

# THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

## Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Everyone is asking “how’s it going on the Pastor Nominating Committee?” We can tell you that it is going very well. What we can’t tell you is specifics. The committee is reviewing PIFs (which is the acronym for Pastor Information Form.) We are diligently going over each and every one that is being sent to us – looking for the perfect match. The way it works in the Presbyterian system is that we (our church) are put into a system that matches us with potential candidates. It’s like using Indeed to look for a new employee. The pastors don’t know we are looking at their PIFs unless we reach out to them with questions or clarifications. Once we find a candidate that we would like to pursue, they are contacted and an interview is set up. We have not reached that point with any of the candidates but are hoping we do so very soon. We, on the committee, are trusting in God to lead us through this process and leaning into Him knowing that He is in total control. We ask that you keep each of us on the committee in your prayers, daily.

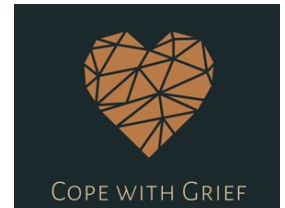
## GRIEF SEMINAR

February 14 – March 21, 2021

In the last 11 months, there has been a lot of loss. Certainly we have experienced loss through the death of acquaintances, friends, and loved ones. But loss is not limited to death. God created us to form attachments, and we do that as we attach not only to other people but also to jobs, homes, dreams, institutions, and a way of living. Grief has a cumulative effect.

There are many losses and griefs in this life. Grief is experienced both psychologically and spiritually. To offer help in understanding the way we experience grief in those two dimensions, Rev. Dr. DeHoff will lead a six-part seminar beginning on February 14 from 3:00 to 4:00. The seminar will be a hybrid of in-person and zoom.

The first three sessions focus on the psychological ramifications of grief and the final three on the spiritual ramifications of grief from a Christian perspective. If you would like more information about the seminar or would like to participate in it, please contact Rev. DeHoff at [sldehoff@verizon.net](mailto:sldehoff@verizon.net).



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## The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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

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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

**February**  
**2021**

**~ February ~**

<b>MINISTRIES</b>	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28	March 7
<b>Worship Leader</b>	M. Thomas	L. Walsh	R. Thomas	S. Santoro	C. Matchett
<b>Song Leader</b>	K. Bilodeau	M. Sabourin	K. Bilodeau	M. Sabourin	K. Bilodeau
<b>Ushers</b>	L. Walsh	J. Baker	G. Giemza	B. Giemza	K. Miedema
<b>Sound Board</b>	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas
<b>Power Point</b>	N. Redden	K. Bilodeau	J. Tobin	L. Joyce	R. Thomas

*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
Nicholas Joyce	2/28



Let your church family celebrate your special days with you. If the church office doesn't have you/ your family's birthday/anniversary information Please call 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\*\***

- 8:45 AM - Jr. Church—Zoom  
 - 9:30 AM - Sunday School—Zoom  
 - 9:40 AM - Children's S.S. & UPCoW Chorus  
**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*



Frazzled and frayed. My hunch is those two adjectives describe most of us at one time or another, but I also have a hunch they describe most of us a bit more often these days. Several people have commented that family members and/or friends have become much angrier of late, ready at a moment's notice to bite off someone's head. After hearing one person tell about her mother's growing tendency to lash out over little things, I commented that, given all the life challenges she was facing not just due to COVID, I wanted to say for her, "Stop making my life more difficult!!"

I suspect we all need to say that from time to time, and the reality is that where the buck stops with all that's making our life more difficult is with God. We think of God as being the one who can heal everything and make everything turn out right. God is not doing that at the moment to the extent that we feel is appropriate to the times. A lot of people are afraid to get angry at God and tell him so!

There is nothing wrong with expressing anger at God! God doesn't hit someone with a bolt of lightning for expressing anger. Anger is an honest emotion, and it has a place in any relationship. Stating anger is one way to be honest about feelings. It is also a way to resolve a misunderstanding or to find a path to reconciliation. Anger held inside and *not* expressed drives a wedge between person and person and between person and God. As the anger simmers, the angry person moves further away from the one who is the cause of the anger, and that significantly harms the relationship.

It is not unheard of that a person expresses extreme anger with God – over an illness, the loss of a loved one, a crushing financial misfortune, or some other catastrophic turn of events. Interestingly, once the anger is pushed (or pressed!) outside, there is room for God to reveal deep caring; the redemption to be found in the turn of events; and a new path forward.

Ephesians 4:26 says, "Be angry but sin not." It does not say, "Never be angry." Christians can and do become angry at God, but to do so and sin not requires faith. Being angry and sinning is when anger hurts or destroys someone or something. Being angry and sinning happens when, out of anger, a person suddenly and permanently ends a relationship. And being angry and holding it in so that psychological and/or spiritual harm to oneself happens also connects anger with sin.

So have a conversation with God about what makes you angry. Explain why the situation calls for anger. Be honest about feeling betrayed, if you feel that way. Be honest about the depth of pain due to a loss and the utter disappointment that God did not prevent the loss. Be honest with God about feeling unfairly overwhelmed by too many difficult circumstances at coming simultaneously.

And when the anger is finally all pressed out (ex – pressed!), wait and listen for the still, small voice that unties all the knots and shines a light on the path forward.



Women's Book Club for February will be Friday, February 19th at 6:30 pm via zoom. They will be discussing "Beneath Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan

### **NEW SATURDAY MORNING LENTEN SERIES: THE WAY TO SHALOM**

We invite you to participate in a Lenten journey to peace and wholeness this Lenten season on Saturday mornings beginning @ 8:30 a.m. via Zoom on Saturday, February 20 and wrapping up the Saturday before Easter, April 3, 2021.

Using a devotional series provided through the Presbyterian Mission website, during this season of Lent, we will be invited to reflect upon the gift of *shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace.

The devotional series is available through the Presbyterian Mission website,

[https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/?](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2021+Lenten+Devotional+from+Presbyterians+Today&utm_campaign=Presbyterians+Today+-+January+2021+Newsletter)

[utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=2021+Lenten+Devotional+from+Presbyterians+Today&utm\\_campaign=Presbyterians+Today+-+January+2021+Newsletter.](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2021+Lenten+Devotional+from+Presbyterians+Today&utm_campaign=Presbyterians+Today+-+January+2021+Newsletter)

The series will be co-facilitated by Gaye Shannon and Leslie Reichert and each Saturday morning we will discuss the daily devotionals that will be covering the many definitions of shalom. We will be opening up our hearts to receive whatever message the Spirit is eager to give us during this season of walking with the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

To join us or if you have any questions, please email Gaye Shannon @ [shannons.jg@gmail.com](mailto:shannons.jg@gmail.com) to receive your Zoom invitation.



Ruth Hoekstra and Ruth with her car Danali



Children's Sunday School/UPCoW Chorus



Laura Joyce's nieces new daughter, Kiernyn Dawn Covington, born Dec 24

### WCS Job Posting

Elementary STEM Teacher – WCS has an immediate opening for a part-time STEM teacher for 3rd and 4th grade science/social studies, technology classes, and Outdoor Ed classes. This position also consists of teaching Kindergarten PE. The best candidate for this position will have a bachelor's degree in education and experience teaching, along with a passion for STEM subjects. To learn more or submit a resume, please contact Sarah Bowler, Elementary Principal, at [sbowler@whitinsvillechristian.org](mailto:sbowler@whitinsvillechristian.org).

## Deacon's Corner

It is so hard to believe that February is here already! It seems like Christmas happened only yesterday and we are now here in a new month already. Each month has been filled with separate highlights that bring out many different challenges that have given us new reasons to reach out, also.

Looking back, December was filled with joy as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. Amid the turmoil of the Covid-Virus pandemic, we were able to reach out to others during the true "reason of the season." In the giving of our gifts to others, we were able to exemplify God's gift to all: the joy in giving to others, whether it was by a card, or a special kindness towards another person. Christmas traditions also exemplify special meanings for many. For those who always watch the ever-lasting Charlie Brown Christmas special on TV, who can ever forget Charlie Brown's moods starting out with disinterest and depression and finally finding the joy of Christmas? This source of joy is exactly what we needed for a new year, with the hope of better things to come in 2021.

January had its share of confusion and conflicts during the last few days before the inauguration of a new president. Every person in our country was viewing all sorts of unbelievable actions on TV that showed more than enough despair and conflicts that should never have happened. Our only hope has been praying for our country and the ways we can overcome such adversity. As Christians we all need to pray for our new leaders and hope that they can bring us back to a more civilized world filled with peace and hope, and leaning towards love to others.

February brings us to a new month that should bring out that love when we acknowledge Valentine's Day. Valentine was an actual figure who is regarded as the patron of love. He lost his life by refusing to renounce his faith, but before he died, he sent a loving note to a child that he had been helping to teach. This child happened to be the daughter of Valentine's jailor. This note eventually extended into the tradition of sending Valentine cards to those we love. What a loving sacrifice Valentine extended to all mankind! This is the exact reason we want to share this kind of love to all, and whether you are a deacon, elder, pastor, or have any other position in your faith, may all these gifts of joy, peace and love be extended to all!

### Outreach and Mission News

UPCoW contributes to a number of both local and global missions. The Outreach & Mission Committee is reserving a spot in the Newsletter for the next few months to share information about the various missions our church supports. This month the focus is on local missions, specifically the missions supported by the Presbytery of Boston.

We contribute a small amount to the Presbytery of Boston to support its mission emphasis. The Presbytery supports a number of missions, two important ones being Church on the Common and the establishment of churches founded by immigrant communities.

Church on the Common, also known as Common Cathedral, is a weekly worship service held on Boston Common for the homeless. Homeless people in Boston have created a faith community through this ministry, with the same people coming regularly. The director is Amanda Grant-Rose, a member of Fourth Presbyterian Church and the daughter of a Presbyterian minister.

Another mission focus of the Presbytery is helping immigrant communities establish their own churches in and around Boston. These churches start out as faith communities under the Presbytery's guidance. Sometimes they meet at other Presbyterian churches when there is not another worship service in progress, and sometimes they find other locations to meet. They receive financial assistance from the Presbytery to support them until they can become self-supporting. Presbytery has voted for several such fellowships, including Ghanaian, Brazilian, and Puerto Rican Fellowships, to be accepted into the Presbytery as new churches.

Other missions supported by the Presbytery are local adult care ministries, ministries to the homeless, youth ministries, inner city gospel programs (such as the Emmanuel Gospel Center), various care ministries, immigrant ministries, and overseas missions. Churches such as UPCoW are free to send contributions dedicated to a particular ministry and to send contributions that are undesignated, to be used where the Presbytery finds the greatest need. We currently send undesignated contributions as part of our overall missions giving.



Susan Mateer asks prayers for Beth Hendrickson, who fell this week, broke her shoulder and sustained cuts and bruises on her face.

Lynne Walsh asks prayers for her family as they grieve the loss of her father-in-law in MS.

Keep Jean Finnegan in your prayers for the next few days, as her housekeeper has tested positive for COVID, and Jean had contact with her. Jean is quarantining still for the next few days.

We keep Mark Thomas as and his family in our prayers, as him mother died on Thurs. afternoon.

Mark also asks prayers for his brother-in-law who is in ICU with COVID.

Suzanne Santoro asks prayers for college students whose friends test positive. We also want to keep all our college students in our prayers, praying for their continued safety during the pandemic.

Please keep Henry Baker in your prayers, as he is now in hospice care due to pancreatic cancer that has metastasized.

We keep Alice in our prayers as she accepts a very good opportunity to work at another church. Also pray for the Personnel Committee, as we seek to find the person God has called to take up the Administrative Assistant job.

Please keep Susan LaMar in your prayers for peace and comfort, as her husband, Jack, died this past Thursday.

Marilyn Alling has a prayer of thanks that her son, Chris, is recovering well from COVID and is back to work as a veterinary resident.

We keep Leona Cook's family in our prayers as they mourn her loss due to COVID.

Alice Legg asks prayers for Cliff and Darlene, two very close friends. Cliff is in the hospital with covid pneumonia, and Darlene is quarantining at home. Cliff has needed a blood transfusion, but the cause of blood loss is not yet known. Pray for healing, peace and comfort.

Mark Thomas asks prayers for the husband of one of his sisters, Kevin, who has covid pneumonia and has been moved to ICU. He has not been responded to medical interventions.

We all ask God to bless our nation with healing.

Please keep Linda and Bill Skillen in your prayers as Linda's brother, Robert, died suddenly and unexpectedly on Christmas Eve.

Judy Salzberg asks prayer for Bob Fontaine and his family. His wife, Edna, passed away on Christmas Day after an illness of about 3 months.

Austin Reichert asks prayers for good health and vitality for his mother, Trudy.

We need to keep Harriet and Bob Platt in our prayers for improved health, They have had one of the worst years I've ever known anyone to have, so also prayers for strength and encouragement.

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

**Anne MacLeod** - Cottonmill Apartments #202, 17 Douglas Rd, Whitinsville, MA 01588

# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM Session Prayer Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 Lay Leadership Committee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Bible Study(Zoom)	<b>8</b> 7:30 PM Trustee Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM Officer Training Meeting	<b>10</b> 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 CG&N Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:40 Children's SS/IPCOW Chorus 10:30 Worship Service 3-4 PM Grief Seminar	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Session Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:00 Peace of Bread 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Virtual Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM Lenten Devotional Series
<b>21</b> 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Bible Study(Zoom) 3-4 PM Grief Seminar	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00 Peace of Bread	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM Lenten Devotional Series
<b>28</b> 8:45 Jr. Church (Zoom) 9:30 Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 9:40 Children's SS/IPCOW Chorus 10:30 Worship Service 3-4 PM Grief Seminar						



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## FAREWELL

It is with some sadness that I am ending my position at United Presbyterian Church. I had been told of an opportunity for Full Time Office Manager at Valley Chapel in which I first ignored. A few weeks later I was told about the opportunity by several more people. I was not looking for a job and was hesitant to apply but felt God was obviously trying to get my attention. This will be a wonderful opportunity for me and I am very excited to be heading on a new adventure. I have made good friends with many at UPCW and hope to continue those relationships outside of work.

Praying many blessings to UPCoW

Alice Legg

It is with a certain amount of sadness that we say farewell to Alice Legg, our Administrative Assistant. Alice has been with us for six years, and we have all grown to love her and to count on her. In the three years I have been at the church, I have learned that anything I need done – or need to learn how to do – all I need to do is ask Alice! We have worked together, laughed together, and stressed over deadlines together. Many church members have experienced Alice's gracious smile and genuine interest as you've walked into the office. That above all else makes the church office an inviting place. God has called Alice to another wonderful opportunity, and we all give her a warm send-off with well-wishes. She will remain in our hearts, on our prayer lists – and in my phone and email directories! Godspeed, Alice!!



Peace! Hope!! Joy!!! Love!!!!

Pastor Susan