

September 20, 2026



**Then Jonah went out of the city
and sat down east of the city and
made a booth for himself there.
He sat under it in the shade,
waiting to see what would become
of the city. (Ninevah)**

Jonah 4:5

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 20, 2026

Presiding Minister: Elder Mark Thomas

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: "People Need the Lord"

Nelson & Hughes

Welcome:

Marilyn Alling

Announcements:

Marilyn Alling

Opening Prayer:

Mark Thomas

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Marilyn Alling

Psalm 145:1-8

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

**they will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Opening Hymn: #1 “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Lyte/Andrews

Call to Confession:

Marilyn Alling

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

In your abundant love and mercy, forgive us O God.

For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

In your abundant love and mercy, forgive us O God.

Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.

In your abundant love and mercy, forgive us O God.

Create in us a clean heart, O God! Place a new and right spirit with us! Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Elder Mark Thomas

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:

Marilyn Alling

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and every hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Marilyn Alling

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down

on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Anthem: “Only Trust Him”

Stockton

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Elder Mark Thomas

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Our Relationship with God”

Elder Mark Thomas

Hymn: #571 “Trust and Obey”

Sammis/Towner

Creed: Brief Statement of Faith” 11.3

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. ignoring God’s commandments. we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Prayers of the People:

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: “I’m Forever Grateful”

Altrogge

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication:

Closing Hymn: #512 “Jesus Is All the World to Me”

Thompson

SENDING

Charge and Benediction:

Postlude: “Thy Loving Kindness”

Mitchell

Announcements for September 20, 2026

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

September 13, 2026

Regular	\$ 498.00
Missions	2.00
Total	500.00

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR
WEEK OF September 20, 2026

Keep Laurie Sabourin and her family in your prayers as she undergoes surgery for cancer.

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.

Keep Mallorie Mercer in your prayers as she had emergency surgery recently. She has been discharged from the hospital. She is doing well but may need additional surgery.

Keep Mark Widner as he prepares for surgery soon.

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

November 2026 Worship Leader Calendar

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh	M. Alling	M. Thomas
Greeter	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard
Sound Board	L. Walsh	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	L. Walsh	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. Thomas	T. Remillard	L. Walsh	M. Widner
Junior Church	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counters	K. Mercer K. Remillard	S. Santoro L. Walsh	C. Philibosian K. Remillard	T. Remillard J. Baker	K. Mercer C. Pilibosian

PULPIT SUPPLY SCHEDULE

September

20 Elder Mark Thomas

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

October

4 Rev. Dr. Aida and William Spencer

11 Elder Mark Thomas

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BIRTHDAYS

Mike Zeis 9/22

Jean Finnegan 9/25

Corey Matchett 9/26

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Church Calendar of Events
September 20-27, 2026

Sunday, Sept 20, 2026

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

Monday, September 21, 2026

6:30 PM Session Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

5:30 PM Peace of Bread

Sunday, September 27, 2026

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

People in Ministry

Ministers

The People of this Congregation

Pastor

Vacant

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