

September 13, 2026



But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

Matthew 18:28-30

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: September 13, 2026

Presiding Minister: Elder Mark Widner

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: "He Giveth More Grace"

Flint/Mitchell

Welcome:

Suzanne Santoro

Announcements:

Suzanne Santoro

Opening Prayer:

Suzanne Santoro

Gracious God, you know the wounds we carry and the debts we keep in our hearts. Meet us in worship today with your mercy. Teach us to tell the truth about what has hurt us without allowing that hurt to rule us. Help us step out of your judgment seat, receive the grace you freely give, and become people who extend that grace to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Worship:

Suzanne Santoro

Come, all who need mercy and all who find mercy difficult to give.

We come to the God whose grace is greater than our failures.

Come with the hurts you remember and the burdens you still carry.

We place them in the hands of the One who judges with justice and loves with mercy.

Evil does not get the final word.

God can bring healing, redemption, and new life.

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn: #355 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Faber/Tourjee

Call to Confession:

Suzanne Santoro

Jesus teaches us to pray for forgiveness even as we are called to forgive. Trusting that God already knows the truth about us and still meets us with mercy, let us confess our sin together.

Merciful God, we confess that we are quick to remember the wrongs done to us and slow to remember the mercy you have shown us. We hold grudges, rehearse old injuries, and sometimes desire revenge more than healing. Forgive us for taking the judgment seat that belongs to you. Give us courage to tell the truth, wisdom to set healthy boundaries, and grace to release vengeance into your hands. Teach us to forgive as people who know how deeply we ourselves have been forgiven. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Elder Mark Widner

Passing of the Peace:

Because we have received the peace and mercy of Christ, let us share that 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:

Suzanne Santoro

God of truth and mercy, open our hearts to your Word. Help us hear what you are saying, not merely what we expect to hear. By your Spirit, show us how your grace can free us from the past and lead us into the life you intend. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Suzanne Santoro

As we hear these words of Scripture, may God help us listen not only with our ears, but with our hearts. May we hear truth where we need truth, grace where we need grace, and hope for the places in our lives that still need healing. Let us listen for God's Word to us today.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message:

Anthem: "Jesus Is Lord of All"

Gaither&Gaither/Gaither

Second Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Elder Mark Widner

Peter comes to Jesus with a question many of us have probably asked in one form or another: How much forgiveness is enough? As we hear Jesus' answer, listen for what it says about mercy, about the debts we carry, and about the grace we ourselves have received. Hear now the Gospel according to Matthew.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Am I in the Place of God?"

Elder Mark Widner

Hymn: Insert "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" Herlots/*Supplement to Kentucky*

Creed: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of the People:

God of mercy,...So today we bring before You the cries of Your people.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick,... We pray especially for those whose names and needs
have been shared with us today:

(Prayer Requests Here)

Give strength to those who are weary...Be especially close to those who care for someone they love and are tired themselves but keep going because someone needs them.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who grieve...When words of comfort are not enough, simply let them know they are not alone.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

We pray for people throughout the world whose lives have been changed in a matter of moments by flood, fire, storm, earthquake, drought, and disaster...And remind us that compassion should never be limited by borders or distance.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

We pray for a world where there seem to be more wars than we can name...Teach us again that every person is known and loved by You.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

As a new school year begins, we pray for our children and young people.

Let our schools be places where children not only learn, but know that they matter.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

We pray for those worried about money,,,Give us generous hearts so that when someone around us is struggling, we do not simply say, "Someone ought to help," but ask whether **we** might be the someone You are sending.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

And, Lord, today we especially pray about the things we carry inside ourselves....And when we take it back tomorrow, help us give it to You again.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

We pray for Your Church, and especially for this congregation....Send us into this community as people through whom others can experience Your mercy, Your welcome, and Your love.

God who hears the cries of Your people, Hear our prayer.

And now, Lord, we bring before You the people and concerns that each of us carried into this room today....We offer them now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Silence

God who heard the cries of Your people long ago, hear ours today....And together, as one people, we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer:

**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 and Offering: “Search Me God”

Orr/Maroi melody; arr. Douglas

Sing Doxology:

Prayer of Dedication:

Closing Hymn: #343 “Amazing Grace”

Newton/Carrell and Clayton’s *Virginia*
Harmony Excell

SENDING

Charge and Benediction:

Postlude: “I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord ”Psalm 89:1 Fillmore arr. Harrington

Announcements for September 13, 2026

Today is Rally Day, One of purposes of Rally Day is to (re)acquaint the congregations with committees and their functions. Information for the committee can be found in the brochures located in the Gathering Area or by contacting the committee chair. The committee chairs are: Personnnel-Mark Widner; Worship-Mark Thomas; Nominating-Mark Thomas and Outreach and Mission-Marilyn Alling. (Several of the committees have recently been absorbed into other committees or Session.)

The church needs to collect \$60.91 per active member for per capita this year. Per capita supports the operating costs of General Assembly, Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbytery of Boston. Please make your contributions before mid-December and mark the checks “Per Capita:” in the memo line of your check.

Austin Reichert will begin his Bible Study on the Gospel of John on October 4, 2026 at 9 AM. Here is the Zoom link we will be using for the entire class. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9238114682> All you need is a Bible or access to one online. Easy to just listen in to see what you think. No sign up required. Please contact Austin for further information.

SAVE THE DATE: Blackstone Valley Crop Walk is October 24, 2026. Church Contact Person: Tanya Remillard

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

Giving Report Budgeted Operating Giving for 2025-2026 FY	49,000.00
Regular Offering Collected as of 7/31/2026	48,749.96
Expenses as of 6/30/2026	182,481.66

September 6, 2026

Regular	\$ 559.00
Missions	26.00
Per Capita	121,82
Total	706.82

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR
WEEK OF September 13, 2026

Keep Laurie Sabourin and her family in your prayers as she continues to recover from cancer treatment.

Angelo's brother Wayne is now home from the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers from his cancer treatment.

Prayers for Patty Reynold's daughter, Jessica, who recently underwent cancer surgery. Jessica just had a ct scan and it was clear. She has a whole-body scan scheduled for November, please pray for it to be clear. Jessica was diagnosed with a very rare poorly differentiated thyroid cancer that is very aggressive and she has had two successful surgeries and is doing good.

Robin, Tanya's childhood classmate from Virginia is undergoing chemo/radiation treatments. She has a colostomy bag which she hopes is temporary. She is unable to drive due to extreme leg swelling and exhaustion. She is basically homebound except for doctor appointments. She does have support from her husband and teenage daughter but is saddened to lose her independence and freedom. She was so active before this diagnosis. Please be in prayer for her healing.

Keep Lynne's neighbor Deb in your prayers who has stage 4 colon cancer and has started cancer treatment.

Please keep Tanya's former mother-in-law, Diane, in your prayers. She is in a rehab facility and in good spirits.

Congratulations to Molly Powers on the birth of her son. Congratulations to his great-grandmother, Suzanne Santtoro.

Keep the family of Tanya's former neighbor in prayer who recently died after an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

Keep Mallorie Mercer in your prayers as she had emergency surgery on Wednesday night. She was discharged from the hospital Thursday afternoon. She is doing well but may need additional surgery

.September 2026 Worship Leader Calendar

	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27	Oct 4
Worship Leader	M. Widner	S. Santoro	M. Alling	L. Walsh	M. Thomas
Greeter	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard	T. Remillard	C. Lee
Sound Board	M. Thomas	M. Thomas	K. Remillard	M. Thomas	L. Walsh
Camera	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker
Media	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	M. Widner	M. Widner
Coffee Hour	M. Thomas	M. Widner	T. Remillard	L. Walsh	M. Thomas
Junior Church	Summer Break	TBD	L. Walsh	C. Philibosian	TBD
Counters	K. Remillard S. Santoro	K. Mercer C. Pilibosian	L. Walsh J. Baker	K. Mercer T. Remillard	K. Mercer K. Remillard

PULPIT SUPPLY SCHEDULE

September

13 Elder Mark Widner

20 Elder Mark Thomas

27 Gracie Paterson (part of the Presbytery's Leadership Team)

October

4 Rev. Dr. Aida and William Spencer

Office Phone Number: 508-234-8220
Office Email: whitinpres@gmail.com
Minister of Music: mainemelody@aol.com
Visit Us: www.whitinpres.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/whitinpres
In case of emergencies, please call 774-293-1382

Church Calendar of Events September 13-20, 2026

Sunday, Sept 13, 2026

Presiding Minister -Elder Mark Widner
Worship Leader – Suzanne Santoro
Greeter – Chris Lee
Sound Board -Mark Thomas
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church - Summer Vacation
Camera - Jim Baker
Coffee Hour –Mark Widner
Counters –Kimberly Mercer
Carol Pilibosian

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

5:30 PM Peace of Bread

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Presiding Minister – Elder Mark Thomas
Worship Leader – Marilyn Alling
Greeter – Tanya Remillard
Sound Board –Lynne Walsh
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church – Lynne Walsh
Camera –Jim Baker
Coffee Hour – Tanya Remillard
Counters – Lynne Walsh
Jim Baker

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 Pamela Spence-Bakker Moderator
Lynne Walsh, Clerk
Marilyn Alling
Ken Remillard
Tanya Remillard
Mark Thomas
Mark Widner

Deacons

Jean Finnegan
Gay McCrea
Carol Pilibosian
Becca Widner

Trustees

Jim Baker
Kimberly Mercer
Suzanne Santoro