

THE NEW COVENANT



News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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TESTIMONY

As many of you know, I had been searching for another teaching job since last fall. Working year-round till 6pm was not conducive to my new marriage or my busy schedule of church meetings and social gatherings. After each lead fell through, I became more discouraged, feeling like no one wanted me and was ready to just give up.

Then I remembered God does have a plan for me so I began praying more than I usually do. I switched my thoughts from what "I" wanted, to where God wanted me to be. I begged to be led to a place where I could speak freely about Him to other believers. It felt good to get one on one with God.

As the summer drew to an end and a new school year approached, I had nothing lined up but knew I needed to make a change. I talked it over with my husband and figured I would just work at a grocery store if no school position was available. After telling my boss months ago that I was not going to be there in September, I took a HUGE leap of faith in August and gave my 2 week notice with NO job in place!!! Talk about scary!!

A week goes by, then my oldest, Zachary, calls to inform me of an opening at Our Lady of the Valley School in Uxbridge. He attends Mass at St Mary's and is on their email list. I quickly sent a letter of interest, got a reply back the next day, had an interview a few days later and was offered the job a few hours later.....literally 2 days before my last shift ended. What a whirlwind!! AND to top it all off, the teacher I am working with, is Ken's cousin!!

And his other cousin works there too! Just finished my first 2 weeks there and it has been the most amazing job I have ever had. I am so content to be there, praying every day that this dream job never ends! So when you are at a crossroads, keep God in your heart and don't be afraid to take a detour to the road less traveled. It just might be the best choice you ever make. I am living proof that GOD PROVIDES!!!!

Tanya Remillard

Oct. 2024

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1-5 PM; Tuesdays and Friday 8 AM-Noon

The church office is CLOSED on Thursdays

~ OCTOBER 2024 ~

	Oct 6	Oct 13	Oct 20	Oct 27	Nov 4
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	M. Alling	M. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh
Greeter	C. Lee	B. Candalino	T. Remillard	B. Candalino	C. Lee
Sound Board	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	M. Thomas	M. Thomas	M. Thomas
Power Point	T. Remillard	T. Remillard	T. Remillard	T. Remillard	T. Remillard
Media	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard
Coffee Hour	M. Thomas	T. Remillard	L. Waslsh	T. Remillard	G McCrea
Junior Church	C. Pilibosian	L. Walsh	S. Santoro	C. Pilibosian	TBD
Counters	C. Pilibosian J. Bakerr	L. Walsh C. Pilibosian	K. Remillard M. Sabourin	T. Remillard J. Baker	L. Walsh K. Remillard



BIRTHDAYS

October

Laura Joyce 10/2

Dawson Bissonnette 10/10

Robie Sabourin 10/17

ANNIVERSARIES

October

Walter and Lois Convent 10/7

Mike and Joanna Zeis 10/18

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Morning Worship Service	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Coffee Fellowship	11:30 AM
Adult Bible Study (in person)	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



One of the interesting things about Paul's letters to the churches in the first century is the glimpse we get into what they were like. For example, we know they were small and that meetings were held in the homes of the pastors. We also know that some churches had husband and wife as co-pastors (Priscilla and Aquila). Paul's letters make it clear that each church had its challenges and, for that matter, that Paul had *his* challenges keeping the churches he founded on the right track. Being the church has never been easy!

As I did research for my upcoming Bible study on Paul's letter to the church in Galatia, I began wondering what Paul's observations about our church would be. One of his primary concerns was that the churches believe and teach the message of Christ, not a manmade message that suits current culture. That was a major problem for the churches at Galatia and Corinth.

I think if Paul were to visit UPCoW, he would be pleased that the gospel message of Christ is preached and believed, most especially that salvation is by faith in Christ not by any "good" works that you do. I also think the Reformers: Luther, Calvin, and Knox, would also be pleased with the message that UPCoW speaks to the surrounding community. What you do you do in the name of and for the sake of Christ.

In Corinth Paul found a church mired in disagreeing factions. They couldn't agree on a common leader. Some followed Paul while others followed Apollos or Peter. A few apparently followed Christ. Paul reminded them that *Christ* was the one to be followed. Were Paul to visit UPCoW, I think he might notice some factions, although I don't think he'd notice them in a pronounced way anymore. He might notice some disagreement over who has what authority, and I am sure he would remind us all that Christ is the ultimate authority in the church and that others who are given authority are given that authority by Christ according to his call to them.

One of the biggest problems that Paul encountered in several churches was the problem of outside groups causing problems for those in the church, Judaizers being the greatest problem. People on the fringes kept sowing seeds of discord and doubt: the people shouldn't be listening to Paul; they should be following Jewish laws in order to be true Christians; Gentiles should become Jews first and then Christians; to be a true Christian one should speak in tongues. And on and on it went. These outside groups were the equivalent of modern day hecklers, interested only in their own ideas and making people follow their dictates. Anyone who didn't follow them was just plain wrong. And according to them, they knew better than Paul, who was just simply wrong – especially for not following *their* directives.

If Paul were to visit UPCoW, would he find you having to deal with hecklers? I think to some extent he likely would. I think he might find that there are those on the fringe who have their own ideas about what the church should do and be like, regardless of the discernment process those active in the church are carrying out and their determination to follow the way they discern God leading.

Were Paul to write you a letter while continuing his journey to visit other churches, I do not think it would have a scolding tone, as so many of his letters to the early churches had. I think he would commend you for your faithfulness to Christ and for your prayerful discernment of God's plan. And contrary to his letter to the Galatians, in which he did not give thanks for them, I think Paul would likely include a statement of thanks like he gave to the church in Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (1:3-6, NRSV).

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff

SEPTEMBER 2024
DEACON MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Deacons will provide 4 Thanksgiving Baskets.
- Deacons received reports about care receivers from the Deacon and Pastor care givers
- The next Deacon's Fund will be collected on Sunday, October 13th.
- Prayer Concerns/Joys were shared.

THANK YOU CORNER!!

Thank you to Mike Sabourin and Jason Mercer for grilling the hamburgers for the Rally Day Cookout. Delicious!!

Thank you to all who prepared food for Rally Day and to Marilyn Alling, Gay McCrea, Kimberly Mercer, Lynne Walsh for helping with setting out the food, serving and cleaning up.

Thanks to Lynne Walsh for creating an outdoor sign for the Blessing of the Animals service.

A round of applause for Ken Remillard for spearheading the work on the new website for the church. It is up and running and already making the community aware of coming events.

Thank you to Mike Sabourin for cleaning up the Gathering Area. Now guests can enjoy sitting and visiting during Coffee Hour without feeling like they are sitting in a storage room!!

A special thank you to the choir for singing for the Blessing of the Animals service..

THANK YOU!!!

Prayers of Praise and Concern

- Please be in deep prayer for Tanya Remillard's friend Cindy's family. Her son, Jake, and her 2 brothers (Kevin and Brian), have been seriously struggling with alcohol abuse for years. She is truly concerned for their lives! They need all the help they can get.
- Tanya Remillard has a prayer of thanks and praise that she got a job at Our Lady of the Valley at St. Mary's in Uxbridge as a kindergarten teacher's aide.
- Jean Finnegan has a prayer of thanks that she is home again!
- Say a prayer for Mallorie Mercer, as a manikin fell on her and knocked her out shortly before she left for Tennessee. She's OK, but pray that there are no long-lasting effects.
- Kimberly Mercer asks prayers for Jason, who will be having a sigmoidectomy that will remove his sigmoid colon, which is where his diverticulitis is. This procedure will alleviate any flare ups in the future as it will be removing the infected or inflamed area. His surgery is a little risky as it is so close to his rectum, but they will reattach his rectum to his large intestines, which will hopefully make it so he doesn't need a colostomy bag. Also pray for no flare ups from now until the surgery.
- Rev. DeHoff has a prayer of thanks and praise that her good friend Jennie, who was told she had stomach cancer several months ago, finally got an endoscopy this past week that showed she is cancer free, following the radiation therapy.
- Bev Keeler's friend Betsy (daughter of her best friend) asks prayers for knee replacement surgery recently. Pray for peace going into the surgery and for successful surgery.
- We keep Suzanne Santoro in our prayers as she continues to recover from a bad bout with dehydration.
- Mike Sabourin asks prayers for wisdom as he weighs the various options to deal with prostate cancer.
- Ken Remillard asks prayers for his son, Matthew and grandson Wesley both of whom have Crohn's Disease. There is a new medication available that has helped Matthew, and we need to pray that doctors can find the right prescription for 7 year old Wesley, who has had to miss several days of school already due to Crohn's Disease.
- Ronda and Mark Thomas ask prayers for Chris, who injured his hand and has to wear a brace for a while. Pray for relief from pain and a quick recovery.
- Those who gathered for the congregational prayer meeting ask that you join them in prayer for the church, especially that we discern God's priorities for us and God's plan. Also pray that we don't get stuck in work mode and forget to have fun and fellowship.
- Gay McCrea asks prayers that a doctor's appointment she recently had will result in a remedy for the vertigo she's been experiencing.
- Bonnie Candalino asks continued prayers for her great-niece who is still in the hospital and for the twins, who have not yet been born.
- Bill Skillen has a prayer of thanks and praise that after a year in hospice care Linda is doing so well that she has been removed from hospice!
- Please keep Bev Keeler in your prayers as she pursues work with an Advocate as Bev works to move back to the Northbridge area..

Save the Date!!

October 16, 2024 UPCoW Serving at POB

October 26, 2024 Blackstone Valley CROP Walk

Sponsored locally by the Northbridge Association of Churches (NAC), the walk is scheduled for October 26th beginning with registration at 8:30 AM at Village Congregational Church. The walk begins at 9AM and proceeds to the Uxbridge Commons

How can I help?

- Walk and ask for donations
- Sponsor a walker
- Donate to the local walk

As of September 30, 2024 this year, (2024), 9,578 people have registered for Crop Hunger Walks with approximately \$1.7 million raised. (Source: crophungerwalk.org) 75% of funds go the national organization but 25% remain to combat hunger locally.

Coordinated nationally by CWS (Church World Services), the Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York, Pennsylvania (1970).

The larger organization, CWS, Church World Services, founded by 17 Christian denominations after World War II helps support 1) hunger and poverty projects, 2) settling of displaced persons, and 3) disaster relief.

How I can get more information on the CROP walk?

- Brochures and Walker Donation Envelopes are available in the sanctuary
- Check out the CROP Walk website at www.crophungerwalk.org.
- Contact the UPCoW representative to NAC, Angelo Mirabile

October 27, 2024 Reformation/Heritage Sunday

All 50+ members (of any church) will be honored on October 27, 2024. We will also celebrate the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the castle door at Wartburg. Further details will be published in the SCOOP and the bulletin.

November 3, 2024 All Saint's Day

NEWS FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY @ SALT LAKE CITY

New stated clerk, co-moderators

The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, both of South Carolina, were elected co-moderators of the 226th-GA and the Rev. Jihyun Oh, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, was elected stated clerk, the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but in an overhaul of standing rules, the moderatorial election will move to the end of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates "mission advisory delegates," creating partner advisory delegates instead.

Unifying budget of OGA and PMA

GA adopted a \$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026, resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

Sexual orientation, gender identity protections

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the Book of Order, adding gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of the "rich diversity" reflected in the church's membership (recommendation 1, section F- I .0403) and then recommending an examination of these principles for ordination and installation (recommendation 2, section (3-2.0104b) that could determine a "candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ..." If POL-OI is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the Book of Order.

Medical coverage, small church flexibility

GAEC-28 asks mid councils to work with the Board of Pensions to explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans for Pastors and Spouse or Families to help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present medical coverage options for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.

GA unanimously agreed to develop educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church.

SOURCE: Presbyterian Outlook

Calendar-October 2024

Wednesday, Oct. 2

- Peace of Bread 5:30 PM
- Worship Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

Sunday, Oct. 6

- Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM
- In-home Communion
- Worship Service 10:30 AM

Monday, Oct. 7

- Trustee Meeting-Conference Room 6 PM
- Congregational Prayer Meeting-Gathering Area 7:15 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 9

- Peace of Bread 5:30 PM
- CG&N Committee Meeting 7 PM

Sunday, Oct 13

- Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM
- Bell Choir Rehearsal 11:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:30 AM (Deacons Fund Collected)
- Bible Study: Galatians 12 PM

Monday, Oct 14

- Mission Study Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 16

- **UPCoW Serving at Peace of Bread** 5:30 PM

Sunday, Oct. 20

- Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM
- Bell Choir Rehearsal 11:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:30 AM
- Bible Study: Galatians 12 PM

Monday, Oct 21

- Session Meeting 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Oct 23

- Peace of Bread 5:30 PM

Saturday, Oct. 26

- CROP Walk (8:30-AM) Registration at Village Congregational Church

Sunday, Oct 27 (**Reformation/Heritage Sunday**)

- Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM
- Bell Choir Rehearsal 11:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:30 AM
- Bible Study: Galatians Class-12 PM

Monday, Oct.28

- Deacon's Meeting 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Oct. 30

- Peace of Bread 5:30 PM
- Mission Study Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Gospel of Mark

Austin Reichert is resuming the study of Mark (beginning with chapter 11) on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 AM. The class is online via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9238114682>

Any questions please feel free to ask Austin or Leslie Reichert. We have online tech support if you need any help with Zoom on your phone or computer.

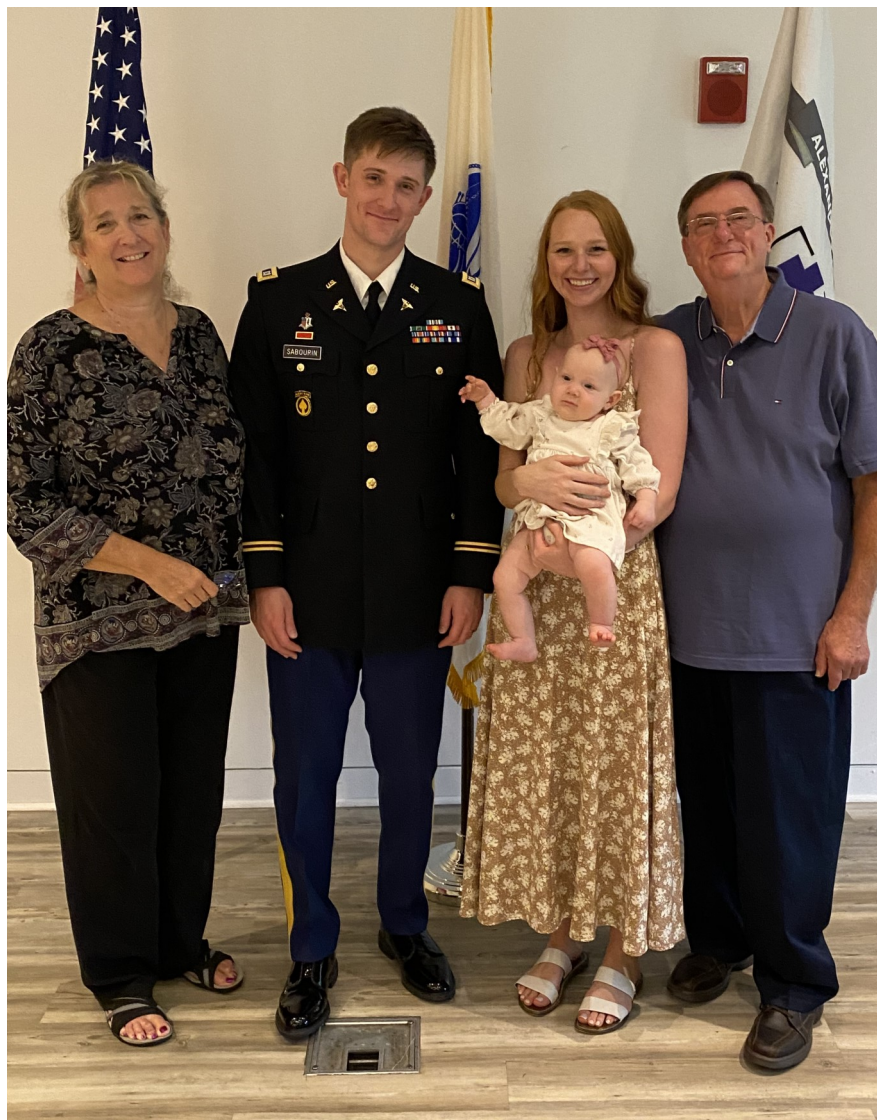
Letter to the Galatians

Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff has started a 6-week study of Galatians at noon in the Gathering Area.

Paul's letter to the Galatians is often referred to as the "Magna Carta of Christian Liberty."

Paul wrote this letter to the new Christians living in Galatia at a time when other religious leaders were insisting that Gentiles needed to be circumcised according to Jewish law. Paul took them to task for believing this teaching, and his letter to them established Christianity as a new faith tradition on its own as opposed to a new sect in Judaism. Judaism had been based on the premise that justification of believers results from adherence to the law. Christianity differs dramatically from that belief: Justification results from faith. Thus, Christians were freed from enslavement to Jewish laws.

Captain
Robie
Sabourin &
Family
at his
Physican
Assistant
Graduation
Ceremony



CHURCH FAMILY PICTURES



RALLY

DAY

2024





Tanya treated Ken to a Beach Boys concert at Indian Ranch for his birthday.



Bonnie's grandkids feeding the horses during the Blessing of the Animals



Tanya is overjoyed to see this every morning when she arrives at her new job.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Top: Largest to Smallest

Left: Mickey the Cat

Above: Choir





Thanks to all the people who brought pets to be blessed and others who participated by singing in the choir or by just being present for the event!

Thanks to the photographers who supplied the office with the pictures.