

THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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Whitinsville United Presbyterian

Easter Season Sermon Series

April – May 2021

April 11

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: On the Road"

Luke 24:13-32

April 18

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: The Upper Room"

John 20:19-23

April 25

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: The Upper Room II"

John 20:24-29

May 2

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: By the Sea"

John 21:1-14

May 9

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: Galilee"

Matthew:28:16-20

May 16

Sermon: "Sightings of Jesus: Jerusalem"

Acts 1:1-16

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

51 Cottage St. (church) - 7 Spring St. (office), Whitinsville, MA 01588

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Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff E-mail: sldehoff@verizon.net

Office Hours: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Monday & Wednesday

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Thursday & Friday

*The church office is CLOSED on Tuesdays.

In case of emergencies, please call 774-246-6313

**April
2021**

~ April ~

MINISTRIES	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25
Worship Leader	S. Santoro	M. Thomas	R. Thomas	L. Walsh
Song Leader	K. Bilodeau	M. Sabourin	K. Bilodeau	M. Sabourin
Sound Board	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza
Ushers	J. Baker	L. Joyce	G. Giemza	K. Miedema
Power Point	L. Joyce	K. Bilodeau	J. Tobin	N. Redden

April Birthday Corner

Tyler Santoro 4/3
 Elizabeth Kloczkowski 4/23
 Jimmy Tobin 4/10

Anniversaries

John & Carol Pilibosian 4/14

Miss Church?

Watch our Services online
www.whitinpres.org/sermons

Live in Northbridge?

Watch it on Charter Cable
 Channel 191 Wednesday's at
 10 AM (or later).



If the church office doesn't have you/your family's birthday/anniversary information, let your church family celebrate your special days with you. Please call Alice in the office at 508-234-8220 or email the office at office@whitinpres.net so we can include your birthday/anniversary dates in the monthly newsletter.

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

Children's Sunday School/Youth Choir 9:00 AM—10:20 AM
Adult Education 9:30AM - 10:30AM
Morning Worship Service 10:30AM - 11:30AM
Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM

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



April. The mere mention of the name evokes images of flowers, nesting birds, butterflies, warmer days, and new life. After the cold, dark days of winter, when hibernating things showed no sign of life, we greet April with exuberant hope for pleasant days ahead. It's as if we witness the miracle of re-birth in April.

The experience of new life replacing old life is an experience that is common to the human race. Often, though, we are often so relieved that the darkness is past that we fail to sit down and realize what has just happened. We satisfy ourselves with the feeling of relief and never pause to feel what it is like to be given new life.

The experience of new life puts us in mind of resurrection. That's what resurrection is, really: new life that replaces old life; a new form of life that has a plus-ness about it that makes it feel better in some way. Certainly through the eyes of Scripture we see in Jesus' Resurrection a new life that is beyond his old life on earth.

But there are many ways that we experience resurrection throughout our earthly lives that enable us to experience the real-ness of our faith; enable us to *know* that our faith is not just a set of ideas that includes a wonderful life after we die; and that enable us to get a glimpse and just a tiny taste of what that wonderful life will be like.

There are all sorts of accounts in news and social media about people who thought life was lost but then stronger, healthier, happier life came roaring back. I recall the account a pastor once told me about an alcoholic who had tried everything and could not break the addiction. The pastor had told the woman many times about God's love and had showed love for her. Nothing worked until one day, while sitting on the sofa, she said a short prayer: "God if you are real, make me know." Suddenly a feeling of warm love flooded into her, and the desire for alcohol left immediately. The pastor told me that the woman had not had a drink in 10 years, had a good job, and a new life.

Recently I heard a story on news radio about a man, wrongfully convicted of a crime, who had spent more than ten years in prison. New DNA evidence came to light that exonerated him of the crime. He not only walked out of prison a free man; the State awarded him a six-figure sum of money as a way of making some sort of amends, and the man used the money to start a restaurant. He had been able to open a second restaurant, and he felt he had a new life that was far better even than the life he'd had before prison.

Not all resurrection experiences are that dramatic. We all go through dark, stormy, chaotic and confusing times. When such a time ends, we feel the lightness of life and smell the freshness of air that tells us we survived the darkness only to find that life following the experience is even greater. As we reflect on the past twelve months, the challenges of navigating them, the losses we've suffered, and the fears we've faced and then make the glorious change to life in Phase IV and beyond, we realize that life has won.

It is not just that we feel relief in the passing of the pandemic; we experience a freshness about life. We have new life and new beginning. We've learned the importance of looking out after someone else's safety as well as our own. We've learned that sticking together does not require physical closeness. We've learned that we get through such times *because* God has given different gifts to different people, not *despite* the fact that

Continued on page 4

God has given us different gifts.

One thing worth some contemplation is how this new life is different from life as we experienced it before the pandemic. Perhaps there have been some changes within us. How will we live this new life? What are the positive differences in us created by the pandemic that we want to nurture? How might the way we recognize the importance of gifts God gives to other people change the way we interact with people?

Deacon's Corner

This month is one that we can hopefully find some peace after last month's challenges. Between the crazy weather, and people running anywhere they could go to get the new Corona Virus vaccine, March was a very spontaneous and busy month for all of us. As many folks are still waiting to get their vaccine, people are at least looking forward to the new hope that God has provided for us through this whole pandemic.

Looking back, March led us into a new time zone by losing that extra hour of sleep on the 14th when we changed our clocks for the Daylight Savings Time. That was the signal for greeting St. Patrick's Day on March 17, which is pronounced by the Scottish and Irish population. With a blend of these two countries and England in the mix, the Presbyterian faith was created. The church we know now bestows the courage of these people (and probably ancestors for many of our church members) who went through many trials and difficulties to establish the foundation of the Presbyterian Church. This proves that God will move men to create a blessing to all who heed His call of love.

The greatest part of this April is celebrating the life of Christ through his sacrifice of supreme love and life for us on Good Friday (April 2), and his truly unbelievable resurrection on Easter Day (April 4). This is the best day for all mankind to come together in one spirit where we can all give our hearts to Christ Jesus and share our concerns and joys as believers of our faith. Each one of us has a talent that can be shared with love and kindness, which is what our forefathers wanted all along. The sacrifices they made should be the cornerstone of how we treat or help others where we see having needs or difficulties. As elders, deacons, or any other servant of the church, we can share our blessings together as we assist our neighbors with any of the activities and provisions we have. Peace of Bread is a major service that our church provides, and before the pandemic hit us, we also provided a place for the homeless to rest during the bitter cold nights. As the weather warms up, we hope the pandemic to be under control so that we can hold Peace of Music inside the sanctuary so that we can raise our voices to celebrate the love of God and his many blessings for all.

Scholarships

The Ruth P
Marshall
Scholarship and
Youth Excellent
Award
Applications are
available at the
Welcome Center
for the church
office.

The Book Club meets
on the third Friday of
each month via
Zoom. Please contact
Gaye Shannon
@ shannons.jg@gmail.com
to receive the
Zoom invite.

The book for the
month of April
is “*Beyond a Doubt*” by
Colleen Coble.

For May the book is
called “*The
Overcomer*” by Chris
Fabry.

in June the book will
be “*A Piece of the
Moon*” by Chris
Fabry.

Stewardship Season

It’s that time of year again! Time to reflect on the gifts, both financial and personal, that God has given you. It is oft said and always true: God gives us gifts to give to others. God does not give us gifts to hoard for ourselves. Hoarding God’s gifts for ourselves makes us like the Dead Sea into which water flows but out of which it does not flow. The Dead Sea is full of salt – that goes nowhere and accomplishes nothing.

It can be quite easy to sit down with a calculator and add up the financial gifts God has given us; it can be a little harder to identify the personal gifts God has given us. Believe it or not Rev. DeHoff has often encountered people who are fabulous caregivers, yet they don’t recognize in themselves the gifts with caring and compassion! They consider what they do just to be “helping someone out.”

Sometimes we need someone else to help us see gifts for ministry that we have. The variety of gifts that God gives us is endless. There are talents for music, cooking, sewing, and woodworking, for example, and there are gifts for leadership, caregiving, teaching, use of technology, building maintenance, and so much more. Our church needs all of those talents and gifts and more! In the three years Rev. DeHoff has been with us, she has seen God bring into our fellowship a variety of gifts and talents that turned out to be exactly what we were going to need very soon.

Do all of us a favor: observe people you know in the church closely and identify in them gifts God has given them. Help them be aware of the gifts they have and encourage them to share those gifts with the church. Reflect on yourself, the things you like to do, the things you feel you are “good at” and even the things you *wish* you could do better. Both approaches are good ways of identifying gifts and talents God has given you.

God knows what the church needs. God has given it to the church *through you*. Please think about tithing both financial resources and personal resources as we enter the Stewardship Season and move toward Commitment Sunday. Our theme this year is “In Giving We Receive.”

Rev. Dr. DeHoff

Jim Baker, Stewardship Committee Chairman

Stewardship Committee: Susan Mateer, Suzanne Santoro, Mallorie Mercer



Palm Sunday art by Tanya Morin's boyfriend.



Deacon Brandy Giemza with Ruth Hoekstra, after giving Ruth an Easter basket.



Addison and Avery Austin at our Easter Festival.



Kids of our church while on an Easter egg hunt!!



Kids of our church after the Easter egg hunt on the church steps.



Mallorie and Makenzie Mercer looking for hidden eggs during our Easter egg hunt.



The deacons made Easter baskets for all of our shut ins.

We are the Church together. As Presbyterians, we are bound together. Not by culture but by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and neighbor that binds us to one another.

We are united by a deep gratitude for the Spirit - the same Spirit that empowers us to share the love of Christ and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. We are very excited to be apart of the One Great Hour of Sharing during this Lenten season! It has been awhile since we have been apart of this offering. The offering will be taken on Sunday April 25. Many of you may remember the special banks that were provided throughout years past. This year they are fish banks. They are located at the welcome center along with a mission map. On the flip side of the map are activities and reflections for each day. Consider these reflections, and place your gift in the fish bank. Get creative with this and have a special time including family in missions.

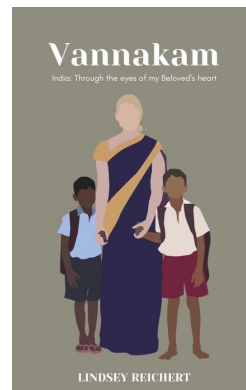


**KATHRYN M. HUSTON MISSION CIRCLE
2020 LOVE GIFTS**

UPCOW Fuel Fund	\$1,000.
UPCOW General Fund	1,000.
Philippine Health Center (Kelso's)	600.
Native American Christian Academy Scholarship	600.
Children's Haven (Inner City and Valley Ministries)	500.
NAC Fuel Fund	500.
Presbyterian Disaster Fund	300.
Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering	250.
Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering	100.
Kathryn M. Huston Scholarship Fund	150.
	\$5,000.

Although the KMHMC Annual Fair had to be cancelled last year because of Covid-19, the Circle received \$5,000 from Marion Boyd's gift to our church making it possible to continue our gifts.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!!!
KATHRYN M. HUSTON MISSION CIRCLE**



Lindsey Reichert is the Student Ministries Interim Director at St. Stephen's Church in Sewickley, Pa and author of "Vannakam." She is from Northbridge, Massachusetts and moved to Pennsylvania for her undergrad at Grove City College. During her four years she majored in Communications, played on the Varsity Women's Soccer team and Women's Club Lacrosse, and joined the Theta Alpha Pi Sorority. Her very first mission trip out of this country was to a most unlikely place, to the country of India. As a RedBox volunteer she went there with the intent of learning more about her communications major doing photo-journalism. She traveled there with two other Grove City College students under the Harvest Bridge mission organization. Lindsey documented her daily life in India in a detailed journal and she has recently published the journal into a book. Lindsey also enjoys reading, Crossfit, spending time with friends and finding new bike trails.

Joys and Concerns

Mark Thomas has a prayer of praise that his brother-in-law is back home with his wife, covid-free.

Tanya Morin has a prayer of praise that Zack earned Top 10 Award during his graduation ceremony from MI training on Feb. 11.

Jim Remillard asks for prayers that the PT he is getting will alleviate the nerve pain in his arms and hands.

Suzanne Santoro asks prayers for her granddaughter, Molly Powers, who in her freshman year at Becker College has learned that Becker will be closing.

Mark Thomas asks for continued prayers as he works toward his 3rd residency for his D. Min., scheduled for the last 2 weeks of May.

Anna Santoro asks prayer for her Dad. He had a wood working accident and two fingers had to be amputated. The surgeon repaired the rest of hand, and prayers that he will regain almost all function with his hand are requested.

Anna also has a prayer of joy after receiving word this week that all her student loans are being forgiven.

Ronda Thomas asks prayers for relief of severe shoulder joint pain.

Laura Joyce asks prayers of thanks that her mother-in-law, who recently had hip replacement surgery, is doing well.

Laura also has a prayer of joy that she was able to visit her new grand-niece.

Ronda Thomas asks prayers that her cousin, who is expecting a baby, will stay healthy and that the baby will be healthy.

Ronda also asks prayers for healing for her shoulder, as the pain took her to urgent care recently.

Eileen Straub asks continued prayers for her husband, Michael, as the leg wounds appear to be healing and the orthopedist believes hip replacement is possible. Prayers for wisdom as decisions about his care and eventual rehab are being made.

Also keep Eileen in your prayers, as working at two churches during Holy Week while needing to address her husband's care needs was extremely stressful.

Jimmy Tobin has a prayer of thanks and praise that he has a new job in sales and marketing.

Gay McCrea asks prayers for her daughter, Heather Therrien, whose husband, Brian, died suddenly last week.

Remember The Homebound and Those in Hospitals, Rehab Centers and Nursing Homes:

Gloria Rauth - Whitney Place, 85 Beaumont Dr., Rm 11, Northbridge, MA 01534

Ruth Hoekstra - Linwood Apartments No. 105, 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Jim Remillard – 20 Fair Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

Nancy Freiswyk – Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center, Beaumont Dr., Room 222, Northbridge, MA 01534

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			5:30 Peace of Bread 7:00 LLC Meeting (virtual)	1	2	3 8:00 Final Lenten Devotional 10:00 Easter Festival
4 Easter Sunday 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:30pm PNC Meetings 12:30 PM PNC Meeting	5 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	6 7:00 Worship Committee (virtual)	7 5:30 Peace of Bread	8	9	10
11 8:45 Junior Church 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Sunday school and UPCOW chorus 10:30 Worship Service 12:30pm PNC Meetings 5:00 Personnel Meetings	12 7:30 PM Trustee Meeting (hybrid)	13 7:00 LLC Meeting	14 5:30 Peace of Bread 7:00 CGN Meeting	15	16	17
18 9:30 Adult Sunday School (virtual) 9:30 Reformed Spirituality Course 10:30 Live Service 12:30 PM PNC Meeting	19 7:00 PM Session Meeting (hybrid)	20	21 5:30 Peace of Bread 7:00 LLC Meeting (virtual)	22	23	24
25 9:30 Adult Sunday School (virtual) 9:30 Reformed Spirituality Course 10:30 Live Service	26 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting (virtual)	27	28 5:30 Peace of Bread 7:00 LLC Meeting (virtual)	29	30	



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Church of Whitinsville

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