

THE NEW COVENANT



News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

Inside this issue:

Stewardship	1
Sunday Schedule	2
Pastor's Letter	3-4
Session Notes	4
Deacons Corner	5-6
Women's Book Club	6
Missions, Peace of Bread	7
Church News	8
Prayers of Praise and Concern	9
Thank You Corner	10
Calendar	11

A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

May is Stewardship Month. Everything we have is a gift from God. We are called by God to give back a portion of what He has given to us.

As in the early church, the believers rallied together and brought their possessions to the church and put them at the apostles' feet. So must we rally together and bring our gifts to the Lord for the advancement of His church here in Whitinsville and the surrounding communities.



Letters are being mailed out this month. However, giving doesn't mean only financial gifts, It also means giving of one's time and talents. Those who are unable to offer one of those are encouraged to surround us with your prayer support. We have all been blessed, thus, we all have something to share, no matter how small it may seem.

Please pray about how you can help support the ministry of His church here.

In His name,

The Stewardship Committee

Jim Baker, Chair

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.

May 2022

~ May 1 - June 5 ~

Ministries	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29	June 5
Worship Leader	Jean Finnegan	Lynne Walsh	Jimmy Tobin	Marilyn Al-ling	Ronda Thomas	Suzanne Santoro
Greeters	Will Colonero	Jim Baker	Tanya Morin	Kathy Miedema	Debbie Baker	Will Colonero
Ushers	Debbie Baker	Kathy Miedema	Debbie Baker	Lynne Walsh	Jim Baker	Kathy Miedema
Sound Board	Greg Giemza	Greg Giemza	Mark Thomas	Greg Giemza	Greg Giemza	Greg Giemza
Powerpoint	Ken Remillard	Kim Mercer	Ronda Thomas	Mallorie Mercer	Ken Remillard	Kim Mercer
Media	Jimmy Tobin	Jimmy Tobin	Ken Remillard	Jimmy Tobin	Jimmy Tobin	Jimmy Tobin
Coffee Fellowship		n/a	Gay McCrea	Volunteers needed!	Lynne Walsh & Jean Finnegan	Volunteers needed!

May Birthdays

Katie Matchett 5/1 Jessie Schelin 5/16
 Blythe Biernaki 5/2 Debbie Baker 5/20
 Britten Bilodeau 5/5 Scott Szajna 5/20
 Nathan Phoebe 5/13 Hannah Reynolds 5/23
 Anthony Santoro 5/14 Bill Skillen 5/23
 Jen Collins 5/15 Lois Convent 5/26
 Ken Pedersen 5/15

Anniversaries

Bill and Mary Spalton 5/10
 Mike and Laurie Sabourin 5/15
 Chris and Gaye Shannon 5/16
 Greg and Brandi Giemza 5/25
 Jason and Kimberly Mercer 5/31

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

Adult Education

9:00AM -

10:30AM

**Children's Sunday School
 Morning Worship Service
 Coffee Fellowship**

**9:30 AM
 10:30AM - 11:30AM
 11:30 AM**



May is a busy month at UPCoW! It is the month that the Nominating Committee meets to nominate church members to serve in a variety of roles, and it is the month in which the Stewardship Campaign kicks into gear. In other words, it is the time of year when we think about what it means to be a member of a church family. And I suppose that just begs the question of what it means to *be a church*.

There are many references in the New Testament that tell about Christ's relationship with the church. May worship services will explore some of those passages. The image used most often is that the church is Christ's body. Ephesians 4:11-16 says Christ's followers together make up Christ's body.

“It was [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-16).

That means that all Christians everywhere, together, make up Christ's body on earth *and* that each member is endowed by Christ with specific gifts needed for his body to fulfill its mission on earth. Individual members of each church on earth are part of Christ's body, the earthly, physical representation of the risen and ascended Christ.

That does *not* mean that the church is to be worshiped! All worship goes to God the Trinity alone. What it *does* mean is that the church does Christ's work on earth *because* the spirit within the church is Christ's Spirit. Christ's Spirit works through the individual members, in whom the Spirit resides. Where physical hands, feet, eyes, ears, and mouth are need for Christ's work to be done, Christ uses *us*. Members of the church *actively* do what Christ calls them to do.

That requires a couple of things. First of all, the church can act only as the Holy Spirit enables and empowers it to act. Members need the Holy Spirit living within them. The church can function only as its members are filled with the Holy Spirit. It isn't the building that is filled with the Holy Spirit; it is each and every member that needs to be filled!

The other need is for the church to have each of the “body parts” needed for its mission. The above passage from Ephesians says that Christ gave gifts to people. The gifts provide the “body parts” needed for the church's mission. Each member of each individual church is given a gift needed by the church in order for it to do the work God has called it to do. But in order for the church to fulfill its purpose, all those parts need to function in unison; no one or two parts can accomplish the work alone. There are no unnecessary parts in Christ's body! And there is no part that is more important than any other. A broken little finger compromises the work capability of the whole hand.

Broaden that image just a bit, and it includes the idea that individual churches are given gifts for specific missions, no church being responsible for the total mission of Christ on earth. Churches themselves are joined to make the worldwide body of Christ. Each church, filled with the Holy Spirit, has an important role to play in God's great plan. And because each church has a role in that plan, no church filled with the Holy Spirit is superfluous to that plan.

So what does that mean for UPCoW? First and foremost, UPCoW is part of God's great plan. There is very great joy in that fact! God has given UPCoW a particular role to play in that great plan, a role that

Continued on Page 4...

Pastor's Note Continued...

requires each part of the body represented by *this* church to function fully, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Secondly, God has gifted this church with people to whom God has given specific gifts that this part of Christ's overall body needs to fulfill the work God has give UPCoW to do. There are no unnecessary gifts or parts of this body! Thirdly, God continues to make this church grow by bringing into it additional members with gifts God has given *them* with the intention that they will contribute those gifts to the work God calls UPCoW to do.

There are all sorts of things that can distract folks from contributing the gifts God has given them to contribute, and there are all sorts of things that can distract the church's attention from God's call. Like every one of God's churches, UPCoW must remain vigilant and discerning of where it puts its focus of attention. As a general rule, all churches must be especially vigilant against the possible reversal of roles, in which the church's role becomes that of serving the needs of its members. That role reversal never works toward fulfilling God's call to the church.

Bottom line: what is the gift God has given you to contribute to the work God has called this church to do with your help? What, if anything, gets in the way of your making your contribution?

Rev. Dr. Susan L. DeHoff

SESSION NOTES

Session met for Congregational prayer on April 4 and for a Stated Business meeting on April 18.

- Approved the hiring of Nydam Oil to address all boiler room and code repairs.
- Approved the filing of insurance claim to proceed with the church cleaning due to boiler malfunction.
- Approved the hiring of John Keeler as Treasurer starting June 1.
- Approved Rev. Dr. DeHoff's compensation package.
- Met with Dave Miedema to discuss the status of the Board of Trustees
- Met with Rena Matchett to discuss what to do with Friends of Peace of Bread fundraising and funds going forward.

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons got together on March 28th for a very productive meeting, which was started by a nice prayer from Christopher Lee. Lisa Carlin from the Administrative Commission met with Deacons.

Treasurer's Report: The Deacons Fund Collection brought in a favorable amount of \$445.00 for their final results. Other updates include:

- The current balance shows \$876.00
- A \$50.00 donation was made for pizza for a family in the church
- \$60.00 went to a gift of flowers for a grieving family in the church

Care Receivers' Updates:

- Health updates for members (and families) in hospitals
- Sharing the needs and hopes for those struggling with finances
- Reminder to call on those needing a support system for troubles/concerns
- Prayers for those enduring difficulties affecting their life-styles
- Share more cards or phone calls to those who need extra support
- Visitations to shut-ins, and sharing their joys and/or concerns
- Decided to share meals with any of our care receivers wanting or needing any special assistance from the Deacons

New Business:

- Unanimously voted to create Easter baskets to Shut-ins along with flowers.
- Decided to deliver the Easter baskets and lilies after the Easter Service.
- Learned about a Reconciliation Plan devoted to a new phase in the growth of our church. As Deacons, we have learned a little bit more about this plan, and how we can be effective stewards within the church by following a set of important points that have been shared with us.

So far, points that have been shared include:

Support the church through prayer, sharing, and serving as models

Each group will work, plan, and share what we want for the future together

Reaching out to others and treating them with dignity

As we attempt to move forward, we need to:

Reconcile our differences and show that we care for each other

Prove our need to get along with each other as brothers and sisters

Accept each other's differences and talents and care for each other

Deacons' Corner continued....

Reach out to others who need a friend or a support system

We need to share the feelings and suggestions from others, such as:

Reflect love to our church and its members

Share that "God is Love" to others despite our differences

Provide opportunities for events that will attract the community

Make events/things exciting for all ages! (no one can be excluded)

Be open to others and their differences in their talents

(i.e. speaker, musical genre (instrumental/ vocal) et.al talents

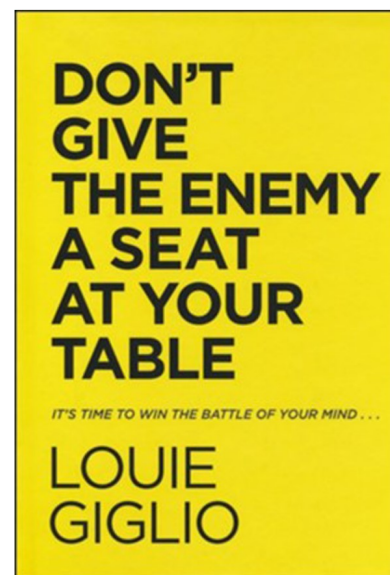
The Deacons meeting came to an end by sharing prayer concerns for our church members and visitors. We also shared many joys amongst ourselves, family, and friends.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will meet on Friday, May 20. Our May book is *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio.

From GoodReads: Scripture is clear: the Enemy is a liar who will stop at nothing to tempt you into poor decisions and self-defeating mindsets, making you feel afraid, angry, anxious, or defeated. It is all too easy for Satan to weasel his way into a seat at the table intended for only you and your King. But you can fight back.

Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table outlines the ways to overcome those lies so you can find peace and security in any challenging circumstance or situation... pastor Louie Giglio examines Psalm 23 in fresh ways, highlighting verse 5: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."



MISSIONS CORNER

Sunday June 5 is Pentecost Sunday. Last year we celebrated Pentecost with the Callisons and the Freitas on that Sunday afternoon. It was truly a special and informative time of worship.

We will be doing the same this year at the Sunday morning worship service.

Our missionaries will be conducting most of the service from afar. There will be a special Pentecost sermon and children's message as well as special music.

Save the date for this special communion service and to connect with our missionaries. A special collection will be taken to support their ministries.



PEACE OF BREAD HIGHLIGHTS



It was UPCoW's turn to host and cook for Peace of Bread on Wednesday, 4/6.

In-person Peace of Bread dinners are back! On Wednesday, 5/4 we welcomed participants back to Fellowship Hall for a communal dinner. After over two years of serving takeout dinners due to the pandemic, it was a joy to have everyone break bread together once again.





Congratulations to Mallorie Mercer, who has decided to attend the University of Tennessee next year! Best wishes from your church family!

Tanya Morin with Jeanne Womelsdorf's newest grandson, Riley, weighing in around 6lbs, who was born in March. Proud parents, Suzy and Corey are doing well.



Deacons Jean Finnegan and Kim Mercer visited Anne MacLeod for in-home communion.

(Left to Right): Anne's daughter, Carol Pilibosian, Anne MacLeod, Jean Finnegan, Kim Mercer.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONCERN

Eileen Straub has a prayer of thanks and praise that her husband came through his hernia surgery very well. She and Michael now ask prayers for an orthopedic surgeon to be found soon to do the hip replacement surgery.

Tanya Morin has a prayer of praise that the ER was able to stop a serious allergic reaction that caused hives and breathing difficulties this week.

We keep Gaye Shannon and her family in our prayers as Gaye's brother died this week.

Suzanne Santoro asks prayers for Anthony, who will have surgery on May 12, and Maria, who will have reconstructive surgery on May 13.

Tanya asks prayers for the family of the father and son who were killed when a car plunged into Nipmuc Pond late last night.

Katie Matchett has a prayer of thanks and praise as she became the wife of Mark Dziadyk on April 29 at the Publick House in Sturbridge.

Judy Salzberg asks prayers for the owners of the old Victorian Inn on Linwood Ave. that burned this week and also for the firefighter who was injured while fighting the fire.

Jason Mercer also asks prayers for the Kearnan Family, as Jason's best friend, the youngest brother in the family who was in his mid-40s and battling ALS, contracted pneumonia went to be with the Lord, this past week.

Jim and Debbie Baker have a prayer of thanks and praise that their daughter is recovering well from surgery and is doing well with PT. They ask prayers that she will not need further surgery and that she will regain full use of her arm.

Please keep Bob and Harriet Platt in your prayers, as Bob continues to be at home with hospice care.

Carol Pilibosian has a prayer of thanks and praise that her granddaughter, Ava, has been accepted at Savannah College of Art and Design, which was her preferred college.

Eileen Straub also has a prayer of thanks and praise that her brother's heart surgery went well. She also asks prayers for a successful healing process.

Mallorie Mercer has a prayer of thanks and joy that she has been accepted to the Univ. of TN, Knoxville, which was her top pick.

Gay McCrea has a prayer of joy that her daughter has a new job that she really likes.

Judy Salzberg asks prayers for the 37-year-old son of a friend who has been diagnosed with leukemia and is undergoing chemotherapy. Please keep his family, including his wife and infant son in your prayers.

Tanya Morin has a prayer of joy that recent tests showed no significant problem with polyps.

Ronda Thomas asks prayers for her cousin, Diane, who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She will get a bone marrow transplant in June.

Ronda also asks prayers for Diane's sister, who needs hand surgery, and is the donor for Diane. Prayers for both cousins to follow God's timing for surgeries and for healing.

Ronda asks prayers also for an older cousin, whose son, Erick, needs a heart transplant and has been in the hospital since March 30.



THANK YOU CORNER

We would like to thank Brandy for sharing her gift of beautiful gospel music with us. We are truly blessed each time she sings. Jim & Debbie Baker

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Don Mateer and Dave Miedema for doing the first lawn mow of the year. They did a great job, especially considering that the lawn mowers were not cooperating!

GOODBYE TO ERIN HOWARD

Sadly, we must say good-bye to Erin Howard, who has been our Administrative Assistant since September. Her last day will be Wednesday, May 11th. Although Erin has enjoyed her work at UPCoW and had intended to stay long-term, she and her family have recently experienced the “sticker shock” of college, with a daughter who will begin college one year from this fall. That means that Erin needs, and has found, a job that pays significantly more than UPCoW can afford to pay.

While the Personnel Committee works on how to proceed, the office will be staffed by several people. Eileen Straub, whose main job is that of Administrative Assistant at a church in Newton, will prepare the bulletin, worship leader script, and power point slides each week. Mallorie Mercer will help in the office with all the other duties. Jimmy Tobin will help with website matters. Mark Thomas will also be available to help in the office when Mallorie is not available.

The Personnel Committee would appreciate your prayers as they wrestle with the need for an experienced and trained Administrative Assistant even as the budget deficit increases. The reality is that the church needs an Administrative Assistant of the caliber it had in Alice Legg and Erin Howard, and in order to hire and “hold onto” that kind of person, the church is going to need to come up with the financial pledges that can support that position. Consider carefully how you can help!

On behalf of the whole church family, the Personnel Committee gives Erin a big thank you for all the work and overtime hours she has put in since coming to work at UPCoW. She has done a very good job, and she will be missed!!

Sincerely,

The Personnel Committee and Pastor Susan

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 7:30 Session Prayer Mtg	3	4 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 Worship Committee	5	6	7
8 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	9	10	11 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:30 Trustee Meeting 7:00 CG&N	12	13 June Newsletter Deadline	14
15 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Bible Study	16	17 6:30 Session	18 5:00 Peace of Bread	19	20 5:30 Small Dialogue Group Women's Book Club	21 8:30 Small Dialogue Grup
22 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Bible Study EASTER SUNDAY	23 6:30 Deacons	24	25 5:00 Peace of Bread	26	27	28
29 9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	30	31	5:00 Peace of Bread			



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