

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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HOMESPUN HOLIDAYS

Homespun Holidays will be held on November 5 from 10 am until 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Listed below are the sections and the chairs. If interested in donating or have questions, please contact the chair for more information.

ROOM

Attic Treasures

Bake sale

Crafts and Harvest

Gift Baskets

CHAIR(S)

Carol Pilibosian

Kim Mercer.

Suzanne Santoro &

Lynne Walsh

Marylin Ailing &

Jennifer Connelly

We need volunteers to help set up and clean up as well. This a huge undertaking and we asked for your help . It takes the whole congregation to unite and work together to accomplish this fair. We thank you in advance for all your support.

To God be the glory! See you at the fair!

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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Office Hours: See weekly Scoop for current hours

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

October
2022

To: Whitinsville Presbyterian Church

From: T. J. DeMarco, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Boston, and COM Liaison

September 22, 2022

I'd like to start by thanking all of you who took the time to meet after worship on September 18, 2022. I understand that this was a difficult conversation for some of you. As you look toward calling an installed pastor, I'd like to reiterate a few items that we discussed on the 18th. First, COM recommends that the congregation dissolve the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), which has been on hiatus for some time. The reason for this is that congregations change over a period of years and a newly elected PNC would reflect current leadership and concerns. Second, we recommend that the mission study be revised. We don't feel that a complete re-write is necessary. But a committee should review it and make appropriate changes. This is necessary due to the passage of time since the last mission study.

I would also like to clarify a couple of questions related to Pastor Susan DeHoff's contract. The Administrative Commission did recommend that her contract not be renewed. But the session of Whitinsville asked the Committee on Ministry (COM) to approve renewal of her contract. COM decided to approve a six-month contract partly because session requested it, but there were other reasons. COM felt that there would need to be consistent leadership during this time when the new by-laws are being implemented. COM also felt that Pastor Susan's work on dealing with some of the difficult transitional issues has been effective. We understood that there was conflict between the pastor and some members of the congregation. But the congregation has had similar conflicts with pastors in the past and for COM to approve the call of a new pastor, we would need to know that the congregation has come to terms with its conflicts with past pastors. I'd ask that as we move forward you focus on the tasks of the interim process. There isn't need to point fingers about certain items that are still incomplete. The key here is to move forward.

There are five tasks to the interim or transitional process Interim and transitional are two terms that are used interchangeably but they have the same meaning. The tasks are:

Coming to terms with history

Discovering a new identity

Allowing needed leadership change

Renewing denominational ties

Committing to new directions in ministry

All of these are important. I understand that this work has been in process, and I am thankful for your participation, even though at times it has been difficult. I also understand that this work has been especially hard during the pandemic. It is my impression that, for your congregation, coming to terms with history is especially important in gaining an understanding of relationships with past and current pastors. It will also be critical to allow for leadership changes to take place. A new installed pastor will begin with a fresh perspective on the congregation, and it is helpful to have new leaders who share that fresh look. This does not mean that long-time leaders cannot participate or serve in positions of leadership. But this is a time to invigorate your leadership team with new leaders.

At our meeting on the 18th, I heard several concerns about individual issues during our time together. There was a concern about changes to the choir. There was a dispute about

whether Pastor Susan should teach Sunday school. There were concerns that those who have helped with the building are not allowed to use their gifts. There were concerns that some or all the plans made during the New Beginnings process were not implemented. There was also a concern about a decline in worship attendance. I am happy to inform COM of these concerns. I am also happy to read your New Beginnings report and Pastor Susan plans to mail it to me in the next couple of days. While I am happy to take these actions, I need to tell you that it would be inappropriate for COM or for me to serve as the arbitrator or take sides on any of these individual issues. But I do feel it is my role to reflect on your process on handling these kinds of disputes.

Some of you are not going to like these next few comments, but I hope that you will take the time to give them some thought. I was Stated Clerk and sat on COM while your last pastors served you and similar disputes came up. Much like today, there was lots of frustration and lots of finger-pointing. There was an issue about patriotic music, music in general, and the role of the pastor. I am sure there were other issues. You are all aware of the disputes within the congregation today, and I don't need to restate them here. With regards to all these disputes, these are not unusual conflicts for congregations. Why are these so hard to resolve in your congregation? If I were a member of your congregation, I would be less interested in the content of the dispute of the day and more interested in why you can't move past it. In saying this, I am not blaming any group or individual for this problem. I don't believe that blame is constructive for you. I am only asking that you address this obvious communication issue. I would be happy to talk with you further about tools for addressing this issue. I believe you are already working on it with Bob Stains.

Part of my job as Stated Clerk is to take calls from pastors who are interested in serving congregations in the Presbytery of Boston. To move forward, I need to be able to tell prospective pastors that you are making progress with how you relate to one another, how you disagree and move forward, and how you relate to leaders in your congregation. Until I can confidently state that such progress is being made, I cannot in good conscience encourage a potential pastor to serve you. It is not my intention or COM's intention to force the congregation to decline in numbers until no one is left as one member suggested. Neither I, nor COM would ever take that approach. What we are trying to do is help the congregation to function in a healthier way to move forward. Focusing on individual disputes is not the way forward. Focusing on how you deal with those disputes is.

I understand that your first response to this letter may be anger, and I am sympathetic to that. But I am asking that you please take a moment to give it serious consideration. I have listened to you in meetings. I have read your letters. I have had individual conversations. Now, I am asking you to hear me. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope to meet with you again soon.

Peace,

T. J. DeMarco, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Boston



NOTES

October 2022

For most people, the big event in October is Halloween. Masks, costumes and candy!

The connection of Halloween to faith has long since been forgotten. The fact that Pope Gregory III instituted this special observance in the 8th century (the 700s) is a fact lost in the annals of history. It was actually something like a Memorial Day celebration, a time to remember martyrs, the saints (the “hallows” or hallowed ones), and all the dead. It was the night before All Saints’ Day. On All Saints’ Day all saints, especially those who were not canonized but remembered as faithful Christians, were honored in a special service.

At UPCoW, we remember all those we’ve loved and who have died on the first Sunday after All Saints’ Day, which this year is November 6, All Saints’ Day always being observed on November 1, which falls on a Tuesday this year.

The other big October event for Protestants is Reformation Sunday, always the last Sunday in October. It celebrates the beginning of the Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany 95 statements declaring the errors within the Catholic Church, the only organized Christian church at the time. And, indeed, there were many abuses, including the teaching that if people donated money to the church, so that St. Peter’s Basilica could be completed, their loved ones who had died and were in purgatory would be admitted into heaven. Neither purgatory nor the ability to purchase a place in Heaven is remotely sanctioned by the Bible.

Luther never intended to start a whole new Christian tradition. But he did want to bring about a change in the Catholic Church of his day, a change that would bring it back in line with Biblical teaching. Paramount among the Reformers (to include John Calvin and John Knox) were what have become known as the Five Solas, which were sufficient for Christian faith and discipleship. The Five Solas, which are still of primary importance to Protestants, are Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, Scripture Alone, Glory Alone. Together they make a sentence. that says Christians are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

October gives us all a chance to reflect on our Protestant heritage and as we do to reflect on what the Five Solas mean for our personal faith. How true is it for you that your own salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone (faith that is a gift from God), in Christ alone as Christ is revealed by Scripture alone, and that your faith is to the glory of God alone?

Faith is different from religion. Faith has to do with your personal connection to God. Religion has to do with the organized institution through which your faith can be expressed. Religion is a set of doctrines and regulations of polity that govern a particular form of expression. Faith is the deep down connection to God and the role that connection plays in one’s life. Religion is all about form; faith is all about the essence of life that makes religion meaningful.

So how would you express how the Five Solas describe your faith?

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff

~ **October– November** ~

| Ministries | October 9 | October 16 | October 23 | October 30 | November 6 |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Worship Leader | L. Walsh | R. Thomas | J. Finnegan | S. Santora | M. Thomas |
| Greeters | C. Lee | T. Morin | B. Giemza | J. Baker | James D. Baker |
| Ushers | J. Baker | L. Walsh | J. Baker | D. Baker | L. Walsh |
| Sound Board | M. Thomas | M. Thomas | M. Thomas | M. Thomas | G. Giemza |
| Power Point | R. Thomas | K. Remillard | K. Mercer | K. Remillard | M. Thomas |
| Media | J. Tobin | J. Tobin | K. Remillard | J. Tobin | J. Tobin |
| Coffee Fellowship | Jim & Deb | | | Heritage Sunday | |

October Birthday Corner

Laura Joyce 10/2
 Gabe Stone 10/10
 Cindy Frieswyk 10/12
 Robie Sabourin 10/17
 Madison Ireland 10/18
 Jen Schelin 10/27
 Chuck Phoebe 10/31

October Anniversary Corner

Chris & Rena Matchett 10/3
 Chuck & Susan Phoebe 10/4
 Walter & Lois Convent 10/7
 Mike & Joanne Zeis 10/18
 Matt & Kristen Stone 10/23



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

Adult Education 9:00AM - 10:00AM
Morning Worship Service 10:30AM - 11:30AM

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20

Greetings!

I'd like to update the congregation on where I've been and how work has gone for the last few weeks.

Until 25 September, my schedule has required me to start work in Boston at 12:00 on Sundays. The good news is, my new schedule will be 15:30, giving me enough time to participate in church activities again. I have missed my interactions with the church community a lot, and look forward to being able to participate again.

My journey with the TSA started back in March when I went into Boston to take entry testing. Shortly after passing that, the background check began, which cleared just before the first week of August. On the 15th, two weeks of classroom training began. Most of the content of that training I cannot go into, but I can safely describe it as death by power-point. Caffeine was a basic life necessity. At the end of that ordeal, I was happy to be the only one to get an A+ during the lengthy testing that followed.

After the first two weeks, my two weeks of OJT (on-job training) began. My schedule was supposed to go to late PM immediately after, however that was complicated by an incident of COVID19, which took me out of work for most of a week. This pushed my new schedule to the next pay period. However, the good news is, after completing my OJT requirements, I have taken and passed the phase testing. This means I am certified to be an officer for 5 main positions, which I work in a rotation.

Likely sometime at the end of the year, I will be sent to federal law enforcement training, likely either in Glynco GA, Las Vegas, or Dallas. This will certify me for more positions, including those that require xray operation and pat-downs. That will be the final phase, at least for the time being.

The responsibility of the position I'm in, especially with my latest phase certification, is overwhelming at times. Since the TSA's creation after 9/11, there has never been a successful aviation terror attack coming from the US. However, one mistake could make a huge difference. I'm still learning the meaning and impact of what I do every day.

Several days ago, I worked on September 11th, a day where uniform requirements are increased to a tie and long-sleeve shirt, due to the solemn nature of the day for TSA (Ever since then, I've become addicted to wearing a tie at work!). It's a day where the meaning of what we do is even more present. Often we are despised by the people we protect. People are impatient with us, and frequently do not listen. But without us, particularly with the recent heightened risk of extremism, air travel would not be safe.

I appreciate your prayers as I continue to take on the responsibility of protecting the public and air travel. And I look forward to participating in more live-streams and violin music soon!

In love,

Jimmy Tobin

Deacon's Corner (for September 2022)

The Deacon's did not meet in August, but that certainly did not keep them from having a busy month. Besides making a presence in church with our desire to serve the congregation, there are always other things that we continue to do in our repertoire of serving the people.

As Deacon's, we have been able to serve and accomplish several things in the church as well as in the community. We have all taken turns in performing various activities both within and outside of the church. We have a variety of skills where some will take part in the weekly service as worship leaders, collect the weekly offering (and counting it!), or sharing in prayers. We also help with technical assistance, (such as power point operators, etc.) and invite others to join us in various activities within (or outside) the church building.

One favorite activity of the Deacon's is to be able to go out into the community to support our elderly shut-ins and have a nice conversation with them. On communion Sundays we enjoy sharing communion with our shut-ins along with an elder. We share the service of the day along with the communion. There is also plenty of time to share our joys, concerns, and have a nice casual visit with each other. (Of course, this is our favorite activity!) We also try our best to visit anybody that may be in the hospital, but sometimes that is even impossible when situations arise (such as the COVID quarantine!) We do look in other ways to minister to our congregation like we would with family and friends by simply giving them a call.

If anybody in the church would like to enjoy doing a service as fun as this one, please feel free to share and chat with a Deacon. They are listed on the back of our weekly bulletins, or you may call the church office for any assistance in exploring the opportunity to be a Deacon.

Session Highlights

Authorized Rev. Keosaian to preach on October 23.

Authorized the use of the fellowship hall for a children's fun event on October 9 from 4PM to 6PM.

Authorized the use of the fellowship hall for the first week in November for setting up for Homespun Holidays on November 5.

Set communion and counting schedules for November and December.

Faith, Discipleship, Emails, and Text Messages

Over the course of the last couple of years, there has been a growing laxity both within the church and outside of it about how we communicate with each other via email and text message. It may be a sign of the times in the culture in general, but it has no place here at UPCoW. Increasingly there are emails that contain hurtful language, angry outbursts, and disrespectful content. I have received some, and I know several church members have as well.

Such emails are not in accord with professed Christian discipleship. If it is true that “they will know we are Christians by our love,” what do they know about us from these kinds of emails? What does God know about us?

Going forward, please remember that Jesus sees your emails, whether you blind-copy him or not. Please also remember that God knows your thoughts before you utter them. Find a way to communicate the information you need to communicate in a respectful way that reflects Christian love for the recipient(s).

Make a practice of using emails and text messages for communicating factual material not for expressing anger and hostility. Disagreements are not resolved by long email chains.—Pastor Susan

BLACKSTONE VALLEY CROP WALK

This annual fundraising walk will be held on Saturday, October 22nd. **New Starting Location:**The Portico at Village Congregational Church in Whitinsville. Registration will begin at 8:30am with the walk beginning at 9 am. The three mile walk finishes at the Community House in Uxbridge . Light refreshments will be served. Donations can be made online at www.crophungerwalk.org/northbridgema. For more information please contact Tanya Morin.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Please see the Scoop for further details.

Parables of Jesus Greg Keosaian Conference Room Wednesday at 4 PM

Corinthians Austin Reichert ZOOM meeting Sunday at 9 AM

Gospel of John Susan DeHoff Conference Room

Sunday at Noon beginning on 10/2/22



THANK YOU

A big thank you from Pastor Susan to all the new officers for the work you are doing. You are all very dedicated and committed to moving UPCoW forward. Thank you!

A lot of people did a lot of wonderful things for UPCoW this past month! Did anyone notice? If you did something that you wish someone had noticed, think about how that person would appreciate being thanked in the Newsletter as much as you would. Keep a list of people who should be thanked, and share that list with Mark Thomas for the November Newsletter, the Thanksgiving month edition.

A big thank you to everyone who submitted items/photos for inclusion for the newsletter. Due to the length of several articles, photos and the article on prayer have not been included this month but should return next month. Thank you for your patience. The Editor

Kids Fun Night - SAVE THE DATE **For ages 4 - 12**

What: Halloween Arts Festival - wear your costume!

When: October 9, 2022 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Where: United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy

Painting a pumpkin to take home

Decorating a Halloween sack for trick-or-treating

Painting on a canvas with acrylic paints

Cupcake icing and decorating

Surprises!

Please RSVP by calling the church office at (508) 234-8220 or by emailing the church office at whitinpres@gmail.com

Prayers of Praise and Concern

Update on Ronda's mother: Janet Lee is out of the hospital.

Jimmy Tobin and his father, James both tested positive for COVID.

Prayers for Ashley Giezma and her husband who were recently married.

Prayers for the citizens of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth countries and all others who grieve the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Prayers of thanks for Judy's son, John who no longer has Covid.

From Judy Salzberg. Jenny is the 97 year old mother of my neighbor. Lately, Jenny has been in and out of the hospital very often as she encounters one health problem after another.

Bev Keeler asks prayers for a bed at Countryside to open soon. UMASS Medical Center discharged her. She was moved to Brookside Nursing Home in Webster, where she shares a room with 3 other women.

Diana Pedersen has a prayer of thanks that Ken is tolerating the chemo well. But she also asks prayers that this will continue to be the case.

Mike and Laurie ask prayers for Mike, as he fell last weekend and hurt his leg, resulting in a very large, painful bruise. No blood clot yet, so pray that one does not develop.

Keep Marilyn Alling in your prayers, as she was exposed to Covid on Saturday..

Keep Greg Giezma in your prayers as he is recovering at home from pneumonia and Lyme Disease.

Continue to pray for Mallorie Mercer as she studies at the University of Tennessee. Her address is: 1615 Laurel Ave., Apt 602 Knoxville, TN 37906

October 2022



| 30 | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|-----|--|-----|
| 2 9:00 AM Reichert SS, Zoom 10:30 AM Worship Service 11: 45 AM Coffee Fellowship | 3 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting | 4 | 5 5:00 PM Peace of Bread 7 PM Worship | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:00 AM Reichert SS, Zoom 10:30AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Coffee Fellowship 12 –4 pm kid event | 10 | 11 KHMC Meeting 7 PM | 12 5:00 PM Peace of Bread 7:00 PM CGN Meeting | 13 | 14 November Newsletter Submission Deadline | 15 |
| 16 9:00 AM Reichert SS, Zoom 10:30AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Coffee Fellowship | 17 7:00 PM Session Business Meeting | 18 | 19 5:00 PM Peace of Bread 4 pm Parables (Last session) | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:00 AM Reichert SS, Zoom 10:30AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Coffee Fellowship 12:00 PM Bible Study | 24 6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting | 25 | 26 5:00 PM Peace of Bread | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 HERITAGE/ REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Reichert SS, Zoom 10:30AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Coffee Fellowship | 31 | | | | | |



**United Presbyterian
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News of the Church Family from the
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WINE AND CHOCOLATE TASTING-EMERGENCY SHELTER

The Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter is getting ready for our 6th season of helping the homeless in our Valley. Since Covid, we have had to change the way we do things. Instead of using the church buildings, we now have a relationship with the Red Roof Inn in Sutton. We put people in need into a hotel room that gives them a warm bed, a hot shower, and the ability to do laundry. As we work with these people, we have found that they tend to open up to us about their needs. We can then connect them to the necessary services to get them the help they need. We also are working closely with the Northbridge, Uxbridge, Douglas, and soon the Sutton, Upton, and Grafton Police Departments. All the officers say it is a wonderful alternative to be able to give someone in distress an option other than a jail cell. The police are looking to help those in need the same way we are. Now that we are working together, people are finding the help they need. We could use your support. We work strictly by donations and the funds we raise at our annual Wine and Chocolate Tasting. This year it is planned for Saturday, November 19 at 7:00 PM. We would love to have you join us as we share in fellowship while supporting our Shelter. There will be food, auctions, and raffles along with local vendors. Tickets are limited, but you can purchase them on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BVWinetasting>) .Tickets are \$40 each.