

April 12, 2026



As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house through Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Peter 2:4-5

***The United Presbyterian Church
of Whitinsville***

*51 Cottage Street,
Whitinsville, MA 01588*

*Office Location:
7 Spring Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588*

The members of United Presbyterian Church envision a vibrant congregation that passionately connects with God and one another, seeking to discover His presence deep within through meaningful worship, prayer, and Bible study. As we reflect on God's grace in our lives, we commit to growing together in faith and unity. We honor the diverse needs and opinions of all people, striving to build bridges of support, kindness, and peace within our church and community, fostering an environment where the Holy Spirit and God's love uplift hearts and lives.

Worship Service: April 12, 2026
Presiding Minister: Rev. Andy Hall

Children's bulletins are available at the welcome center

Hearing devices are available upon request

****All hymns are from The Celebration Hymnal (the green one) unless otherwise noted.****

WE GATHER

Prelude "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" Strodach/ *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*,
Köln, 1623

Welcome Mark Widner

Announcements Mark Widner

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol

or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

[silence]

Living God,
for whom no door is closed,
no heart is locked,
draw us beyond our doubts,
till we see your Christ
and touch his wounds
where they bleed in others.
This we ask through Christ our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #147 “How Great Thou Art”

Hine

Call to Confession

Friends,
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins,
God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Together, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Almighty God,
you have raised Jesus from death to life,
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the ways of the world,
and failed to give him glory.
Forgive us,
and raise us from sin,
that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world
and is head of the church, his body.**

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Words of Assurance

Rev. Andy Hall

Passing of the Peace

And this peace that we have received is simply too good to keep to ourselves,
and so we share a sign of peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please turn around and greet your neighbors with a wave or a sign of peace.

Gloria Patri

WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

Mark Widner

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal Word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Mark Widner

Anthem "Thine Is the Glory"

Bundry/Handel

Second Reading: John 20:19-31

Andy Hall

Sermon Title: Precarity and Receptivity

WE RESPOND

Creed: *from the Second Helvetic Confession (Switzerland, 1561)*

**Christian faith is not an opinion or human conviction,
but a most firm trust and a clear and steadfast assent of the mind,
and then a most certain apprehension of the truth of God
presented in the Scriptures and in the Apostles' Creed,
and thus also of God himself, the greatest good,
and especially of God's promise and of Christ who is the fulfilment of all promises.
But this faith is a pure gift of God
which God alone of his grace gives to his elect
according to his measure when, to whom and to the degree he wills.
And he does this by the Holy Spirit
by means of the preaching of the Gospel and steadfast prayer.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Almighty God,
you have promised to hear
when we pray in the name of your Son.
Therefore in confidence and trust
we pray for the church.

[petitions may be offered]

O God, enliven the church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.
Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.
We pray for the world.

[petitions may be offered]

Creator of all,
lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace,
that we may respect one another in freedom and truth.
Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to care creatively for its resources.
We pray for the community.

[petitions may be offered]

God of truth,
inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,
that all may act with integrity and courage.
Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.
May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.
We pray for those in need.

[petitions may be offered]

God of hope,
comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
May they know the power of your healing love.
Make us willing agents of your compassion.
Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.
We remember those who have died and those who mourn.

[petitions may be offered]

We remember with thanksgiving
those who have died in the faith of Christ,
and those whose faith is known to you alone.
Loving God, into your hands we commend them.
Give comfort to those who mourn.
Fill the emptiness of their loss with your never-ending peace.
We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.
May their example inspire and encourage us.
We pray for ourselves and our ministries.

[petitions may be offered]

**Lord, you have called us to serve you.
Grant that we may minister in your name,
with your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills;
until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming
and the welcome of your embrace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

And as our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Call for Offering

Offertory “Day of Arising”

Cherwien/Schalk

Offering

Sing Doxology

Prayer of Dedication:

Closing Hymn: #390 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

Croly/Atkinson

SENDING

Charge and Benediction:

God has shown you what is good.
What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

So now, as we go from this place,
may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Amen.

Postlude “The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done”

Pott/Pierluigi da Palestina

Announcements for April 12, 2026

The April Congregational Prayer Meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th at 7:00 PM in the Church Office. All are invited.

Our church will be serving at Peace of Bread on Wednesday, April 26th. For additional information, please contact Lynne Walsh.

All prayer concerns should be sent to the Church Office. The Administrative Assistant will make sure to get the prayer concerns to the person preaching that Sunday.

Support our on-line broadcasts and the ongoing ministry of the church by mailing a contribution to the United Presbyterian Church, 7 Spring Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 or online by going to www.whitinpres.org/give click on the "Give" tab and then scroll down and click on the yellow Pay Pal DONATE button.

Giving Report

Budgeted Operating Giving for 2025-2026 FY	49,000.00
Regular Offering Collected as of 1/31/2025	28,159.23
Expenses as of 12/31/2025	117,003.49

Benevolence Mission Giving for FY 2025-2026	2,000
Benevolence Offering Collected as of 1/ 31/2026	1,003.63
Mission Giving as of 1/31/2026	300.00

April 5, 2026

Regular	\$ 1802.00
Missions	3.00
Total	1805.00

Church Calendar Events
April 12-19, 2026

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Presiding Minister – Rev Andy Hall
Worship Leader – Mark Widner
Greeter – Tanya Remillard
Sound Board – Mark Thomas
Power Point –
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church-
Camera – Jim Baker
Coffee Hour– Laurie Sabourin
Counters-Ken Remillard
Jim Baker

Monday April 13, 2026

7 PM Congregational Prayer Meeting (Church Office)

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

5:30 PM Peace of Bread

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Presiding Minister – Rev. Andy Hall
Worship Leader—Mark Thomas
Greeter – Suzanne Santoro
Sound Board – Lynne Walsh
Power Point –
Media – Mark Widner
Junior Church-
Camera – Jim Baker
Coffee Hour – Lynne Walsh
Counters – Kimberly Mercer
Carol Pilibosian

People in Ministry

Ministers

The People of this Congregation

Pastor

Andy Hall

Minister of Music

Eileen N. Straub

Corporate Treasurer

Ken Remillard

Financial Secretary

Lynne Walsh

Administrative Assistant

Mark Thomas

Sexton

Patricia Reynolds

Session

Rev Andy Hall, Moderator

Lynne Walsh, Clerk

Marilyn Alling

Ken Remillard

Tanya Remillard

Mark Thomas

Mark Widner

Deacons

Bonnie Candalino

Jean Finnegan

Gay McCrea

Carol Pilibosian

Becca Widner

Trustees

Jim Baker

Kimberly Mercer

Mike Sabourin

Suzanne Santoro

When Monday Comes

(John 20: 19-31)

After the resurrection, the disciples weren't bold or confident—they were afraid. They locked themselves behind closed doors, unsure of what would happen next. Everything they thought they understood had been shaken. And then, right in the middle of that fear, Jesus shows up. Not with anger. Not with disappointment. But with peace. "Peace be with you."

One of the disciples, Thomas, wasn't there when Jesus first appeared. When the others told him what had happened, he struggled to believe it. He wanted proof. Something real. Something he could see and touch. And when Jesus appeared again, He didn't push Thomas away. He met him exactly where he was.

That matters more than we realize. Because if we're honest most of us have moments like Thomas. We believe. We've seen things in our lives that we can't explain any other way. Moments where we know God was present. And yet there are still times when doubt creeps in. I used to wonder how people could walk through something as incredible as the Red Sea being parted and then just a short time later build a golden calf. How could they forget so quickly? And then I realized, I do the same thing. I've seen enough in my life to believe. And yet there are still moments where I question, hesitate, or drift. Not because I don't believe, but because I'm human.

The good news is this: **Jesus didn't wait for perfect faith before He showed up.** And He doesn't wait for it now. He didn't condemn Thomas. He didn't say, "You should know better." He simply said, "Come and see." That tells us something important: Doubt isn't the end of faith. It can actually be part of the path. Maybe faith isn't about eliminating doubt. Maybe it's about being honest enough to bring our doubts to God.

To say: "God, I believe... but I need help here." "Help me understand," "Help me trust." And trusting that He meets us there. Because faith doesn't grow through pretending. It grows through honesty. And maybe that's what this moment is really about: Not having everything figured out... but being open enough to receive what God is doing—even when we don't fully understand it yet.

Faith Between Sundays

Monday – Notice the Doors

Where are you “locking the door” in your life right now—fear, worry, uncertainty?
Name it honestly.

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” — Psalm 56:3

Tuesday – Receive Peace

Jesus didn’t remove their situation—He spoke peace into it.
Pause and say: “God, help me receive Your peace right here.”
“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” — John 14:27

Wednesday – Be Honest About Doubt

We all have moments like Thomas.
What are you unsure about right now?
Tell God honestly—no filters.
“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” — Mark 9:24

Thursday – Stay Present

Thomas showed up again—and that mattered.
Stay engaged today (prayer, people, Scripture), even if you don’t feel certain.
“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” — James 4:8

Friday – Look for Where God Shows Up

Jesus came into a locked room.
Where might God be present in places you didn’t expect?
Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” — Genesis 28:16

Saturday – Take One Step of Trust

Faith grows in small steps. Do one thing today that reflects trust.
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” — Proverbs 3:5

Walking It Out This Week

Take a quiet moment this week and consider:

- Where have I noticed God in my life this week? _____
- When did I feel closest to Him? _____
- When did I feel distant? _____
- What is one small step I can take this week to grow closer to God? _____

Prayers for the Week

Monday

God, when I feel afraid or uncertain, remind me You are near. Help me not to hide behind what I cannot control. Give me the courage to trust that You are with me.

Tuesday

Lord, speak Your peace into my life today. Even when things feel unsettled, help me receive what You offer. Quiet my heart and steady my thoughts.

Wednesday

God, I believe—but I still have questions. Help me bring my doubts to You honestly. Guide me toward deeper understanding and trust.

Thursday

Lord, help me stay open to You today. Even when my faith feels weak, draw me closer. Teach me to notice Your presence in simple moments.

Friday

God, open my eyes to where You are at work. In the unexpected and the ordinary, help me see You. Give me a heart that is aware and responsive.

Saturday

Lord, help me take one step of trust today. Even if it feels small, help me move forward with You. Remind me that You are already ahead of me.

From the Pew - When Doubt Is in the Cockpit

If I'm being honest there have been times in my life when doubt has taken over. Not just small doubts but the kind that make you question everything—your ability, your decisions, even yourself. One of the biggest moments like that happened when I was 16 years old. I was taking my flight test. The examiner was someone I had never met before, a retired Air Force pilot with thousands of hours of experience. And there I was a 16-year-old kid with about 100 hours in my logbook. The first thing he asked me was why I had so many hours. Most students test with around 40, so his question was simple:

“Are you a bad student... or what?” I explained that my father's company owned a plane and I had been flying with corporate pilot for years. He looked at me and said he expected great things. Then added he wasn't sure a 16-year-old would be mature enough to be a pilot. And that's when it started. Those words got into my head, And once they did every started to change. I started second-guessing myself. I made mistakes I had never made before. Simple things. Things I knew better than. I did my turns around a point perfectly and then rolled out on the wrong turn. I forgot basic trim adjustments. Just small, careless mistakes that started to stack up. And then came the final test. As we were heading back to the airport, he said:

“I want a no-flap landing, and if you don't put it on the numbers, you fail.” Now here's the part that made it worse. The plane I had trained in wasn't available that day. So, I made what, at the time, felt like a confident decision but it was really just youthful overconfidence. Instead of waiting, I chose to take the test in a different aircraft a Piper Arrow, which was a faster, more complex airplane with retractable gear. A plane I hadn't flown much and not recently. So now I'm on final approach doubting myself in an unfamiliar aircraft with one shot to pass. And I knew it. I was carrying too much airspeed. Without flaps, I didn't think I could get it down where it needed to be. I honestly believed I was going to fail. And at that moment I did something simple. I asked God for help. No big speech, no perfect prayer. Just “God, help me.” And just as we crossed the threshold of the runway a downdraft hit, the plane dropped to the runway, Hard. It wasn't pretty, it probably rattled a few instruments. But it landed right on the numbers. The examiner looked at me and said: “Rough landing but with that downwind and crosswind it was on the numbers.” He signed the paperwork. I had passed.

And as I walked away, I remember thanking God. Because I knew, that wasn't just me. That was one of the first moments in my life where I realized God was real, but here's the honest part. Even after that, even after seeing that landing, I've still had doubts. I've asked the same questions we all do:

- Does God really have a plan for me?
- Why did this happen?
- Why didn't that prayer get answered?
- God... are You really there?

And that's where this week's Scripture matters. Thomas doubted, and Jesus didn't reject him. He didn't criticize him; He met him right where he was.

That tells me something important: God is not afraid of our doubts, and He doesn't hold them against us. He invites us to bring them to Him, honestly.

Because doubt doesn't mean we don't believe. Sometimes it just means we're human. And maybe faith isn't about never doubting, maybe it's about what we do when we do.

Do we walk away? Or do we say: "God, help me here." I still think about that flight sometimes. And every time I look at my pilot's license, I remember that it was a gift from God. And if anyone ever asked me if I was a good pilot...I could honestly say: "I was given this license by God just watch out for the landing."

Material written by Mark Widner.

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In case of emergencies, please call 774-293-1382