

# THE NEW COVENANT



News of the Family from The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville

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## RALLY DAY!!

**September 11 is our Rally Day kick off!**

This is the opportunity to put time and talents together and join with each other in service to grow the body of Christ. We will have information about our committees (Christian Growth and Nurture; Food, Fun & Fellowship; Katherine M Huston Mission Circle; Memorial Funds, Outreach and Evangelism, Scholarship; Stewardship; and Worship) and how you can use your gifts and talents to further God's work here at home, locally and globally.

Sunday School & Junior Church will start on September 18<sup>th</sup>. This year Sunday School and Junior church have a new Registration procedure. The information packet for the new procedure will be available for parents after the service on Rally Day or from the teachers. The forms in the packet must be filled out & returned to the teacher before children can attend class. Stay tuned to hear what small groups will be starting up. We will also offer a blessing of the backpacks on Rally Day on September 11<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WANTED!!**

Please contact Lynne Walsh or Suzanne Santoro for more information.

#### **The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville**

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

Phone: 508.234.8220

Website: [www.whitinpres.org](http://www.whitinpres.org)

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Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff: [sldehoff@verizon.net](mailto:sldehoff@verizon.net)

Office Hours: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Friday

\*The church office is CLOSED on Thursdays

## September

## 2022

~ September ~

<b>Ministries</b>	Sept. 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25	Oct 2.
<b>Worship Leader</b>	L. Walsh	S. Santoro	M. Alling	J. Finnegan	R. Thomas
<b>Greeters</b>	D. Baker	B. Giemza	T. Morin	D. Baker	James D. Baker
<b>Ushers</b>	J. Baker	L. Walsh	J. Baker	L. Walsh	B. Giemza
<b>Sound Board</b>	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
<b>Power Point</b>	R. Thomas	K. Remillard	R. Thomas	J. Tobin	K. Mercer
<b>Media</b>	J. Tobin	J. Tobin	K. Remillard	J. Tobin	J. Tobin
<b>Lemonade on the Lawn</b>	K. Mercer	Rally Day			

Your service is very important. If you cannot serve on the date listed, please switch with another person *and* inform the Administrative Assistant of the change.

**HELP WANTED!!**

If you can help out in any of the Sunday leadership roles (listed above) please notify Jim Baker, Chair of the Worship Committee, or the Church's Administrative Assistant.

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

**Morning Worship Service      10:30AM - 11:30AM (in Sanctuary and online)**

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

# NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

SEPTEMBER 2022

Among the authors from whom I select reading material for beach devotions, Watchman Nee ranks near the top of the list. This year, before I left for Jekyll Island, I purchased *Twelve Baskets Full*, volume one. Someone, thankfully, took the trouble of preserving notes from Nee's many spoken presentations, and published them in three volumes. The title of this set comes from the feeding of the multitude, which generated 12 baskets full of leftover fragments. While I'm not sure calling these books "leftovers" from Nee's ministry (which sadly ended in a Chinese prison because he would not recant his Christian faith), I find this collection of messages, which could resemble a collection of sermons, to be a wonderful gift.

I don't know if it is true of all pastors, but it is true for this pastor that even on vacation, the church is never far from thoughts and prayers. I suppose that is why the devotions I read each morning often seem pertinent to "the church back home." Such was the case with the opening chapter, titled "The Flow of the Spirit." Here is the first paragraph:

*There is a flow. Before God, we call it the "flow of the Spirit." In every age, God saw to it that this flow was not interrupted, that it was always progressing. The flow of the Spirit is progressing in the churches today. Some time ago I was reading a compilation of Wesley's messages. I thank God because I see that today the flow of the Spirit has moved onward. If today you should look back and examine Wesley, you would realize that their work before God was tremendously great and that perhaps our living cannot even match theirs. But today the flow of the Spirit is still moving on progressively. (1991, p. 7)*

Looking back at the history of the Christian Church, even if we look back only as far as the Reformation, we can see that the flow of the Spirit has, indeed, moved forward steadily and undeterred over the course of the centuries. And it always moves forward, never backward.

It isn't a case of the message changing as society and culture change. And Nee does not imply that human beings are responsible for changes that produce forward momentum. Were we to understand the flow of the Spirit that way, we would paint a clear image of a tail wagging a dog.

Continued on the next page

God's way progresses through people through whom God can work. Part way through that first chapter, Nee poses a challenging, and perhaps disturbing, question: "Today, is God's way progressing out through us or through somebody else?" He answers that question saying, "This is what I call the authority of the Holy Spirit. If we have failed, the second step of the Holy Spirit is surely to get Himself out through somebody else" (pp. 11, 12). Each person who identifies as a child of God must prayerfully answer Nee's question with honesty that can come only through the inner working of the Holy Spirit.

In our time, little is said about discernment and its importance. Nee's question – and perhaps especially his answer – highlights the need for discernment for all of God's people. There are many things we need to discern in this life, but the one most important thing we must discern is whose voice we pay attention to: our own or the Spirit's. That is the toughest discernment to make, and yet not making it can derail the work of God and cause God to go call someone else to the task God had intended for us.

As we once again begin our forward movement into a new church year, let us resolve to pray less that God would grant what we ask and pray more that God would enable us to know the difference between our own inner voice and the inner voice of the Holy Spirit. We are moving forward, as that is the only direction God's church can move. But hearing our own voice telling us the path to take will land us where God would not have us go. Hearing God's voice, the church will follow the path God has already laid out.

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff

## **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](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/northbridgema). For more information please contact Tanya Morin.

## ***Deacon's Corner for September 2022—***

The Deacon's last met on July 25, 2021 and had a very productive and fun night. The meeting was opened with a nice prayer from Jean Finnegan. The agenda for the night provided some interesting new business after an amendment to last meeting notes and the report from the Treasurer, which included a brief discussion on the on the payment of flowers sent to a member of the church.

The agenda provided covered quite a variety of topics which involved the following items:

- Creating a schedule for serving communion through December
- Reviewed our Collection Training Schedule (for the offerings)\
- Discussed the need for a place to keep member's emergency contact cards which will be in a secured box.(Keys will be available to Greg, but one will also be placed in a secure area.) Supplies for a First Aid kit will also be available on top of the refrigerator in the gathering area (at the back of the sanctuary)
- CPR Training is highly desired by the deacon's and Gay McCrea will contact a local senior center for a possible class to be held. Pastor Susan is also going to contact somebody who could hopefully teach a class at the church, as everyone on the committee is highly interested.
- As caregivers to some of our members of the church, everyone shared updates of their visits and how things were going for the person they visited with. Prayers were offered for health and comfort to them.
- For the coming year, Care Giver "assignments" were made where Brandy, Gay, Carol, and Debbie can attend to a member of the church. Two other members will be attending in accordance to their desires.
- Card Ministry Updates: Although we have a strong body of Deacons (and others) wishing to send cards, it was acknowledged that we need updates on birthdays as well as any other events that might be a nice note (or gesture) to someone special. (i.e. weddings, new job, etc.) Ronda continues to supply cards when she can to keep this ministry going. More cards would be welcome if someone wants to share a few.

The meeting ended with shared concerns and joys followed by a closing prayer from Gaye.

*Ronda Thomas*, Secretary

## Church Family News



**Gay McCrea riding on the Council of Aging float in the recent Northbridge parade.**



**Tanya Morin spending part of her summer vacation in the Monument Mountains.**

# **JIMMY AND DEBBIE HAVE THEIR FIRST GREAT-GRAND CHILD**



Thea Rose Pontbriand was born on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 4:07 AM

Weight: 6 pounds, 8 ounces Length: 21 inches

Parents: Tina and Matthew Pontbriand

Tina is Jim and Debbie's grand-daughter



Left to Right:

Jimmy, Thea, Tina, Debbie



Left to Right:

Debbie, Thea, Jimmy

## *What is prayer?*

EDITOR'S NOTE (This will be continued in the next newsletter)

Sunday, June 26, 2023 was hot inside the church. The fans stirred the air, providing some relief to the congregation. The service proceeded smoothly until two-thirds of the way through Pastors Susan's sermon, she stopped preaching and everyone turned toward the back of the sanctuary where an elderly member of the congregation had fainted. First aid was administered and the local EMT's were called and the woman was taken to a local hospital.

Then, many in the congregation offered prayers for our friend. For most of us, that is our typical prayer, asking God to aid an individual who has presently or will soon experience difficulties. But, is this the only kind of prayer?

## *Congregational Meeting*

A congregational meeting has been called by Session on Sunday, September 18th at 11:45 AM for the purpose of allowing the congregation to ask questions of a Presbytery representative. Topics will include: 1) Rev. DeHoff's contract renewal and 2) the restarting of the Pastor Nominating Committee. The congregation also needs to approve the June 27, 2021 minutes of a congregational meeting that was missed at this year's annual meeting.



## Joys and Concerns

- Carol Pilibosian asks prayers for her Mom, who is finding the nights to be rather difficult in her new location.
- Please keep Eileen's husband, Michael, in your prayers as he continues to be unable to have the much needed hip replacement surgery because wounds on his legs are not healing.
- Kimberly Mercer asks for prayers for her Aunt Kristen's daughter Madison, who is handicapped, she fell late Saturday night on 7/30/22 while on a trip to New Hampshire. She broke her hip, pelvis, and tibia. On Sunday 7/31/22 she was brought into emergency surgery to repair the breaks at Boston Children's hospital.
- Bev remains in the hospital awaiting a room to open up in a rehab facility
- From Mary Spalton: I am asking prayers for my brother-in-law's sister Susan Burger. She will begin a clinical trial for cancer treatment, at this time all treatments have not been working.
- Prayers of joy for Jim and Debbie Baker who became great-grandparents with the birth of Thea Rose Pontbriand on August 23, 2022 at 4:07 am. Thea weighed in 6 pounds 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. The parents are: Tina and Matthew Pontbriand. Tina is Jim and Debbie's granddaughter.
- Keep Mark Thomas in your prayers as he begins a seminary course on Medieval Spirituality at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary after Labor Day. This course is part of Mark's D. Min. studies at the seminary.
- Prayers are needed for Ronda Thomas's mother, Janet Lee, who fell and had to go to a local hospital in northwest Ohio. Janet was admitted to the hospital due to issues with her medications. Janet also discovered that she has COVID. As of Friday she was still in the hospital.
- Prayers are also needed for Ronda's brother, Jim Lee who disturbed a hive of bees while moving hay Jim was stung many times and had to seek treatment for the bee stings at a local hospital.
- Prayers are also needed for John Salzberg, Judy's son who just tested positive for COVID.

### **Remember Those in Hospitals, Rehab Centers and Nursing Homes:**

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

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

Anne MacLeod - Lydia Taft Rehabilitation, Room #26A Quaker Highway, Uxbridge, MA 0569

Bernard Koerten-2 Chestnut Street, Apt 102, Whitinsville, MA 01588

## September Birthday Corner

Corine Shannon	9/3
Lily Bilodeau	9/10
Christopher Szajna	9/16
Danielle Redden Blacksten	9/17
Jason Morin	9/20
Mike Zeis	9/22
Jean Finnegan	9/25
Corey Matchett	9/26
Diana Pedersen	9/27



## September Anniversary Corner

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 Mark in the office at 508-234-8220 or email the office at [whitinpres.@gmail.com](mailto:whitinpres.@gmail.com) so we can include your birthday/anniversary dates in the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletter.

## THANK YOU'S

A big thank you to Mallorie Mercer for keeping the church office operating smoothly after our former Administrative Assistant, Erin Howard, left for another position last spring. We miss her bubbly personality in the office and all the hard work it takes to keep the office functioning properly.

# September 2022



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5:30 AM Worship Service	6:30 PM Session Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM Peace of Bread	8:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	9:00 PM CGN Meeting	10:00 PM October Newsletter Submission Deadline
	11:45 AM Lemonade on the Lawn					
11	<b>Rally Day</b>	13	14	15	16	17
	10:30 AM Worship Service		5:00 PM Peace of Bread			
			7:00 PM KMHMC Meeting			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 AM Worship Service	6:30 PM Session Business Meeting		5:00 PM Peace of Bread			
11:45 AM Congregational Meeting						
25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
10:30 AM Worship Service	6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting		5:00 PM Peace of Bread			
11:45 AM Lemonade on the Lawn						



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Church of Whitinsville**

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News of the Church Family from the  
United Presbyterian Church at  
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**INTERESTED IN THE PARABLES?**

Rev. Greg Keosaian, a retired Presbyterian minister will be leading a 6 week series on the parables beginning in September. For further information please check your weekly Scoop.