currently have many donations for older children, but need more for the Toddler—Age 6 age range. Please place these items on the two trees located in the back of the church near the exits.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 Worship Committee	3	4	5
6 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 SS Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service Global Missions Collection	7 7:30 Session Prayer Mtg	8	9 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:30 Trustee Meeting 7:00 Christian G&N Mtg	10	11	12
13 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 SS Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	14	15	16 5:00 Peace of Bread	17	18 March Newsletter Deadline	19
20 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 SS Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	21 Presidents' Day 6:30 Session	22	23 5:00 Peace of Bread	24	25	26
27 9:00 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:30 SS Course (Hybrid) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service Deacons Fund Collection 12:00 Bible Study	28 6:30 Deacons					



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News of the Church Family from the
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Whitinsville

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REFLECTION FROM REV. DEHOFF

Psalm 30:1-5 “Joy Comes with the
Morning.”

We make it through storms because
we know the beauty that follows.

