September 27, 2026

I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Exodus 17:6-7

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 27, 2026
Presiding Minister: Candidate Gracie Paterson

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: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Word source: *Katholisches Gesansbuch.* Wurrzburg, 1828; trans Edward Caswall; Barnby

Welcome: Lynne Walsh

Announcements: Lynne Walsh

Opening Prayer: Lynne Walsh

Welcoming God, you receive and bless all who come to you in humility. Show us our false pride that we may repent of all conceit and arrogance and, caring for one another, may honor Jesus to the glory of your name. Amen.

Call to Worship: (Responsively) Psalm 25:1-9 Lynne Walsh

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
All: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
One: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
All: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
One: Good and upright is the LORD, who instructs sinners in the way.
All: O my God, lead me in what is right and teach me your way.

Opening Hymn: #21 "O for a Thousand Tongues" Wesley/Glazer; arr. Mason

Call to Confession: Lynne Walsh

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and one another. Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done. Amen.
Time for individual, silent prayers of confession.

Words of Assurance: Candidate Gracie Paterson

***Gloria Patri*:**

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 Lynne Walsh

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did

so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Healer of Every Ill" Haugen

(UPCoW Choir)

Prayer for Illumination: Candidate Gracie Paterson

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.

Second Reading: Matthew 21:23-32 Candidate Gracie Paterson

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness,

and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Believe It When You See It" Candidate Gracie Paterson

Creed: (adapted from A Declaration of Faith)

Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement. His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion. His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand. His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness. Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.

We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world through this community of ordinary people, therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church. Christ is the head of the church, therefore we are responsible to Christ when we make policy and decisions in the church. Christ is the foundation of the church, therefore it will not fall despite our weakness. We are confident that the Lord of the church will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions, help us in our weakness and blindness, and use the church to accomplish his purposes.

Throughout its history the church has struggled to be faithful to God in political situations: under persecution, or as an established arm of the state, or in separation from it. God rules over both political and religious institutions. We must confuse neither with the kingdom of God. We must not equate the Christian faith with any nation's way of life or with opposition to the ideologies of other nations. The church must be free to speak to civil authorities, neither claiming expert knowledge it does not have, nor remaining silent when God's Word is clear.

We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ's commission to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives.

Hymn: #682 "Guide Me" Williams;tr. Williams&Williams; Hughes

Pastoral Prayer & 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: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" Founds

Doxology:

Prayer of Dedication:

Closing Hymn: #666 "A Charge to Keep I Have" Wesley(alt)/Mason

SENDING

Charge and Benediction:

Postlude: "Awesome God" Mullins

BIRTHDAYS

October

Robie Sabourin 10/17

ANNIVERSARIES

October

Walter and Lois Convent 10/7

Mike and Joanna Zeis 10/18

Announcements for September 27, 2026

We welcome to the pulpit this morning Candidate Gracie Paterson. Gracie Paterson is a graduate of Boston University School of Theology, currently serving as Co-Lead Presbyter for Transformation in the Presbytery of Boston. Gracie's young ministry has already taken her to pulpits big and small, to the bedsides of hospital patients, to Sunday School classrooms, and to the public square alongside interfaith leaders. She has earned a reputation for lively liturgical leadership and for guiding worshipping communities along the path to transformation. Gracie will be ordained as a Teaching Elder on October 18, 2026.

The monthly October prayer guide is available at both entrances.

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 7/312026	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

September 20, 2026

Regular	$ 1098.00
Missions	2.00
Per Capita	184.91
Total	1284,91

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR
WEEK OF September 27, 2026

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

Keep Mark Widner and Becca as he prepares for surgery tomorrow.

Keep Ken Remillard and Tanya as he prepares for eye surgery tomorrow.

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, continues to undergo chemo/radiation treatments. 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.

Prayers of joy for the birth of Cameron James Ashline, to Sandra & Ben Ashline Lynne's niece and her husband.

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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	K. Remillard
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

October 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	C. Lee	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

27 Gracie Paterson

October

4 Rev. Dr. Aida and William Spencer

11 Elder Mark Thomas

18 Rev. Pamela Spence-Bakker

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Heritage Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 25th. We will be honoring any member who has been a member of this or any church for 50 years. Listed below are the names of the 50-year-old members that the office has. If there are any corrections to the list, please let the office know no later than Monday, October 12th.

50-Year Members of the Body of Christ (2026)

Marilyn Alling 1959

*Elizabeth Austin 1960

*Deborah Baker 1963

Jim Baker 1965

*Jennifer Connelly 1960

*Lois Convent 1954

Jean Finnegan 1951

*Gay McCrea 1955

*Carol Pilibosian 1962

*Cheryl Postma

Austin Reichert 1990

Leslie Reichert 1990

Ken Remillard 1972

Mark Thomas 1970

*Laurie Sabourin 1974

Michael Sabourin 1967

Judy Salzberg 1954

William Skillen 1964

Bill Spalton 1968

Ronda Thomas 1971

* 50 Year member of this and/or other church(es)

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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 27-October 4, 2026

Sunday, Sept 27, 2026

Presiding Minister Candidate Gracie Paterson
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

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
5:30 PM Peace of Bread

Sunday, October 4, 2026
Presiding Ministers – Rev. Dr. Aida Spencer &
Rev. Dr. William Spencer
Worship Leader – Mark Thomass
Greeter – Chris Lee
Sound Board –Lynne Walsh
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church – TBD
Camera –Jim Baker
Coffee Hour – Mark Thomas
Counters-- Kimberly Mercer
Ken 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