

THE NEW COVENANT



News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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2022 EASTER FESTIVAL!

Our Easter festival is scheduled for April 16 from 10 am-12 pm in the fellowship hall.

This promises to be a fun part of our Easter celebration festivities! This year we are happy to expand our invitation not only to church families but to our Sunday School children's friends. So Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, round up your little ones and come on down!

Refreshments will be provided by Food Fun and Fellowship for adults. Contact Kim Mercer to RSVP. And as always, volunteering and donations to this event are greatly appreciated.



Photo Credit Eric Heininger

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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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.

April
2022

~ March 6 – April 3 ~

Ministries	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	May 1
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	R. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh	J. Finnegan
Greeters	tbd	J. Baker	K. Miedema	T. Morin	W. Colonero
Ushers	D. Baker	K. Miedema	L. Walsh	J. Baker	D. Baker
Sound Board	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
Powerpoint	K. Remillard	K. Mercer	M. Mercer	R. Thomas	M. Thomas
Media	J. Tobin	J. Tobin	J. Tobin or K. Remillard	J. Tobin	J. Tobin

April Birthday and Anniversary Corner

Birthdays

Tyler Santoro 4/3
 Jimmy Tobin 4/10
 Kimberly Mercer 4/25

Anniversaries

John & Carol Pilibosian 4/14



Miss Church?

Watch our Services online
 (Search YouTube for United
 Presbyterian Church of
 Whitinsville)

Live in Northbridge?

Watch it on Charter Cable
 Channel 191 Wednesdays at 10
 AM (or later).

******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



During Lent the focus of our faith has been on the path toward reconciliation. We said the path has many stepping stones: remorse, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and ultimately new life. None of those steps can be bypassed. Each step of the process must be completed in order for the ultimate goal to be reached.

Engaging the reconciliation process is a very important part of discipleship. It is so important, that Jesus himself did not bypass it. Jesus engaged it at a far greater depth – and cost – than God ever requires human beings to do. But God does require us to walk through that process. Otherwise, our Christian discipleship – our following Jesus – is not complete. Down through history, beginning with the Apostles, those who follow Jesus have had to participate in all elements of discipleship, including remorse, repentance, and forgiveness.

There is often a tendency to view reconciliation, the culminating step in the process, to be rather simple, perhaps even an automatic, result of the steps leading up to it. Experience suggests otherwise. The only thing that is “automatic” after remorse, repentance, and forgiveness is a peace treaty. The rest of reconciliation involves work. But it is work with someone who previously opposed a plan, project, idea, or way of living in this world. It is not work done just in private devotion or with those with whom one previously agreed.

History has many examples of the work involved in reconciliation. Once that step along the path is reached, we remain on that step for a long time. Think about what happened after the Peace Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. Or consider what happened after the Paris Peace Conference in 1947. The fighting ended, but that did not mean that suddenly the Germans and the British sat down for afternoon tea and engaged in friendly chit-chat, sharing photos of kids and grandkids.

So it is in Christendom. The fighting stops, as it did, finally, after the bloody conflicts between Catholics and Protestants following the 16th century Reformation. Well, after the bloody fighting stopped in most places. But then the work begins in earnest. How do we find ways to live together not just in an “armed truce” but as fellow citizens in the kingdom of God? God calls all of God’s children to live as loving brothers and sisters in God’s kingdom.

Remorse, repentance, and forgiveness are the beginning of learning how to live as God’s loved and loving children. The next part involves acceptance of a stark reality: No one can or even needs to control everything so that the world makes him or her comfortable. Instead, what makes the world a truly comfortable place is that everyone prays together asking God for a glimpse of God’s New Creation, and everyone works together, contributing his and her God-given gifts to help bring that New Creation into reality. Once respect for the value of each and every person – always equal in God’s sight – is realized in each and every person, the rest of reconciliation is easy, and God’s New Creation is not far off.

The bottom line question for members of the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville is where we find ourselves on the path toward reconciliation and new creation. In Christian discipleship, how do we take the next step in the process toward reaching not only the point of reconciliation but more importantly the shared work of bringing new creation into reality? As you read this column, the church is already engaged in the process. Are you part of it?

Sometimes movement toward New Creation is a little like the old wagon train journeys. People headed west for the purpose of establishing a new life. Much had been left behind. Much had been loaded onto the wagons to help begin that new life. But no one set out alone. The wagons traveled together, each one helping to insure that they all made it. If you have not yet joined “the UPCoW wagon train” there’s still time, and new wagons are always welcome. There are many ways and places to join.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



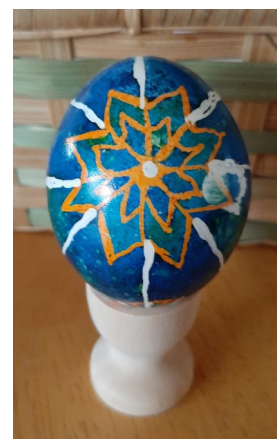
Happy 40th Birthday to Christopher Lee!



A prayer from Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, for Ukraine.

Our spirits are heavy with sorrow, our souls shocked
 At the sudden and breathtaking violence,
 the invasion of Ukraine by their neighbor, Russia.
 We pray for lives caught in the grip of war,
 who hear the bombs in the night,
 the ominous movement of troops on the road into town
 the whistle of incoming shells,
 for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning.
 For those who huddle in subways and basements
 or flee for the borders, clutching their children's hands
 We pray for families separated from fathers, brothers and sons
 who must remain to fight and protect their homeland.
 We pray for neighbors in Eastern and Central Europe
 As their hearts and doors open to these refugees
 That strained resources will become an abundance of hope
 That fears and struggles with racism will yield to a generosity of
 profound welcome
 That communities of faith within Ukraine will be protected from
 harm
 and sustained in their efforts to feed and shelter their neighbors.
 That peacemakers and protesters in Russia will be heard and
 their lives preserved.
 May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.
 May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome
 extravagantly.
 May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.
 May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy,
 hope and peace.
 And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death
 and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence
 and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

***"Tanya Morin, Chris, Jason, Zack
 & Olivia designed Ukrainian
 Pysanky eggs***



SESSION NOTES

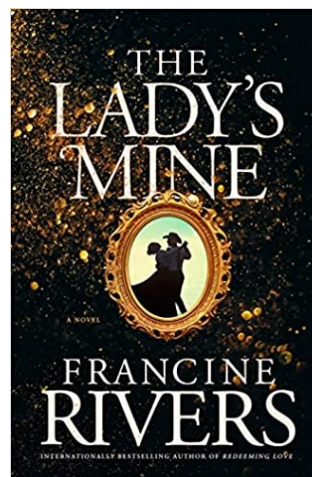
Session met for Congregational prayer meeting on March 7 and for a Stated Business meeting on March 22.

- Approved hiring Bob Stains to work with the congregation towards reconciliation.
- Approved participation in The One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Approved taking the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on April 24.
- Approved Presbyterian disaster assistance envelopes at the Welcome center.
- Approved POB resuming sit down meals as soon as feasible.
- Approved POB to purchase large amounts of gift certificates as needed.
- Approved discontinuing contact tracing at Sunday services.
- Approved resuming Coffee fellowship on April 3.
- Approved session to meet with the Postma's on March 27 at the fellowship lunch.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will meet on Friday, April 22 (please note this is the 4th Friday of the month, rather than our usual 3rd Friday). Our book selection for April is "The Lady's Mine" by Francine Rivers.

From GoodReads: New York Times bestselling author Francine Rivers returns to the California frontier in this sweeping, romantic tale of a displaced New England suffragette, a former Union soldier disinherited by his Southern family, and the town they join forces to save.



DONATE YOUR OLD CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

Turn your worn-out textiles into funds for our church and its ministries!

The Trustees will be collecting bags of clothing, shoes, and blankets on April 2 and April 9. Donations can be dropped off between the hours of 9am to noon in front of the garage at 7 Spring Street. Trustees will deliver the clothing to Savers on April 16th.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



Calling All College Students and Seniors Attending College Next Year

Applications are available for our annual scholarships.

Youth Excellence Award: An applicant must be between the ages of 18-25, attending a fully accredited two- or four-year college, and must be an active member of the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville.

Ruth P. Marshall Scholarship: (\$200.00) Applicant must be a graduating senior from an accredited high school and a communicant or member of the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville. Presented by the Kathryn M. Huston Mission Circle.

Applications are available on the Welcome Center or by emailing Erin Howard at whitinpres@gmail.com. The deadline is **May 26, 2022**.

KMHMC MEETING

The mission circle will meet on April 20 at 7:00 PM in the church gathering area. We will have devotions and planning ahead.

All women of the church are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful time to reconnect with our sisters in Christ.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

The One Great Hour Of Sharing is all about connecting how God connects with us through Jesus's resurrection to those who have least.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian

Disaster Assistance are all funded by this special collection..

We are happy to say that the Fish banks are back again this year! Please pick one up at the Welcome center and join in with our Sunday School kids to fill the banks!

We will be taking this collection after Easter.

When we all do a little it adds up a lot and God multiplies it even more than we can imagine. Thank you in advance.

To God be the Glory.

-Suzanne Santoro, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair

Deacons' Corner for March 2022

The Deacons started their meeting in prayer, and had a busy agenda that covered a variety of items which included:

- Reviewing and approving the November minutes. (No meeting was held in December). Each member will be given a chance to review them before the next meeting and a final approval will then be taken at that time. (February meeting)
 - Article 7 of the By-laws was given further attention and discussed for the Deacon's Collection, as well as how it would be handled in the future accordance to the by-laws.
 - A Deacon's Collection will be held on Sunday, February 27th. A notice will be posted in the Scoop and the bulletin prior to that date. A minute for Mission will be also be shared by Ronda on the same day of the Deacon's Collection to remind the congregation of the purpose for this Collection.
 - An assignment sheet for the next year's Open/Closing prayers was passed around for each Deacon to sign in on a day of their choice.
 - Deacon's spent a fair amount of time sharing updates as care receivers with their visits to the home-bound and hospitalized members. Our Card Ministry is also doing quite well, thanks to Jean Finnegan.
 - The Hat and Mitten Tree that has been set up for those in need has brought in a generous amount from the congregation. These gifts have been greatly appreciated from the community.
 -
- Concerns and joys were shared before the closing prayer.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONCERN

Jim and Debbie have a prayer of joy and praise that in August they will become great-grandparents.

Marilyn Alling requests prayers for a client whose Ukrainian-born brother is stuck in Moscow and trying to get out.

Marilyn also requests prayers for her client who is Ukrainian and has all of her family and her in-laws as well as many friends living in Ukraine.

Judy Salzberg asks prayers of comfort for Patty Reynolds and her sister, as Patty's brother-in-law died on Feb. 4. Especially pray for Patty's sister, Maria.

Laura and Mike Joyce have a prayer of thanks that Mike's friend, David's infection is all cleared up.

Susan Mateer asks prayers for her Mom, Beth, who is now at Lydia Taft, where they are working on stabilizing her blood pressure. It was very low, and that caused her fall a couple weeks ago.

Mallorie Mercer has a prayer of thanks that her wisdom teeth surgery went well and that she is recovered.

Lynne Walsh asks prayers for employees at the retail store where she is a manager. There was a major water leak, and the store will be closed for a while, leaving some employees without income.

Prayers for people living in and trying to flee from Ukraine. Prayers that countries sympathetic to Ukraine's cause will find ways to help them win this conflict.

Tanya asks prayer for an opening for an EMG before her app't in May, as she is experiencing numbness in her hands. She also asks prayers that her upcoming thyroid test will show the absence of nodules.

Continued prayers for Bob and Harriet Platt.

Will Colonero asks prayers for the grandmother, Rose, of his good friend. Cancer treatment for stomach cancer has not been successful, and drs. give her 6 months to a year to live. Rose is like a grandmother to Will.

Eileen Straub asks continued prayers for her husband, Michael. He had hoped he would finally get the hernia surgery on Tues., but it has been postponed to May 2, because there is still a ban on elective surgery. Pray that his surgery becomes accepted as necessary, not elective, and for an earlier surgery date to become available.

Mary and Bill Spalton have a prayer of praise that Rachel's surgery went well and drs. were able to remove all the malignant cells on the first pass.

Sarah and Tim Wieggers ask continued prayers for Luke who had fixators implanted in his legs. Luke is back home and not experiencing pain. Pray that the fixators will be successful in helping his legs grow strong and healthy.

Jim and Debbie Baker ask prayers for Jim's nephew, Stuart. Stuart had an accident while pruning a tree, and broke his left leg an ankle in several places. He is back home, but facing a long recovery.

Gaye Shannon has a prayer of thanks that 6 m.o, Madelyn is doing much better following a bout with Covid.

Tanya Morin has a prayer of thanks that Zack now has a job as a group leader for Precious Ones School Age program in Northbridge. He has the potential to become Site Coordinator.



THANK YOU CORNER

Thank you to the Bylaws Committee for bring our bylaws up to date! -Suzanne Santoro

THANK YOU

The entire congregation shares in appreciation of our own "first responders," Greg Giemza and Don Mateer, who were first on the scene on March 20 when the boiler misfired and filled the church with smoke. We all knew we were in good hands! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Patty Reynolds for cleaning the soot off all the wood in the sanctuary in time for Sunday's service. -Pastor Susan

A note from Larry Jones of Wycliffe Bible Translators, one of the Missions to which our church donates:

Today I had lunch with Seed Company's executive leadership team. We were discussing metrics. Christian ministries don't often pay attention to measurable indicators that show ministry effectiveness. We in Seed Company have done so, but we have mainly focused on easily countable ones that take a long time to accomplish, say, How many New Testaments were finished, or how many people groups got newly engaged in Bible translation this year?. One of the ways we want to get better is to identify indicators to let us know month by month we are on track. This all hangs on an elegant choice of what to count. Would you please ask God to give us wisdom to know what indicators to track to help us maximize our ministry impact?

Thank you for your generous \$250 gift in February. Your faithful prayers and gifts through the years remind us of God's steadfast covenant love that endures forever. It is a privilege to be your partners in God's work.

*Many blessings,
Larry*

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	4 7:30 Session Prayer Mtg	5 7:00 Reconciliation Planning Mtg Bob Stains	6 12 pm Lenten Service VCC 5:00 Peace of Bread (OUR) 7:00 Worship Committee	7	8 May Newsletter Deadline	9
10 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Bible Study PALM SUNDAY	11	12	13 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:30 Trustee Meeting	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM Service	15 GOOD FRIDAY	16 10 am—12 pm Easter Festival
17 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Bible Study EASTER SUNDAY	18 6:30 Session	19	20 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 KMHC Meeting	21	22	23
24 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	25 6:30 Deacons	26	27 5:00 Peace of Bread	28	29 6:30 Womens Book Club	30



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Christ sacrifice He is RISEN REDEEMER amazing grace LOVE mercy
life rejoice joy Jesus hope crucifixion SAVIOR