

*May 17, 2026*



When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”—

Acts 1:9-11

## *The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville*

Church Location  
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: May 17, 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:** "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

Rowthorn/Taylor

**Welcome:**

Mark Thomas

**Announcements:**

Mark Thomas

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 47

Mark Thomas

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**All: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.**

One: He subdued peoples under us  
and nations under our feet.

**All: He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah**

One: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**All: Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

**For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.**

One: God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.

**All: For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.**

**Opening Hymn:** #377 *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”*

Dix/Prichhard

**Call to Confession:**

Beloved, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
let us hold fast to our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,  
but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**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 Thomas

Risen and ascended Christ,  
you surround us with witnesses  
and send us the Counselor  
who opens our minds to understand your teaching.  
Bless us with such grace  
that our lives may become a blessing for the world  
now, and in the age to come. Amen.

**First Reading:** Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts chapter 1, verses 1 to 11. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and

speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Worship Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**One: Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Message:**

**Anthem:** “Faith”

Hayes

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians chapter 1, verses 15-23. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and

seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** “Upward and Outward”

**Hymn:** #36 “He Is Exalted”

Paris

## ***WE RESPOND***

**Creed:** *adapted from the Westminster Larger Catechism*

**Christ is exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God,  
in that as God-man he is advanced to the highest favor with God the Father,  
with all fullness of joy, glory, and power  
over all things in heaven and earth.**

**He gathers and defends his Church, and protects and preserves it.  
He furnishes his ministers and people with gifts and graces,  
and he makes intercession for them.**

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer:**

Let us bring the needs of the church,  
the world, and all in need,  
to God’s loving care, saying:  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth,  
through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us  
when we pray to you in his name.

Confident in your love and mercy  
we offer our prayer.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness.  
Break down the barriers that divide,  
That united in your truth and love,  
the church may confess your name,  
share one baptism,  
sit together at one table,  
and serve you in one common ministry.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Guide the rulers of the nations.  
Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition,  
and bow to your sovereign rule.  
Inspire them to strive for peace and justice,  
that all your children may dwell secure,  
free of war and injustice.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering.  
Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources,  
the will to reorder our lives,  
that all may have their rightful share of the food,  
medical care, and shelter,  
and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home.  
Help us put an end to the decimation of its land, air, and waters,  
and give us respect for all your creatures,  
that, living in harmony with everything you have made,  
your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise  
to your glorious name.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace.  
Guide those who make and administer our laws  
to build a society based on trust and respect.  
Erase prejudices that oppress;  
free us from violence and injustice;  
guard our youth from the perils of loneliness and materialism.  
Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship.  
Fill our hearts with your self-giving love,  
that our voices may speak your praise,  
and our lives may conform to the image of your Son.  
Nourish us with your Word and sacraments  
that we may faithfully minister in your name,  
and witness to your love and grace for all the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion on all who suffer.  
Support with your love  
those facing difficult diagnoses,  
those unjustly imprisoned,

those denied dignity,  
those living without hope,  
those who are homeless or abandoned.  
As you have moved toward us in love,  
so lead us to be present with them in their suffering  
in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustain those among us who need your healing touch.  
Heal the sick.  
Give hope to the dying.  
Comfort those who mourn.  
Uphold all who suffer in body or mind,  
not only those we know and love  
but also those known only to you,  
that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We now lift up any other joys and concerns which are on our hearts, either silently or aloud.

*[petitions offered]*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God,  
in your loving purpose  
answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.  
In all things for which we pray,  
give us the will to seek to bring them about,

for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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:** “We Are One in Mission”

Edwards/Finnish folk tune

**Offering:**

**Sing Doxology:**

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**Closing Hymn:** #436 ”*Freely, Freely*”

Owens

***SENDING***

**#Charge and Benediction**

So now,

go out into the world in peace;

have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord make their face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
May the Lord lift up the light of their countenance on you,  
and give you peace,  
now and always.  
Amen.

Postlude “Jesus Shall Reign”

Watts/Hatton

Credit for Art: Vanderbilt University Divinity Library. Common Lectionary website

## Announcements for May 17, 2026

There have been pastoral impersonation phishing attempts going around the Internet recently. Rev. Andy Hall will never ask for money or gift cards or anything via email, and that people should always feel free to check with him if they get any email requests supposedly from him that seem strange.

Attention Worship Leaders!! If you know your summer vacation schedule, please turn the dates when you are unavailable during the summer into the Church Office. The Administrative Assistant is currently working on the June 2026 schedule.

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.

+++++

### PRAYER CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF MAY 17, 2026

Continued prayers for my dad, Bobby, who recently had a successful operation to install a pacemaker. Tanya Remillard

Please pray for my daughter-in-law Alyssa whose mom, Kathy, has kidney disease and whose health is failing and her father David who is dealing with mental health issues.  
Lynne Walsh

**Church Calendar of Events**  
**May 17-24, 2026**

**Sunday, May 17, 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 –Suzanne Santoro  
Lynne Walsh

**Monday, May 18, 2026**

6:30 PM Session Meeting (Church Office)

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

5:30 PM Peace of Bread

**Sunday, May 24, 2026**

Presiding Minister – Rev. Andy Hall  
Worship Leader—Suzanne Santoro  
Greeter – Chris Lee  
Sound Board – Mark Thomas  
Media – Ken Remillard  
Junior Church- Pentecost-No Jr. Church  
Camera – Jim Baker  
Coffee Hour – Lynne Walsh  
Counters – Carol Pilibosian  
Ken Remillard

**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

## **Giving Report**

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

### **May 3, 2026**

Regular	\$ 1163.00
Missions	27.00
Total	1190.00

### **May 10, 2026**

Regular	\$ 1007.00
Missions	23.00
Total	1030.00

## MAY 2026 CHURCH CALENDAR

May 17 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

- 9:30 AM Choir Practice      10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, May 18

- 6:30 PM Session Meeting (Church Office)

Wednesday, May 20

- 5:30 PM Peace of Bread

Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost)

- 9:30 AM Choir Practice      10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, May 25

- 6:30 PM Deacon Meeting (Church Office)

Wednesday, May 27

- 5:30 PM Peace of Bread

**Phone: 508-234-8220**

**Office Email: [whitinpres@gmail.com](mailto:whitinpres@gmail.com)**

**Minister of Music: [mainemelody@aol.com](mailto:mainemelody@aol.com)**

**Visit Us: [www.whitinpres.org](http://www.whitinpres.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/whitinpres](http://www.facebook.com/whitinpres)**

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

## May 2026 Worship Leader Calendar

	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 31</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	M. Alling	M. Widner	M. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh
<b>Greeter</b>	B. Candalino	T. Remillard	S. Santoro	C. Lee	B. Candalino
<b>Sound Board</b>	M. Thomas	M. Thomas	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	M. Thomas
<b>Camera</b>	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker
<b>Media</b>	M. Widner	K. Remillard	M. Widner	K. Remillard	M. Widner
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	M. Thomas	L. Sabourin	T. Remillard	L. Walsh	M. Thomas
<b>Junior Church</b>	Communion Sunday	L. Walsh	C. Pilibosian	Pentecost	Summer Break
<b>Counters</b>	T. Remillard M. Sabourin	K. Mercer J. Baker	S. Santoro L. Walsh	C. Pilibosian K. Remillard	M. Sabourin T. Remillard

### BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Baker 5/20

Scott Szajna 5/20

Bill Skillen 5/23