

***April 19, 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 19, 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 "Make Me a Servant"

Trad. Source and Music

Welcome

Mark Thomas

Announcements

Mark Thomas

Minute for Mission

Suzanne Santoro

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

*[credit: Dr. Lisa Hancock]*

Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

**Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.**

We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

**Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.**

We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

**Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.**

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Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

**May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God!  
Amen.**

#Opening Hymn #757 “Soon and Very Soon”

Crouch

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.

*[credit: Rev. Renee C. Jackson]*

**Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,**

**we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance.**

**We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us.**

**Yet, sometimes we would cling to you,**

**hoard the blessings of relationship with you,**

**and not share your love with others.**

**Forgive us, Dear One.**

**Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world.**

**Press us to share the hope and joy of your love,**

**so that someone who hungers for spiritual food**

**May be filled by our witness to your grace.**

**Shine the light of your Spirit through us,**

**so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace**

**and help to revive those in whom hope has died.**

**Amen.**

# Stand if physically able

Words of Assurance

Rev. Andy Hall

Friends, as scripture reminds us,  
while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the  
ungodly.

God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners  
Christ died for us.

If, while we were enemies,  
we were reconciled to God through the death of God's Son,  
much more surely, having been reconciled,  
will we be saved by his life.

Know that in Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven,  
and be at peace.

**Amen.**

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

# Stand if physically able

## ***WORD***

Prayer for Illumination:

Mark Thomas

O God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread.  
Open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Mark Thomas

Children's Sermon

Andy Hall

Anthem "Only Believe"

Rader

Second Reading Luke 24:13-35

Andy Hall

Sermon Title: "Astounded"

#Hymn: #424 "The Servant Song"

Gillard

## ***WE RESPOND***

Creed: *from "A Brief Statement of Faith" (1983)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

# Stand if physically able

The same Spirit  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

### Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Today's prayers of the people have been selected from the book *Black Liturgies*, by Cole Arthur Riley.

First, as we walk alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who, in their grief and disorientation, at first could not recognize resurrection, we pray Riley's "Prayer for When You Grow Too Familiar With Hurting."

Next as we reflect today on astounding women, and as we are challenged to recognize the risen Christ in every face we meet, we are going to pray a prayer which Riley calls a "Prayer for Marveling at Your Own Face".

Next, we will practice this simple Easter breath prayer. I invite you to take deep breaths with me as I repeat the refrain.

Breathe in: God is alive. (3 times)

Breathe out: And God's breath is freedom.

Breathe in: Liberation comes in a body.(3 times)  
Breathe out: I will honor mine.

And as finally, 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 “Jesus, What a Wonder You Are”

Bolton

Offering

#Sing Doxology

Prayer of Dedication:

#Closing Hymn: #429” They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” Scholtes

# Stand if physically able

# ***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 “He Is Lord”

Philippians 2/Fettke

## Announcements for April 19, 2026

Our church will be serving at Peace of Bread on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. For additional information, please contact Lynne Walsh.

A Minute for the Mission will be given during today's service from the Mission and Outreach Committee. A special offering will be taken on next Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> during the worship service to benefit the Missions budget. Envelopes for this offering will be inserted in next week's bulletin.

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](http://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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1805.00</b>

### April 12, 2026

Regular	\$ 697.50
Missions	2.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>700.00</b>

**Church Calendar Events**  
**April 19-26, 2026**

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**

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

**Monday April 20, 2026**

6:30 PM Session Meeting (Church Office)

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

5:30 PM Peace of Bread

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

Presiding Minister – Elder Mark Widner  
Worship Leader—Suzanne Santoro  
Greeter – Chris Lee  
Sound Board – Mark Thomas  
Media – Ken Remillard  
Junior Church- TBD  
Camera – Jim Baker  
Coffee Hour – Lynne Walsh  
Counters – Lynne Walsh  
Suzanne Santoro

**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

(Luke 24:13-35) – The Road to Emmaus

### The Walk We All Take

Two people are walking down a road, trying to make sense of what just happened. They had hope. They had expectations. They thought they understood what God was doing. And then everything fell apart. Jesus was gone. The plan didn't work. The story didn't end the way they thought it would. So, they did what we all do ... They walked; they talked; they tried to process. And without realizing it ... **Jesus was walking right beside them.**

### When God Is Present but Unrecognized

That may be one of the most honest parts of this story They weren't rebellious. They weren't rejecting God. They were just... confused. And Scripture tells us something surprising: They were kept from recognizing Him. Not because Jesus wasn't there ... but because they didn't yet understand what God was doing.

### The Moment That Feels Confusing

Jesus says: "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken." At first glance, that sounds harsh, like He's correcting them for believing. But that's not what He means. He's saying: "**You believed part of the story... but not the whole story.**" They believed in a Messiah who would: Fix things, Restore things, Win. But they missed the part where the Messiah would: Suffer, Be rejected, Die, And rise again. They didn't misunderstand because they believed too much...**they misunderstood because they believed too little.**

### The Turning Point

Jesus doesn't shame them. He doesn't walk away. He walks with them ... and teaches them. Step by step, He connects the dots. He shows them how the story always included both: **Suffering ... and redemption.** And then ... at the table, in an ordinary moment ... breaking bread ... **Their eyes are opened.**

### What This Means for Us

Most of us don't struggle because we reject God. We struggle because: Life doesn't match our expectations, God's timing feels off, The story doesn't seem to be going the right way And in those moments ... We assume God is absent. But this passage reminds us: **God may be closer than we think ... even when we don't recognize Him. Confusion is not the absence of faith ... it's often the place where faith is being deepened.**

**We don't need the whole picture to keep walking ... we just need to keep walking.**

## **When Monday Comes (Simple Practices)**

### **1. Keep walking, even when you don't understand**

Don't stop your faith just because things don't make sense.  
Keep showing up. Keep praying. Keep moving forward.

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### **2. Listen before you conclude**

Instead of saying, "God isn't working,"  
try asking, "What might I be missing?"

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### **3. Stay in the whole story**

Don't just hold onto the easy parts of faith.  
Let Scripture shape your understanding ... even when it challenges you.

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### **4. Look for God in ordinary moments**

It wasn't a miracle that opened their eyes ... it was a meal.  
God often shows up in:

- Conversations
- Quiet moments
- Everyday routines

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### **5. Pay attention to what stirs your heart**

They said: "Were not our hearts burning within us..."  
Pay attention to those moments this week:

- Something that moves you
- A conversation that lingers
- A nudge you can't shake

That may be God closer than you think.

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## **Faith Between Sundays (Small Steps for the Day Ahead)**

(You don't need a big moment this week ... Just a few small ones)

### **Monday — Keep Walking**

When something doesn't make sense, don't shut down. Take one step forward anyway.  
(*Faith doesn't require full understanding—just movement.*)

“We walk by faith, not by sight.” — 2 Corinthians 5:7

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### **Tuesday — Ask Before You Assume**

Instead of jumping to conclusions, pause and ask: “What might I be missing here?”

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...” — James 1:19

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### **Wednesday — Stay in the Whole Story**

Spend a few minutes with Scripture—even one verse.  
Let it shape your thinking, not just your feelings.

“All Scripture is God-breathed...” — 2 Timothy 3:16

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### **Thursday — Look for God in the Ordinary**

Pay attention during everyday moments: a meal, a conversation, a quiet pause.

“Whether you eat or drink... do it all for the glory of God.” — 1 Corinthians 10:31

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### **Friday — Notice What Stirs Your Heart**

Something that lingers. A conversation you keep thinking about. A quiet nudge.

“Did not our hearts burn within us...?” — Gospel of Luke 24:32

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### **Saturday — Walk With Someone**

Reach out. Sit with someone. Listen. Faith grows stronger when it's shared.

“Encourage one another... build each other up.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## From the Pew –

### The Time I Took Everyone to the Wrong Island

I learned something important about direction one night... the hard way. Years ago, I took a group of 12 people on a SCUBA diving trip to the Bahamas. Ten days. Three boats. Leaving out of Ft. Lauderdale, heading for Bimini. Now, I had never actually sailed a boat before. But I figured ... how hard could it be? I was a pilot. I had navigated across the Pacific using celestial navigation. I had worked with charts far more complicated than anything on the water. And besides, two of my friends were experienced sailors. They were each taking a boat. My plan was simple: Follow them. Don't get lost.

We left around 6:00 p.m. and headed out into the night. Everything was going smoothly. About halfway through the trip, maybe 6 or 7 hours in one of the passengers asked if they could steer the boat. Now, if you've ever been on a boat, you know... everyone wants to steer the boat.

So, I said, "Sure. Just follow one of the other boats and keep the compass heading. "And then ... I did something that seemed like a good idea at the time. I laid down for a short nap. Somewhere between passenger number one... and passenger number four...the instructions got a little fuzzy.

"Follow the boats" turned into "just follow the compass." And when I woke up ... I looked out over the water ... and there were no other boats in sight. Now, at this point, I had 12 people on board. And I didn't really want to stand up and say, "Good morning, everyone ... I have no idea where we are." So, I did what any confident leader would do. I said, "No problem. It's simple we'll just use the chart." We're not lost! That's when I discovered something very important: **Nautical charts are not as simple as they look.**

I worked with the LORAN radio, took a heading, and kept us moving—doing my best to look like I knew exactly what I was doing. A few hours later ... land appeared on the horizon. And I said, with great confidence: "Land ho... that's Bimini."(For the record... all islands look like Bimini when you're hoping they are.)

We pulled into a marina. Docked the boat. All 12 passengers stepped off. And immediately ... we were greeted by security. Who informed us ... very clearly ... that this was a **private island** ... and we were very much **not supposed to be there**. They asked to speak to the captain. I explained, as politely as I could: "I'm not really a captain... I just rented the boat." That didn't help my case. After a few comments about my navigational skills ... none of them suitable for a church bulletin, they showed me where Bimini actually was ... and how far off course we had gone. We eventually made it to the right island.

But for the rest of the trip ... and for years after ... I was known as the guy who took everyone to the wrong island and almost got us arrested for being on a private island. Looking back, it's funny. At the time... not so much. But it taught me something I've seen play out in life more than once: **You can be completely confident... and still be completely off course.** And if I'm being honest ... it wasn't just inexperience. **My confidence—and maybe a little ego—kept me from seeing what was right in front of me:** that we were lost and heading in the wrong direction. (Let's just say... after that trip, I got educated in navigation on the water very quickly.)

In the Gospel of Luke 24, two people are walking along the road to Emmaus. They were sure they understood what God was doing. They had the plan figured out. They knew how the story was supposed to go. But they didn't recognize Jesus walking right beside them. And they didn't fully understand what the prophets had been saying all along. They weren't far from Jesus... they just didn't recognize Him.

Sometimes we don't see clearly where we're going. We think we understand the situation. We believe we're on the right path. We trust the "charts" we're reading. But just like that night on the water ... we weren't that far from Bimini...**but we were still a long way from where we needed to be.**

**I wasn't recognizing I was lost ... I was believing I was right.** That night on the boat, I thought I knew exactly where I was going. Turns out... I didn't. But in life, I've come to see something different: Even when I don't fully understand the direction ... even when things don't line up the way I expected...**God hasn't lost the way.** Sometimes we're not as "on course" as we think. And sometimes ... we're closer than we realize ... we just don't recognize it yet. **Being off course doesn't mean God isn't present. It may just mean we're still learning how to see where He's leading.**

Material written by Mark Widner.

**Want to write something for this "enhanced bulletin"? Just contact Mark Widner or Mark Thomas.**

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